

Periodicals.

The January number of the London *Quarterly Review* has for its first article a review of a number of works dealing with Erasmus. Needless to say the latest in the list is Froude's "Life and Letters," which is really the occasion of the paper. The reader of this critique, who has not discovered them for himself, will be surprised at the number and glaring character of the errors made by Froude in translating Erasmus' letters. A slip here and there might have amounted to little, but what shall be said of a case like this? Froude makes Erasmus say of Luther: "The first mistake was to neglect Luther's protest against indulgences," when he should have been made to say: "In the first place they should have let alone Luther and his theses about indulgences"—and this is not very exceptional. One of the articles is devoted to "Horace and his Translators," and the writer frankly states at the outset that Mr. Gladstone's recent translations of the "Odes" are the occasion of the review. The criticism is on the whole more appreciative than most of what has appeared from time to time, in spite of the fact that the *Quarterly* has always been strenuously opposed to the translator in politics. Notice is taken of the fact that some of the translations were undoubtedly made as far back as 1858, and the presumption is reasonable that Mr. Gladstone has been translating others from time to time ever since. This is much more likely than the supposition that he did all the work since his retirement from public life a few months ago. One of the best articles in the number is a review of Prof. Huxley's creed, as exhibited in his recently collected and republished works. Huxley is here treated, not unjustly, as the polemic, while Spenser is the philosopher, Darwin the scientist, and Tyndall the mystic of the "gospel of unbelief," the "religion of nescience."

The *Edinburgh Review* for January has among a number of interesting articles one on "Erasmus, by the late Prof. Froude." It is almost continuously laudatory, the writer being in entire sympathy with the point of view of the late Regius Professor of History. The keynote of the whole article is sounded very distinctly near its close, where a comparison is made between Erasmus and Froude himself, and the opinion is expressed that "the spirit of Erasmus, and the design which moulded his life—namely, the union of the highest philosophical and literary culture with the loftiest and withal the simplest teaching of Christianity—is common to both of them." The old quarterly reviews were formerly famous for their historical essays, and this number of the *Edinburgh Review* contains one of the good old-fashioned and thoroughly valuable kind. It purports to be a review of Mr. Torrens' "History of Cabinets from the Union with Scotland to the Acquisition of Canada and Bengal," but it is really in itself an excellent history. Those who desire to see how the idea of cabinet government grew up through a long series of years and a long series of administrations, and who wish to appreciate the cabinet as it now exists, would do well to peruse this article. The recent publication of the first volume of Mr. S. R. Gardiner's "History of the Commonwealth and the Protectorate" is made the occasion of a general view of what must ever remain one of the most fascinating periods of British history. Mr. Gardiner's first volume comes down to November, 1651, and the rest of the review is based on Mr. Firth's edition of General Ludlow's "Memoirs" and Mr. S. H. Church's biography of Oliver Cromwell. The last article in the *Review* is entitled "A Counterfeit Revolution"; it deals with current politics and is devoted to making grave sport of the Liberal crusade against the House of Lords.

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Justin Huntly McCarthy, son of the more illustrious Justin McCarthy, has married Miss Marie Cecilia Brown Loftus, a music hall artist. As both of them are Roman Catholics, the marriage, which was a civil one, performed in Edinburgh, is, in some quarters, spoken of as a "scandal." This depends on the point of view, but there will be no difference of opinion as to the good sense of the young couple in resolving that Mrs. McCarthy shall retire from the stage.

Literary.

Among the books prohibited from sale in Russia is Bryce's "American Commonwealth."

Zola's latest, "Lourdes," has been translated into English by Earnest A. Vizetelly, and published by F. Tennyson Neely, of Chicago.

Mr. John Rae, author of several works on economical questions of the day, has written a new biography of Adam Smith, which will be published shortly by Macmillan & Co.

Charles Dudley Warner's recent novel, "The Golden House," is a continuation of the story in his first novel, "A Little Journey in the World," published five years ago.

George W. Cable has exploited his southern environment for another of his characteristic romances, "John March, Southerner." The plot is laid after the close of the War of Secession, and during the period of the reconstruction of the Southern States, out of which has emerged "The New South."

Edmund Gosse has undertaken to edit for English readers, translations of "Bjornson's novels, and to the first of the series, "Synnove Salbakken," he has prefixed an introduction in the course of which he makes some comparisons and contrasts between the great Scandinavian novelist and other writers of fiction, including his fellow Scandinavian, Ibsen.

Conan Doyle's impressions of the literary phases of American life are to be contained in an article to appear in the next issue of *The Ladies' Home Journal*. The article was originally intended to be the novelist's impressions of American women, but this plan was altered, and the article to be printed in the *Journal* will give Dr. Doyle's ideas of "Literary Aspects of America."

The fund for a memorial to George William Curtis is increasing steadily. A committee of prominent citizens of Boston has been formed to collect subscriptions. While Mr. Curtis was one of the leading politicians of the last few years, his chief work was literary, the best of it having been done in the "Easy Chair" of *Harper's Magazine*, and in the editorial columns of *Harper's Weekly*.

The first day of January of this year was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the *Christian Union*, now called *The Outlook*. It was started under the editorship of Henry Ward Beecher, and it has for some time been under the joint editorial management of Lyman Abbott and Hamilton W. Mabie. The latter is so well known as a literary critic that, though still a young man, his collected essays have been republished in a five volume edition.

The death of Froude, whose fascinating sketch of "Julius Caesar" quite overshadowed Trollope's contemporary hero-worship of Cicero, was, curiously enough, almost coincident with the publication of a more formidable rival to his own ideal account of the greatest of the Romans. This is Mr. Strachan-Davidson's "Cicero and the Fall of the Roman Republic," published by Putnam's. For his material he depends, as Froude does in his account of Erasmus, mainly on the letters written in such abundance by the subject of his biography.

Jokai, the great Hungarian novelist, has produced more than 150 works, which are very popular with his compatriots, but little known and less appreciated by the rest of the world. His home popularity seems to be due largely to the fact that the leading strain in his fiction is patriotism, and that we are still near enough to the *Sturm-und-Drang* period of Kossuth and Deak to be able to understand this. The Hungarians will probably become gradually more reflective without being less patriotic, and after a while the popular taste in fiction will undergo a change.

Mr. Richard Burton, in a well-written article in the *Dial*, helps to swell the rising tide of protest against the realistic novel, avowing his belief that the number of "old-fashioned" people who prefer to read the novel just because it is a story, and who revolt against morbidness and worse, is on the increase. "Your realism teaches me nothing,"

he makes them say; "It simply repeats unsavory and belittling facts of life, and I would have none of it. Give me lies rather than literalities, or, better yet, the half-truths of a scene where the light is accented, and the shadows put in corners, where they belong." He admits that this is, perhaps "unphilosophical," but it is "natural" and "very healthy."

Mr. Henry J. Morgan, of Ottawa, who has already done much good biographical work, has announced his intention to write a life of the late Thomas D'Arcy McGee and edit his speeches. Mr. Morgan has issued a general request to all admirers of that brilliant Irishman to aid him in all possible ways in his useful and interesting work. The chequered life and tragic death of Mr. McGee make him a picturesque figure in Canadian history, and his unquestioned pre-eminence as an orator is warrant for that side of Mr. Morgan's undertaking.

The republication of Prof. Huxley's pamphlet entitled "Social Diseases and Worse Remedies," in the ninth and concluding volumes of his collected essays, coincides chronologically with the visit to this continent of Gen. Booth, against whose methods it was, in 1891, directed. It is not necessary to say that Prof. Huxley's criticism did not demolish Gen. Booth, or do much to hinder the work or slow the progress of the Salvation Army, but it has its value all the same, and the world will yet be the better for its having been written. Huxley and Booth are types of workers who are, and always will be, sharply contrasted with each other, equally honest, equally altruistic, and, probably, equally useful to the human race.

Mr. Ernest Rhys has done good service to the cause of poetry by collecting together in one little volume, entitled "The Prelude to Poetry," the opinions expressed about their art by a great number of poets, from Chaucer to Landor. Among the authors of these opinions are Sidney, Spenser, Daniel, Jonson, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Gray, Goldsmith, Burns, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, and Keats. The opinions thus gathered together form a fitting introduction to a series entitled "The Lyrical Poets," which has been announced by the publishers. A fit companion for it should now be prepared by gathering together what the poets have said about their own art in poetry, Mr. Rhys having limited his to opinions expressed by the poets in prose.

"The Face and the Mask," which is to be issued by the Frederick A. Stokes Company about Feb. 25th, is a volume of short stories by Robert Barr. It takes its name from the first story in the series,—"The Woman of Stone," which is based on a curious statue in the Tuilleries Gardens. This is a monument to Death, but over the ghastly face there is held by one of the hands a comic mask. The statue therefore looks like one of tragedy or comedy, according to where the spectator stands. Mr. Barr has made this the basis of a very pretty, but sad story, showing that life is made up of both tragedy and comedy. One of the best known English authors of the day, who is a friend of Mr. Barr, arranged the order of the stories for him, and taking the idea from this story, he has put in the book first one serious and then one comic story these alternating all through the volume.

A striking commentary on the change which has come over the United States during the past thirty-five years is afforded by the fact that the life of Gen. Hancock, in the "Great Commander" series, has been written by one who had the title of "General" under him, but who is now better known as the "President of the Boston College of Technology," a title to which he has added distinction by the efficiency of his administration and the value of his writings. General Walker is the author of several well-known works on Economic Science, including a treatise on "Political Economy," and two valuable monographs—one on "Money, Trade and Industry," and the other on "Work and Wages." His story of the military career of Gen. Hancock is largely the result of his own personal experience during the war, and he has told it with that literary skill which has enabled him to write quite as interestingly on economics as John Stuart Mill or Mr. Henry George. Needless to say, his criticisms are courageous without being truculent.