

OUR TABLE.

ABBOTT'S HISTORY OF MADAME ROLAND.

WE have received from Mr. Dawson of the *Place d'Armes*, a copy of this beautiful work. It is a brief, but clear and comprehensive narrative of a life, which must ever be considered as among the most remarkable in the history of the world. The character of that illustrious woman, who, without the aid of artificial rank, or of wealth, but by the sole power of a transcendent genius, swayed so long, amid the horrors of a revolutionary period, the destinies of France, can never be reflected on, except with admiration and with wonder. Mr. Abbott, in the book before us, vividly portrays her singular career—from the cradle to the scaffold. He sketches rapidly the humble home of her infancy, the convent where her youth was passed, the republican simplicity of her husband, the splendor of her mansion, the brilliant assemblies of statesmen and wits who congregated there, her influence, her trial and her death. He dwells most forcibly upon the rich and varied treasures of her mind, the never-failing resoluteness of her will, her eloquence, her saintlike gentleness, and, more than all, her spotless purity. In no other instance which we now remember, has there ever existed so remarkable a combination of the noblest qualities. The influence of so sublime a character was not confined by territorial limits, and scarcely has been lessened by the lapse of time. The contemplation of that character still stimulates the thirst for intellectual improvement, still inspires the loftiest patriotism and the purest virtue, still nerves the spirit in its contest with the ills of life. In the midst of all her greatness and her power, surrounded by the most enthusiastic admirers, she was never dazzled by her brilliant fame,—she never forgot that she was still a woman. "She moved," says Mr. Abbott, "in her own appropriate sphere. She made no Amazonian speeches. She mingled not with men in the clamor of debate. With an invisible hand, she gently and winningly touched the springs of action in other hearts. She did no violence to that delicacy of perception which is woman's tower and strength. She moved not from that sphere where woman reigns so resistlessly, and dreamed not of laying aside the graceful and polished weapons of her own sex, to grasp the heavier and coarser armor of man, which no woman can wield. By such an endeavor, one does but excite the repugnance of all except the un-

fortunate few, who can see no peculiar sacredness in woman's person, mind or heart."

Much has been written and spoken respecting the causes, events and effects of the French Revolution. In one sense of the word, this biography is not necessary. It has added nothing to our previous store of historical information. But it is valuable, notwithstanding, inasmuch as it presents again to our view those virtues which humanity should never cease to imitate. Many passages, and among them that which we have quoted, are beautifully and thrillingly written. The whole work is highly creditable to its author, and, we trust, will speedily obtain a universal approbation.

ALTON LOCKE; TAILOR AND POET, AN AUTO-BIOGRAPHY. YEW-YORK, HARPER AND BROTHERS. MONTREAL, B. DAWSON.

THIS semi-political, semi-religious novel has already created an extraordinary excitement in the literary world. Its object is a lofty one,—to indicate the only means by which Equality, Freedom and Brotherhood, in their proper sense, can be secured to mankind. They are not to spring from violent political agitations, from the tumultuous over-turning of established powers, not from Charters or from Constitutions, but *from within*,—from that spirit which every member of society feels at work within himself. "Not by wrath and haste," it is said, "but by patience made perfect through suffering, canst thou proclaim their good news to the growing masses, and deliver them, as thy Master did before thee, by the Cross and not the sword."

The story is by no means complicated. It narrates the successive steps, by which a somewhat peculiarly constituted mind passes from a condition of unwholesome religious restraint, first to infidelity, and then, by a reaction, to a pure and elevated faith. It is intended to ameliorate the social lot of the humbler classes in Great Britain and elsewhere, and as such it has our heartfelt sympathy. Its effect is certain, for its principle is liberal and enlightened Christianity.

Of the literary merits of this work, apart from its political and religious tendency, we need scarcely speak. Public opinion has already positively pronounced upon them. In England, for example, ALTON LOCKE has been received with an enthusiasm scarcely less than that which followed the publication of *JANE EYRE*.