

publicity and self-revelation, distinct from aspirations for fame or distinction. Considered from this point of view, a catalogue partakes of the nature of history, and the titles of books may sometimes prove as instructive and interesting as the contents. In the lists given in these volumes—prepared on a similar principle to that on which the Dominican father recommended the slaughter of all the inhabitants of the captured heretical city—will be found autobiographies of persons of every station, from the monarch to the wandering beggar; dissertations advocating the most opposite opinions and remote forms of thought, from the newest hypotheses of science, or daring flights beyond the usually recognized limits of credibility and proof, to revivals of long-buried superstitions and exploded fallacies; and imaginative productions of every grade of intellect, from the highest genius to a state not readily distinguishable from imbecility. The "Republic of Letters" has become in the fullest sense worthy of its name, with an equality of citizenship, a community of rights, and a mingling and jostling of its component members to which no political system offers a parallel.

The title of the original work indicates the period covered by it as extending to "the latter half of the nineteenth century." The earlier and later portions of it, however, were taken up and completed at long intervals, and the entries were not brought down to a common date under all the letters of the alphabet. The author's first intention seems to have been to end the work at the year 1850, and from A to O inclusive the entries, barring accidental omissions, were completed to that date. But before publication many additional insertions, extending in some instances to 1858, were made under those letters, without any attempt to comprise the full lists of the intervening years. The remainder of the work covers a much more extended period, with a more uniform limit, the entries from P to Z embracing complete lists to the end of 1869, with additions almost equally full to about the middle of 1870. Hence the period covered by this Supplement is also a variable one. Under the letters A to O it begins with the year 1850,—without, of course, repeating the entries of a later date in the original work,—and under the remaining letters it begins with the year 1870. The whole extends to the end of 1888, with a very few entries of later date, mostly to include a completed series of volumes or related works or the last productions of a recently deceased writer. It would have been easy to insert many additional titles, as was done in the original work; but no complete lists to a later date could have been prepared without delaying the press; and the compiler did not desire to leave a straggling line of projections instead of a fixed boundary, and thus impose upon some future successor what has been one of the embarrassing complications of the present task, the necessity, namely, of referring at every step to the entries in an earlier work and connecting his own with them by a process of dovetailing. In the course of this labor many entries of earlier dates than those mentioned, which had been omitted by Allibone, have been supplied in the Supplement, but not systematically, and only, of course, in the case of authors whose publications extended to those dates,—*i.e.*, 1850 under A to O, and 1870 under P to Z. The general plan and method of the original work have been followed in the Supplement, with slight modifications. The bibliographical details have been more uniformly and distinctly separated from the biographical matter; no references have been introduced in the list of an author's works to others on the same subject or of a kindred nature by different writers, and it has not been thought necessary to inform the reader where critical articles from which no quotations are given may be found, any former need of this kind being now supplied by Poole's "Index to Periodical Literature."

Of the authors whose names are entered in this work, some biographical in-