

OUR LIBRARY TABLE

ALDEN MANIFOLD CYCLOPEDIA. Vol. VII. Calvin-Cevennes. New York: John B. Alden. Cloth, 50 cents. Half morocco, 65 cents. Post, 10 cents.

We have so often commended this wonderfully cheap and useful publication that we need say little about the volume before us, except that it is quite equal to any of its predecessors. John Calvin, the first title, occupies seven pages, and Cevennes, the last title, the name of the chief mountain range in the South of France, nearly one page. Between these there are over 600 pages, including considerably over 100 illustrations, devoted to topics in every department of knowledge. In this volume occur the titles, Cambridge University, Cambyses (King of the Medes), Canada, Canal, Cancer, Carboniferous System (in geology), Carpentry (ten illustrations), Thomas Carlyle, Carthage, Sir George E. Cartier, Jacques Cartier, Catoptrics, Cause, Cattle Plague, to which eleven pages are devoted, Cavalry Tactics, Cell-Theory, Cetacea, and so on. These examples will indicate the comprehensiveness of the knowledge embraced in the scope of the work.

POLITICAL ESSAYS. By James Russell Lowell. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. pp. 316. \$1.50.

Of the dozen essays collected in this volume all but one were published more than twenty years ago. They are on questions which have been settled, but which, in those times, were of such absorbing interest that, in his prefatory note, Mr. Lowell says it gratifies him to find there is so little to regret in their tone, and that he was able to keep his head fairly free from passion when his heart was at boiling point. These essays are of little interest now, whatever historical value they may possess; but they show that in the stormy days before, during, and after the Civil War, Mr. Lowell was what he is still, a calm, shrewd, clear-sighted and thoroughly independent statesman—a statesman of the kind of which no country can have too many, and of which the United States have notoriously too few. The last essay in the collection is the address delivered in April last before the Reform Club, of New York, on "The Place of the Independent in Politics," and which brought upon Mr. Lowell a deluge of Billingsgate from the Republican press.

AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE TORONTO HUMANE SOCIETY. Edited by J. George Hodgins, M.A., LL.D., a vice-president of the Society. Toronto: William Briggs. pp. 230. Paper, 25 cts.

The title of this book gives a very inadequate idea of its scope and character. It is in reality a hand-book of the literature of *humaneness*, and should be of the greatest use in promoting the objects of the Society by which it has been published. It is divided into five parts. I. What the Society will seek to Prevent; II. Care of the Waifs and Strays of our Cities; III. Lessons in Kindness to Animals and Birds; IV. The Humane Education of Children, and V. Miscellaneous Objects to be Accomplished. To indicate in some degree the scope of the work, we give the titles of a few of the chapters: "The Wanton Destruction of Birds," "Dogs and their Treatment," "Waifs and Strays telling their own story," "Waifs and Strays—others telling their story," "Bird-Life—Incidents and Stories," "Kind Treatment of Horses, and a Contrast," "Devotion of the Dog—Incidents and Stories," "Merciful Killing of Disabled Horses and Dogs," "Humane Care and Painless Destruction of Dogs and other Creatures." There are altogether forty-three chapters made up chiefly of extracts in prose and verse bearing on the various subjects treated, making a large magazine-shaped volume of 230 pages. Many of the extracts are from Canadian sources, chiefly the newspapers, but we notice several of Miss Machar's poems, one, at least, of Miss Rothwell's and quite a number of "The Khan's." There is a full table of contents, and what would be an admirable index if its accuracy could be relied upon. Our confidence was shaken by finding an error in the paging the first time we turned to it, but it is only fair to say that we have so far found no others. There are 112 illustrations in the book, including an engraving from Hardy's painting, "Thorough-bred" and the well-known "The Indian Scout and Dying Hound." Though the price of this book is only 25 cents, we doubt if it will circulate as widely as could be desired or reach the classes among whom it would do the most good. A smaller and less elaborate work, gratuitously but judiciously distributed, would reach a greater number of readers and exert a wider influence.

THE ETHICS OF MARRIAGE. By H. S. Pomeroy, M.D. With a Prefatory Note by Thomas Addis Emmet, M.D., LL.D.; and An Introduction by Rev. J. T. Duryea, D.D. New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls.

Since the day of Nast's suggestive cartoon bearing the legend, "Suffer not little children to come unto me," there has appeared no such plain spoken protest against the "American Sin" as is contained in the chapter of this book, entitled the "Perversion of Marriage." The prevention or destruction of unborn human life is, according to our author, "the terror that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noon day"; and he speaks from an experience of more than twenty years in a widely-extended special practice. Few people are aware of the extent to which the desire to avoid parenthood prevails among young married people, and the setting forth of the many evils, inherent or incidental, that are inseparable from the application of the means taken to gratify that desire, will open the eyes of such as have the opportunity and the courage to read this little book. And in addition to setting forth the evils to the individual and to the family, he calls attention to the danger menacing the State through the paucity of births in the families of Americans bred and born. It appears that of late years a large majority of the children born in the United States are of foreign parentage, and naturally they inherit foreign predilections. The subject of "heredity," too, comes in for a fair share of attention, and it is in this connection that the Doctor remarks, that "a pound of preform is worth a ton of reform." So much importance does he attach to the matter that he declares himself in accord with the old physician who, when asked at what age a child's education should begin, replied, "twenty years before he is born." He goes even further, and professes to have recorded from observation in his own practice many instances of heredity arising from circumstances immediate to birth. He expresses his belief, for instance, that economical and extravagant habits in different members of the same family may often be traced to the financial position of the parents at the time of the respective births; one child born when the parents were in humble circumstances, and consequently forced to be economical, being as a rule of a saving turn; another, born in later years, and when affluence had been attained, being given to extravagance. In his advocacy of almost universal marriage and parenthood, the author is of course brought face to face with the Malthusian doctrine, and he deals with it in a manner that is extremely cheerful to contemplate. His views on "Woman's Rights," too, are of a very spicy nature. The book is well worth reading.

WITH THE IMMORTALS. By F. Marion Crawford. London and New York: Macmillan and Company. 300 pp.; \$2.00.

After getting his pleasant little party together in the old castle on the southern shore of the Sorrentine Peninsula, near the famous Isles of the Sirens, and manipulating the

electric experiments which produced such unexpected and marvellous results, Mr. Crawford manages the conversation and demeanour of the immortals with great cleverness and judgment. Heine was the first to appear at the strange symposium. He told his hosts about death, and the existence after death, and a great deal about himself, which we would like to quote. Chopin was the next to come, and the conversation turned on music, romance, and romantic characters. "I think Caesar was romantic, too," said Diana. "He had outgrown romance when he conquered the world. He must have been very different when he was young." "Very different," said a placid voice from one of the tall windows. A man stood outside in the moonlight looking in. "It is Caesar," said Augustus, under his breath, as he rose to greet the new comer. "Yes, I am Caesar," answered the calm voice of the dead conqueror. "You spoke of me, and I was near and heard you. You are not afraid to take a dead man's hand? No! why should you be?" . . . "Are we in a dream?" asked Diana, in low tones, turning to Heine. The poet sighed. "You are but a dream to us," he said softly. "We are the reality—the sleepless reality of death." "Yes, we are very real," said Caesar, seating himself in a huge, carved chair that might have served for an imperial throne, and looking around upon the assembled party. "You were speaking of my life. You were saying I was not a romantic character. . . . I was not romantic. Do not smile at my using the word. During nineteen centuries of wandering I have learned to speak of romantists and realists. I was not romantic. . . . The purpose of my life was to overthrow tradition, and to found a new era for the world. I was a source of realism. There was nothing mythical about me. Romance grew out of the decay of what I founded." . . . For the rest of the evening Caesar monopolized the conversation, which naturally drifted into politics. The next evening Caesar came, bringing with him Lionardo da Vinci, but without the poet and musician, Heine being away sitting by the shores of the North Sea, talking to the stars and the sea foam, and Chopin attending a musical festival at Bayreuth, from which he could not stay away. On this occasion, too, Caesar bore the burden of the conversation, the subject of it being chiefly himself and the plans he had in view when his career was cut short. "That handful of low assassins cost the world fifteen centuries of darkness, and I knew it even then. . . . As I felt one wound after another, I felt that my murderers were not merely killing Caesar, they were killing civilization: every thrust was struck at the heart of the world, making deep wounds on the future of mankind, and letting out the breath of life from the body of law. That was my worst suffering, worse even than the death of my ambition. . . . I was satisfied for myself to die. But I had conceived great thoughts that had grown to be a new self apart from the old, vain, ambitious Caesar, having a separate and better life—and that they slew also." Francis the First, Dr. Johnson, Pascal, and Bayard—the knight without fear and without reproach—joined the party, and added characteristic elements to the conversation, which continued from day to day until the effects of Augustus Chard's dangerous experiment with nature wore away. Of these conversations we can say but little more. They were on a great variety of subjects—wit, humour, satire, science, religion, love and marriage, communism, agnosticism, nihilism, politics, and political economy. There were two, however, that were particularly interesting: Lady Brenda's long afternoon talk on the terrace of the Castle del Gaudio with Francis the First, and Diana Chard's conversation with Lionardo da Vinci. The great artist expressed opinions about some of his contemporaries that are not commonly received. About Savonarola, for example: "Savonarola—he was not a bad man; no, but he was a very detestable fellow. He fell a victim to a piece of his own very gratuitous political scheming. . . . I will give you the history of Savonarola in three words—enthusiasm, fanaticism, failure. . . . There is the history of Savonarola. I do not see there is material for making a martyr of him since his death—there was certainly not the stuff of a hero in him when he was alive." But we must quote no more.

THE FALL OF NEW FRANCE, 1755-1760. By Gerald E. Hart, President of the Society for Historical Studies, Montreal, Past Vice-President and life member of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, Montreal, etc., with portraits and views in artotype. Montreal: W. Drysdale and Company. Toronto: R. W. Douglas and Company. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Pp. 175. Paper \$3.00. Cloth \$3.75.

Owing to someone's negligence or blunder we have only now received a copy of this work, which we have read with no small degree of pleasure. The Montreal Society for Historical Studies is evidently doing earnest and valuable work. This monograph, which exhibits many evidences of painstaking research and careful study, was read at one of its sessions, and we gather from the introductory note, and from some remarks on page 4, that other papers dealing in like comprehensive manner with other periods of early American history have been from time to time read before the Society by its members. It is by work of this kind, and only by work of this kind, that historical societies can exhibit a reason for their existence. The period to which Mr. Hart has devoted his researches is a short one, but it is full of events that end in the settlement of a long standing quarrel and a final decision as to what race should rule in the North American continent. After briefly describing the geographical limits of the areas occupied or claimed respectively by the English and the French prior to the outbreak of the Seven Years' War, and the disputed territory between the Alleghany Mountains and the Mississippi, which was claimed by both, Mr. Hart gives a very full and clear account of the causes that led to, and the circumstances attending the expulsion of the Acadians—an account that differs very materially from, and is indeed, in some respects, completely at variance with, the accounts commonly received. The Acadians, he tells us, were "far from as perfect and amiable a race as Longfellow, in his beautiful dramatic poem has sung, or that (sic) the Abbé Raynal, in his pathetic and romantic narrative, would fain have us believe; but sufficiently innocent of mundane matters to have been happy in their rural retreats. . . . were it not for the machinations and intrigues of their spiritual preceptors." He shows the Acadians to have been, under the influence of spiritual political guides, stubbornly and persistently disloyal, and that their expulsion, however regrettable on humanitarian grounds, was an act of political necessity so fully in accord with the law of nations that not even France itself nor any solitary foreign power remonstrated with England for the act or alluded to it in diplomatic correspondence. Precedents, too, he finds for the action of the British; but while Mr. Hart, backed by the contemporaneous proofs he adduces, strongly insists that the expulsion was justifiable, and that it was carried out with as much consideration for the expatriated families as was possible, he does not hesitate to say that, "humanly speaking," it "was an act of refined cruelty our humane feelings at the present day revolt at." Leaving the episode of the Acadians, Mr. Hart resumes his story of the war which was to result in the capture of Quebec and the fall of New France. The story is well told. Mr. Hart's style is clear, direct, and sprightly; and without burdening the narrative with too many details he omits nothing necessary to make it complete. But while giving our author the greatest credit for his research, his industry, his accuracy, and the skill with which he has woven his facts into a pleasing and even picturesque narrative, we cannot help expressing our regret that he has allowed himself so frequently to drop into eccentricities of construction that are almost, if not entirely, inexcusable. We have marked more than a dozen pages on which these faulty construc-