

OUR TABLE.

AGINCOURT; BY G. P. R. JAMES.

Another tale from the pen of this charming and indefatigable writer. Scarcely have the plot and characters of one story been canvassed and discussed by newspaper critics and their followers the public, to their heart's content, when their interest is again excited and kept on the stretch, by the announcement of "A New Work in the Press, by the Author of 'De L'Orme,' 'Darnley,' &c."

"This cannot last long," cry some of those good-natured critics—"Mr. James is working himself to death." "Nay!" reply others, "his subject will be exhausted first." And still, in spite of these ominous prognostications, Mr. James writes as rapidly, as cheerfully, and as healthfully as ever, and still each new story excites fresh interest and maintains his ever-increasing popularity. We do not defend Mr. James' hasty execution, nor do we deny that its consequences are occasionally apparent in his style and diction. *Non propter, sed non obstante*—he flourishes not by these, but in spite of them; and were he to bestow on his works a more careful revision and eradicate these petty faults of style, few would dispute his title to the throne of Romance, left vacant by the death of Scott.

One most essential characteristic of a Novelist is possessed by Mr. James;—he takes care thoroughly to imbue and saturate his mind with the spirit of the age to which he assigns his story. It is this that gives such life-like colouring to the pages of Scott; and it is this that enables our author to paint with so much of reality, the palace of the Roman Emperor and the hut of the wild King of the Huns;—the severe simplicity of the Puritan age, and the gorgeous splendours of the Field of the Cloth of Gold;—the rude magnificence of the ancient Baron, and the motley groups of a modern fashionable Drawing-room. But it is in scenes of chivalry that Mr. James delights; the clash of armour and the neighing of steeds are music to his ear, and in the busy turmoil, the perilous encounters and exciting stratagems of war, he absolutely revels.

With such scenes before him, then, as those of the battle of Agincourt, an attractive and deeply interesting romance was to be expected from Mr. James;—nor has this expectation been disappointed. We took up this work, fresh from the perusal of Shakspeare's Henry V.—and by no soverer test could it well be tried. We have

found throughout the same vivid painting of scenery, the same historic faithfulness, the same truthful delineation of character, and the same animated succession of incident, which have marked his previous productions. In its sketches of English manners and customs in the fifteenth century. "Agincourt" bears, in our opinion, no unfavorable comparison even with "The Last of the Barons," the latest and best of Bulwer's Romances.

We are happy to learn, from the published report of Parliamentary proceedings, that provision is about to be made for securing the continuance and completion of the Geological Survey of this Province, which has now been for some years in progress.

The gentleman under whose direction this important service has been carried on—W. E. Logan, Esquire, F. G. S.—has conducted it throughout with that ardour and assiduity, which his well-known scientific acquirements, and the zeal with which he had previously devoted himself to the study of Geological Science, led every one to expect. His researches in both sections of the Province have given the public far more accurate and beneficial knowledge of these several portions of the country, than could ever have been attained by any mere survey of its superficial extent. In more than one instance, too, his investigations have resulted in the discovery of mineral treasures, the existence of which, within the limits of Canada, was hitherto unsuspected.

Little—very little attention has as yet been directed to the mineral resources of this country, great and varied as these undoubtedly are; although why a branch of material industry, that has contributed so much to the advancement and prosperity of the mother country, should be here so entirely overlooked, it would puzzle wiser heads than ours to tell.

Mr. Logan's report of his Survey, is now, we understand, in process of publication, by order of the Provincial Assembly, and it is our intention, on its appearance, again to call the attention of our readers to the subject.

Meantime, we have again to express our pleasure and satisfaction at the support given by Government to this undertaking, and at their determination to ensure a complete and efficient Geological Survey of this Province.