

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THREE VASSAR GIRLS IN SWITZERLAND. By Elizabeth W. Champney. Illustrated. Boston: Estes and Lauriat; Toronto: Williamson and Company.

This bright addition to the "Vassar Girl Series" carries its readers in sparkling United States' style through its two hundred and thirty-nine pages of letter press and pictorial travel in the famous mountain land of the Swiss. The desire for attractive and popular books of travel is so great nowadays that one cannot help admiring the skill and ingenuity of the publishers in their bids for popular favour in this department of literary production. It is not an unhappy or unpatriotic thought to associate a series with a well known college, though it be only by name, and we observe that nearly 100,000 volumes of this series has already been sold. For those juniors of the gentler sex who wish light reading of the descriptive kind, cast in the mould of a story and having a distinctive United States' flavour, the above book will not be found unattractive.

GETHESEMANE. By Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark, 38 George Street. Price 5s.

"The best of all was, it was so full of Jesus," said an English friend, speaking of a sermon by Newman Hall. We may say the same of Gethsemane. As we follow the steps of the "Man of Sorrows" into the darkness of His agony, we feel that our griefs are consecrated by His, and that the angels who comforted Him are ready also to sustain us.

A peculiar feature of the book is its wealth of illustration. Speaking of the necessity for watchfulness and prayer, the eloquent writer says: "An Alpine climber, after hours of exertion, may be so weary that he can proceed no further till he recruit his strength. But he must beware of sleeping on the ice slope, or the precipice's edge. If he lies down to slumber he may not wake again. The more weary he feels, the more watchful must he be. . . . The storm may seem to slumber, but woe to the pilot who presumes on the lull and is sleeping at the helm when the elements awake with renewed violence. There may be a pause in the battle, but woe to the army which sleeps while the foe is busy in reloading his guns and massing his troops for a renewed charge."

ANOTHER FLOCK OF GIRLS. By Nora Perry. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.

In these pictures of girl life, the author shows her profound knowledge of girls and their ways, and through the medium of such pleasing tales interests her readers in the thoughts, words and ways of the different types of girls of tender years. We have in the first tale "May Bartlett's Stepmother," old-fashioned Susy with her sage advice, impulsive Cathy so apt to be pert and forward, Joanna though somewhat hasty yet open to conviction, the proud though attractive May Bartlett, and her wise, sweet and winsome stepmother. The writer possesses the rare secret of teaching some of the wisest and most helpful lessons of life in a manner that is at once natural, graceful and artless. The reader is borne along the current of her stories easily and agreeably. There is no straining for effect, no posing, no artificiality. The style is admirably suited to the subject, clear, simple and effective, and one seems to be looking upon the scenes and incidents of actual life and listening to the voices of living speakers. Such stories cannot fail to find readers so long as they flow from the pen of such a pure and clever writer.

JAPAN: A Sailor's visit to the Island Empire. By M. B. Cook. New York: John B. Alden.

An eminent authority, quoted by Professor Chamberlain in his interesting "Things Japanese," declares that eight weeks is the exact time qualifying an intelligent man to write about Japan. A briefer period, he says, produces superficiality; a longer period induces a wrong mental focus.

Captain Cook, it would seem, has just about hit the right mean. We can thoroughly recommend his little book as a very readable account of his visit to the Island Empire. He was not in Japan long, nor did he see very much, his visits being limited to places easy of access from Yokohama and Kobe. But he confines himself to what he has seen, and he is evidently a man of keen powers of observation. Of course, there are some errors in the book—errors for instance in the orthography of Japanese names, and errors arising from an almost absolute ignorance of the language. But these we can condone in one who visited the country as a bird of passage, and we can thank the author for his life-like sketch of that delightful land. He has also made a good deal of use of authorities bearing on the subject. Sometimes he has acknowledged them, but there is on p. 32 a description of the scenery around Enoshima which we seem to have seen in print elsewhere. We hope Captain Cook will forgive us for calling his attention to it.

OVER THE TEACUPS. By Oliver Wendell Holmes. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company.

Many readers will be pleased to see that Oliver Wendell Holmes' recent contribution to English literature, "Over the Teacups," which appeared in the pages of the *Atlantic*

Monthly, has been reproduced attractively in permanent form in a handsome volume. It will now rank with the delightful series the genial author has, during a long and busy lifetime, given to three generations of readers. This last production of his graceful pen shows no diminution in the charm that characterizes his best work. The same airy freedom of expression, with the delicate graces of culture added, the quaint fancies, the suggestive thoughts clearly presented, the subdued, sunny humour, and the poetical embellishments that made his former works so delightful are conspicuously present in this his latest work. While American literature can claim the genial Autocrat of the Breakfast-table as peculiarly its own, it is none the less true that the English-speaking race the world over have in him a revered exponent of its best thought, and his are works that they will not willingly permit to pass into obscurity. Coming generations of readers will turn with delight to the pages of Oliver Wendell Holmes. The present volume concludes with a promise that before his pen is finally laid aside he may give some more of the ripe and mellow fruits of his matured experience to his wide circle of readers. May he be long spared to give expression to the rich treasures of thought stored in a vigorous and cultivated mind.

THE CANADIAN SENATOR; or, A Romance of Love and Politics. By Christopher Oakes. Toronto: The National Publishing Company.

Every Canadian author, who endeavours by means of his brains and pen to introduce the world to the social and political life of the Dominion, as well as to advertise its natural resources, should receive all due encouragement. The tale before us is not devoid of interest and romance. The hero is a young man with the suggestive name of Rashfellow, who wishes to marry Gertrude Fitzgibbon and take her to live with him on his ranch in the West. Her aunt thinks a trip to the scene of her proposed home will be the best means to open the fair one's eyes to the unwisdom of joining her fortunes with those of her rash lover, and it so occurs that the trio in company with "Senator Watkins" are introduced to the reader on the deck of one of the Canadian Pacific Lake Superior steamships. Young Rashfellow is pursued by relentless ill-fortune. His house is burnt down before his own and his lady love's eyes. The engagement is broken, and in desperation he plunges into the midst of an Indian Reserve, and becomes a sort of farm instructor to the Kickaways in British Columbia. Eventually he returns to civilization, and, securing a position as a civil servant in Ottawa, is eventually united to his old love, who has bemoaned his absence and steadily refused the tempting offer of the hand of a rising politician, who afterwards becomes a Cabinet Minister. The scene is, at times, shifted to Toronto and Winnipeg, but the latter part of the story is laid in Ottawa. The Senator is deservedly kept in the background, as his scale of intelligence is even below that of the average member of the "Upper House." The tale is not uninteresting, though as a political novel it cannot be said to be a success and its title is a misnomer.

LAYS OF CANADA, and other poems. By the Rev. Duncan Anderson, M.A. Montreal: John Lovell and Son.

In this neatly bound and fairly-printed volume of one hundred and sixteen pages, Mr. Anderson without preface, but with dedication by permission to the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise, sends forth his modest contribution to the growing stream of Canadian Poetry. The subjects treated are sufficiently varied from "The Queen's Jubilee" at the start, to "The Bards Apology" at the finish, to give the reader a fair opportunity of estimating the author's scope and style. We may premise by saying that it was no craven heart which breathed such stanzas from the first poem as these:—

The loud huzza and manly cheer
Proclaim the Saxon warrior near;
His is no soul for doubt or fear,
When honour calls;
Nor cannon's roar nor flashing spear
His heart appalls.

And where the pibroch proudly swells,
Thrilling each heart where Scotia dwells,
The nodding plume the story tells
Of love supreme,
And blood that flowed like mountain wells
For Scotland's Queen.

Our broadsides thundering o'er the deep,
Where England's navies proudly sweep
Flash forth her fame
And British hearts shall sacred keep
Victoria's name.

A soothing, pleasing picture from "The Trapper's Christmas" is this:—

And when the day is done,
How sweet to rest beneath the tree;
To list the soft winds melody,
And mark the setting sun
Paint o'er with gold the waveless sea,
Till heaven seems near and earthly shadows flee.

Artistic, truthful and forceful are the following stanzas from a "Dominion Day Idyll":—

Strong hands have we to sow our fertile plains,
Strong arms to reap the grain, or delve the mine,—
To draw forth treasures from the yielding deep,
Or midst the forest shades to fell the costly pine.

Who till and reap the glebe can also fight;
The hand that guides the plough may train the gun;
And arms that swing the axe shall wield the sword,
To guard and keep our sacred gifts from sire to son.

It is well that those of our poets who are capable of it should from time to time feed our people with the strong meat of such masculine sentiment, as our air is too often fanned and perfumed by the dainty wings and volatile odours of the lighter literary butterflies whose afflatus, like the child's glinting soap-bubble, may be "a thing of beauty," but is scarcely "a joy forever."

Our space forbids further extracts, though we are tempted to make them. We would however refer the reader to the fine martial ode, "The Death of Wolfe," and the sweet and melodious bird song, "Josephine."

Though we may detect a false rhyme, an occasional error from careless proof-reading, or some other minor defect, yet we congratulate the author on the possession of undoubted poetic talent, of true patriotic feeling, and that love of home and Canada; of her fire side, battle-field or forest glade; of her fauna and flora, which have made it not only a positive pleasure to read his book, but to commend it as well to our readers.

ALDEN'S *Knowledge* comes to us weekly with a fresh store of very serviceable encyclopædic information brought well down to date of each issue.

BRETANO'S *Book Chat* is something more than its name implies. The January number fully illustrates its crisp and compendious character as one of the most useful issues of its class.

THE *Illustrated News* presents a graphic illustration of the difference in the condition of life between the wretched poor of London, as seen in the sketches "in Miller's Court, Whitechapel," "a family from Lancashire," and "a home in Northern Siberia."

THE January number of *Blackwood's Magazine* opens with Lady Martin's (Helena Faucit) first article on "Shakespeare's Women" in the form of a letter to Lord Tennyson, "Hermione" being the character touched upon. Froude's "Lord Beaconsfield" receives a careful review. Lord Brabourne writes on "The Parnell Imbroglio." These form the chief features of a good number.

THE *Nineteenth Century* for January is a varied and interesting number. Professor Huxley finds a strong controversial opponent in the Duke of Argyll, the point of contention being the "Naachian Deluge." Lieut. Stairs' "Shut Up in the African Forest" will find numberless readers who will appreciate its simply but vividly told details. The remaining ten articles are quite up to the average.

THE *January Contemporary* is a typically excellent number of an excellent magazine. Mr. James Bryce writes on "An Age of Discontent," Mr. R. Bosworth Smith on "Englishmen in Africa," with special reference to Stanley; Dr. Anderson on "Morality by Act of Parliament," referring to Lord Herschell's motion on the subject of judicial sentences in Criminal Courts, and Sir Morell Mackenzie writes guardedly on "Koch's Treatment of Tuberculosis."

In the *Fortnightly* for January the literary reader will delight in Edmund Gosse's "Ibsen's New Drama"; Mr. Swinburne's "Light: an Episode," and Edward Deille's "Chez Pousset," a literary evening. Readers with a political bent will turn to Sir George Baden-Powell's "A Canadian People"; Frederic Harrison's "The Irish Leadership," and the Hon. Auberon Herbert's "The Rake's Progress in Irish Politics." Mr. Jephson's article on "The Truth about Stanley and Emin Pasha" will command attention from all.

"PATRIOTISM and Chastity," by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, is the first article in the *Westminster* for January. We fail to see how such aggressive reasoning against those who oppose Parnell's notorious immorality can possibly raise the standard which its author avers she does not desire to lower. "A Privileged Profession" is a glance at the present status of "The Nurse." Eugenius, in "The Decline of Marriage," sets for himself the task of showing "that marriage is losing its popularity; that it is beginning to die out." Other interesting articles make up a strong number.

THE *International Journal of Ethics* for January maintains the high standard of the initial number for October, in which were so ably and comprehensively discussed the "Morality of Strife," by Professor Sidgwick; "The Freedom of Ethical Fellowship," by Dr. Felix Adler; "The Law of Relativity in Ethics," by Prof. Harold Höfding; "The Ethics of Land Tenure," by Prof. J. B. Clark, not to mention other important contributions and contributors. In the present number we have equally able papers, some of which are: "The Rights of Minorities," by D. G. Ritchie; "A New Study of Psychology," by Professor Royce; "The Inner Life in Relation to Morality," by J. H. Muirhead; "Moral Theory and Practice," by Prof. Dewey; "Morals in History," by Prof. Jodl. This quarterly is, as its name implies, International in the sense that it brings before its readers the mature convictions of some of the greatest living professorial and lay thinkers on this and the European Continent in the realm of Ethics.

In the "Presbyterian Year Book" for 1891 the learned editor, the Rev. George Simpson, has prepared for the Presbyterian Body a mass of special and general information relating to its affairs which may well be deemed to be not only interesting but instructive. The frontispiece is a rather faint but yet true photogravure of the Moderator, the Rev. John Laing, D.D. The calendar is filled