

the tendency of the agents he enumerates to produce bad times: and the causes of the present depression he rightly holds to lie, not, as is often asserted, in a deficiency of gold currency—for credit, not gold, is now the currency of the commercial world—but in the accumulation of capital in few hands, in swollen national debts, and in general immorality. To use his own words:

In every case in which we have traced out the efficient causes of the present depression, we have found it to originate in customs, laws, or modes of action which are ethically unsound, if not positively immoral. Wars and excessive war armaments, loans to despots or for war purposes, the accumulation of vast wealth by individuals, excessive speculation and adulteration of manufactured goods, and lastly our bad land system.

The remedy he finds in the adoption of a better land system in England, the attracting of population back from the town to the country, and generally by applying the teachings of a higher morality to our commerce and manufactures, to our laws and customs, and to our dealings with other nationalities. The book should be studied by all economists.

**THE PUNISHMENT AND PREVENTION OF CRIME.** By Col. Sir Edmund F. Du Cane. (The "English Citizen" Series.) London and New York: Macmillan and Company. Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchison.

This is the latest of a series of books on the rights and responsibilities of the English citizen. It is a complete storehouse of information on the subject it treats of, giving a comprehensive survey of the punishment of crime, from the cruelty of mediæval punishments, through the gaol horrors of the last century, to the more humane system of the present day; it shows the economic value of reformatories and industrial schools, and suggests the best means of reforming criminals. These last chapters should be carefully studied by all interested in the amelioration of the condition of the "lapsed masses."

**THE POEMS OF HENRY ABBEY.** New, revised, and enlarged edition. Kingston, New York: Henry Abbey.

The fact of the name of the author of these poems appearing also as publisher is likely to make the reader a little suspicious of their quality, especially as the volume is very nicely printed. But, although perhaps rendered hypercritical in this account, we have found the contents to be decked out in a by no means unbecoming dress. The poems are mostly narrative, but Mr. Abbey's lips have been touched with the sacred fire. A rugged simplicity that is very pleasing pervades the volume; the whole collection gives an impression of Gothic strength combined with harmony that must be very refreshing to a taste accustomed to the flabbiness of much current poetry. We quote, as a haphazard specimen of Mr. Abbey's style, the following stanza, taken from "Karagwe" [a negro]:—

His buyer was the planter Dalton Earl,  
Of Valley Earl, an owner of broad lands,  
Whose wife, in some cold daybreak of the past,  
Had tarried with the night;  
But parting, left him of their love a child.  
He named it Coraline; by sad waves tossed,  
She was a spray of coral fair to see!  
Found on the shore where death's impatient deep  
Hems in the narrow continent of life.

**CHARLES DARWIN.** By Grant Allen. ("English Worthies" Series. Edited by Andrew Lang.) New York: D. Appleton and Company.

Merely as an attempt to correct some popular misconceptions in regard to Darwinism this book is worthy of all praise:

In the public mind (says Mr. Allen) Darwin is perhaps most commonly regarded as the discoverer and founder of the evolution hypothesis. It is believed that he was the first propounder of the theory which supposes all plant and animal forms to be the result, not of special creation, but of slow modification in pre-existent organisms. It is further, and more particularly, believed that he was the first propounder of the theory which supposes the descent of man to be traceable from a remote and more or less monkey-like ancestor; as a matter of fact, Darwin was not the originator of either of these two cardinal ideas. . . . The grand idea which he did really originate was not the idea of descent with modification, but the idea of natural selection—the survival of the fittest.

But the grand interest to us is the picture it affords of the beautiful human life of this "English Worthy." For this we must refer the reader to the volume itself, where at page 174 he will find a passage too long for transcription, indeed, but not too long for perusal and re-perusal.

**THE VANITY AND INSANITY OF GENIUS.** By Kate Sanborn. New York: George J. Coombes.

We last week gave a few sample excerpts from this excellent little book; and now beg to most heartily recommend it to our readers. It is brimful of the pathos and humour that makes out human life—especially the life of such as rise above mental mediocrity: it emphasizes the truth that the greater the talent or genius one has the nearer does he approach that terrible brink of insanity that is not far from any—except the stupid.

**LECTURES INTRODUCTORY TO THE STUDY OF THE LAW OF THE CONSTITUTION.** By A. V. Dicey, B.C.L. London and New York: Macmillan and Company. Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchison.

This treatise we should judge to be indispensable to constitutional lawyers, statesmen, and public men. As its title implies, it is intended to be introductory to the study of the law of the constitution: a manual to enable students to study with benefit, in Blackstone and other treatises of a like nature, those topics which, taken together, make up the Constitutional Law of England. The author with a practical hand sweeps away the cobwebbery of legal fiction that involves Blackstone and his fellows, and points out clearly, in contradiction to them, that Sovereignty in England does not lie,

and has not for many years lain, with the Crown. It lies now with the people—but only, however, as represented in Parliament—and the Executive of England is placed in the hands of a committee called the Cabinet. This evolution of the British Constitution the author constantly illustrates by comparison between it and the constitutionalism on the one hand of the United States, and on the other of the French Republic. The Constitution of the Dominion, he sees, is a mere copy of the American model; and he well remarks:—

The preamble to the British North America Act 1867 asserts with official mendacity that the Provinces of the present Dominion have expressed their desire to be united into one Dominion 'with a Constitution similar to that of the United Kingdom.' If preambles were intended to express the truth, for the word *Kingdom* ought to have been substituted *States* since it is clear that the Constitution of the Dominion is modelled on that of the Union. The Constitution is the law of the land; it cannot be changed either by the Dominion or by the Provincial Parliaments; it can be altered only by the sovereign power of the British Parliament. Nor does this arise from the Canadian Dominion being a dependency. Victoria is, like Canada, a colony; but the Victorian Parliament can with the assent of the Crown do what the Canadian Parliament cannot do—change the colonial Constitution. Throughout the Dominion, therefore, the Constitution is in the strictest sense the immutable law of the land. Under this case again, you have, as you would expect, the distribution of powers among bodies of co-ordinate authority; though undoubtedly the powers bestowed on the Dominion Government and Parliament are greater when compared with the powers reserved to the Provinces than are the powers which the Constitution of the United States gives to the Federal Government. In nothing is this more noticeable than in the authority given to or assumed by the Dominion Government to disallow Provincial Acts which are illegal or unconstitutional. This right was possibly given with a view to obviate altogether the necessity for invoking the law courts as interpreters of the Constitution; the founders of the Confederation appear in fact to have believed that 'the care taken to define the respective powers of the several legislative bodies in the Dominion would prevent any troublesome or dangerous conflict of authority arising between the Central and Local Governments.' The futility, however, of a hope grounded on a misconception of the nature of federalism is proved by the existence of two thick volumes of reports filled with cases on the constitutionality of legislative enactments, and by a long list of decisions as to the respective powers possessed by the Dominion and by the Provincial Parliaments; judgments given by the Supreme Court of the Dominion, namely, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In Canada, as in the United States, the courts inevitably become the interpreters of the Constitution.

The author displays great legal acumen; his book contains a large number of valuable illustrative historical references; and it has a copious index.

**FOUR FEET, TWO FEET, AND NO FEET; or, Furry and Feathery Pets; and How they Live.** Edited by Laura E. Richards. Boston: Estes and Lauriat.

A seasonable children's book, a portion of which has already appeared in "Our Little Ones." It contains one hundred and fifty stories and two hundred and fifty illustrations, all very well done, so that in it the youngsters may form a lasting acquaintance with their young friends of the lower animal kingdom.

**THE MASTER OF THE MINE.** By Robert Buchanan. New York: D. Appleton and Company.

A deeply interesting story. The characters are well drawn; they are concerned, as the title implies, with rural and mining life in England; and many a fine moral lesson is taught in a pleasant way through the lives they led.

**REPRESENTATIVE ESSAYS.** From "Prose Masterpieces." New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

A collection of twelve essays from the English classics, prepared for the use of students and teachers. The selection is a good one and includes such masterpieces as "Sweetness and Light"; by Matthew Arnold. "On History"; by Carlyle. "Race and Language"; by Edward A. Freeman. "Kin beyond Sea"; by Gladstone. A capital book for youth.

**THE EVE OF ST. AGNES.** By John Keats. Illustrated by Edmund H. Garrett, under the supervision of Geo. T. Andrew. Boston: Estes and Lauriat.

This is a handsome reproduction of Keats' glowing flesh-tint poem. It is finely illustrated by over twenty engravings, the whole being printed on thick plate paper.

**FOILED.** By a Lawyer. Chicago: Clarke and Longley.

A well-told legal story with a pleasant setting of domestic life. The character of the foiled one is very skilfully drawn: her step-daughter and intended victim—the heroine of the tale—is an ideal woman from whom we are sorry to part.

**COUNTRY LIFE IN CANADA FIFTY YEARS AGO.** Personal recollections and reminiscences of a Sexagenarian. By Canniff Haight. Toronto: Hunter, Rose and Company.

Part of the contents of this book has already been published in the *Canadian Monthly* and *Methodist Magazine*, and perhaps is familiar to our readers; but it will be hard if they cannot still find much to amuse them in the volume. The story relates the ordinary incidents of pioneer life in a new country, enlivened, however, by anecdotes of sport and the shrewd observations of an acute mind. The book is filled with descriptive accounts of scenes and events; and this makes it a very realistic picture. It has two supplementary chapters on Sketches of Early History and Random Recollections of Early Days; and to all having a regard for the men that made Canada what it is to-day—as who does not—we cordially recommend it.