

ficial contour of a locality, but they may render valuable assistance in making known to teachers, farmers and others the scope and aim of this movement, so as to incite those having specimens, or those into whose hands they are likely to fall, to present them to the Provincial collection.

On the efforts of teachers and inspectors the success of the scheme set on foot by the Institute in a great measure depends. Spring will open in a short time, and in new portions of the country this is one of the favourable seasons for procuring specimens turned up by the plough. Will all the rural readers of *THE EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY* kindly keep this project in mind, and refer to it occasionally in the school-room? Correspondence is solicited, all of which, and specimens for presentation, should be addressed to David Boyle, Curator, Canadian Institute, Toronto.

Already a number of gentlemen have presented the Archæological Museum with from fifty to four hundred and fifty specimens, and it is expected that many other persons animated by a like public spirit will contribute their small collections for the purpose of adding to that which, in the course of a short time, must be of inestimable value to the student of history and ethnology, besides proving of great interest to intelligent observers of every kind.

THE ENGLISH BIBLE.

IN these days of much theological disputation, and professional criticism and defence of the Scriptures, it is a relief to come upon a layman's views of the Bible, not only in its qualities as an English classic, but in the obvious interpretation the educated lay mind will put upon the revealed word. Prof. Bowen's purpose in this little work is to look at our English Version of the Scriptures, just as if it were now for the first time placed be-

fore one, and to enter upon its study as one might enter upon "the study of Gibbon's great historical work, or attempt to ascertain the characteristics of the Elizabethan age of English literature." To accept the result of his examination, he adds: "It is not necessary to belong to any one household of faith, or even to be a believer in Christianity." His appeal is to men of taste and education, who can appreciate the literary beauties of our Common Version, and see in the design and scope of the work what any reverent student will discover of human and spiritual interest, aside from all controverted matters. The service he renders in this work, we may at once say, is most valuable and important, for it leads to the conclusion that "no system of liberal education can be regarded as complete and generous which does not include thorough study of this great body of Hebrew and Christian literature." The author condenses the result of his "study" in six brief chapters, dealing with the Bible (1) as an English classic; (2) with the Narratives of the Old Testament; (3) with the Parables and Gospel Narrative; (4) with the Philosophy; (5) with the Poetry of the Bible; and (6) with the History, including a study of the Character and Institutions of Moses. In the first of these Prof. Bowen deals with the grand but simple diction of the Word, and pays a fine tribute to the intrinsic power and sweetness of the thought, precept, or sentiment of the narrative. In the second he takes up and classifies the narratives of the Old Testament, dealing with them in their legendary and biographical, and in their didactic and spiritual aspects. In their legendary and traditional character, he says: "They are Hebraistic to the core; they are built around a nucleus of theocratic polity; and underlying them all is a foundation of spiritual faith, of rooted belief in the unity and the