

Book Notices.

LATER AMERICAN POEMS. Edited by J. E. Wetherell, B.A., editor of "Later Canadian Poems," etc. With portraits. Price 35 cents. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co.

To those who know Mr. Wetherell, now principal of Strathroy Collegiate Institute, formerly classical master in Woodstock College, either personally or by his skilled and tasteful work as editor of several publications of a literary character, the above-named volume will be specially welcome. Amid the profusion of poetical effusions which is being perpetually brought forth by the almost countless magazines and newspapers of the day, it would be strange, indeed, should there not here and there appear something worthy of more than an ephemeral existence. The many who care for good literature, but have neither inclination nor leisure to rake over the mounds, we had almost said mountains, of current literature, in the search for gems, will be glad and gratified to have this work done to their hand by one so well qualified as Mr. Wetherell. The fact that among the fifty or sixty writers who are represented in this collection appear such names as E. C. Stedman, T. B. Aldrich, W. D. Howells, Bret Harte, Joaquin Miller, Maurice Thompson, Will Carleton, etc., is of itself a guarantee that the selections will be above the commonplace, and will well repay perusal.

THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH. Edited by E. K. Chambers, B.A., sometime Scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

AS YOU LIKE IT. Edited by J. C. Smith, M.A. (Edin.), B.A. (Oxon.), Lecturer in Owens College, Victoria University; sometime Exhibitioner of Trinity College, Oxford; Classical Examiner to the University of Edinburgh. Boston, U.S.A.: D. C. Heath & Co., Publishers.

The series of plays included in the "Arden Shakespeare," which are in themselves one of the sets constituting "Heath's English Classics," is well represented in the volumes above named. The series already published includes, in addition to the above, "Hamlet," "Julius Caesar," "Twelfth Night," "Richard II.," and others. As we are told in the general preface, the aim of the series is to "present the greater plays of the dramatist in their literary aspect, and not merely as material for the study of philology or grammar." Verbal and textual criticism is introduced only to such an extent as is believed to help the student to appreciate the essential poetry. In a word, the sound principle seems to have been recognized throughout of subordinating all notes, explanations, etc., which may be deemed necessary, to the one leading motive of interpretation. The publishers inform us that more than forty prominent colleges and universities, including Johns Hopkins, Cornell, Chicago, and other leading institutions, "have expressed unqualified approval of the series." The form is extremely neat and the size very convenient. The price is forty cents a volume.

Literary Notes.

Messrs. D. C. Heath & Co. announce for immediate publication a chart showing "The Descent of England's Sovereigns," which sets forth with admirable clearness the relations between the various royal houses of Great Britain. It is neat and compact, and, with one folding, may be put into any book of history. Its ingenious arrangement will disentangle at a glance many of those puzzles which now and then trouble even a fairly informed student. It will prove a serviceable guide alike in the class-room and in the library.

The Metric System, which has recently been before both Congress and the British Parliament, is discussed by Herbert Spencer in a series of letters which appeared in Appleton's *Popular Science Monthly* for June. Mr. Spencer vigorously opposes the further spread of the system, and points out the advantages of one based on the number twelve. A second article on "The Monetary Problem" is contributed by Logan G. McPherson, who shows how the experience of other countries may be used in finding a remedy for our financial ills. The woman question is being debated once more in the *Monthly*. There was an article in the May number, by George F. Talbot, against woman suffrage. This was replied to in June by Alice B. Tweedy. Continual agitation will doubtless sift out the true solution of this question in time.

For more than a half-century *Littell's Living Age* has been republishing the best and most important papers, biographies, reviews, stories, verses, and sketches of travel, to be found in the foreign (especially the British) magazines, quarterlies, and literary weeklies. During this long period it has been prized and commended for the judgment and taste exhibited in its selections. Hardly one of the eminent British authors of the past fifty years can be named who has not been represented in these pages. Its issues within a few months past contain many articles of present interest and permanent value. The following are worthy of special mention: "Czar and Emperor," by Karl Blind; "Slatin Pasha and the Sudan," by Capt. F. D. Lugard; "Matthew Arnold," by Frederic Harrison; "Nature in the Earlier Roman Poets," by Evelyn Martinengo Cesaresco; "Jean Baptiste and his Language," by Howard Angus Kennedy; "Stray Thoughts on South Africa," by Olive Schreiner; "A Heroine of the Renaissance," by Helen Zimmern; "A Winter's Day in Mid-Forest," by Fred. Wishaw; and "The Story of an Amateur Revolution," by a Johannesburg Resident. Published weekly, at \$6 a year, by Littell & Co., Boston.

Under the general name of the Riverside School Library, Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. are issuing, in attractive style and at moderate prices, a series of fifty books peculiarly suited for school libraries. These books have been chosen largely from the best literature which has stood the test of the world's judgment and yet is as fresh and inviting to-day as when first published. The suggestions of more than one hundred prominent educators of this country have aided the publishers in their choice. The volumes are edited with great care, and contain portraits and biographical sketches of the authors; also notes and glossaries wherever needed. They are thoroughly well printed and bound substantially in dark red half-leather, with cloth sides. The first ten volumes, now published, are as follows: Ander-

son's "Stories," Franklin's "Autobiography," Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield," at fifty cents each; Fiske's "War of Independence," Holmes' "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," Lamb's "Tales from Shakespeare," Scudder's "Washington," at sixty cents each; and Cooper's "Last of the Mohicans," Scott's "Ivanhoe," and Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," at seventy cents each. The remaining volumes will be published very shortly. In every respect they will commend themselves to all who wish that their pupils may have the best, most interesting, and most salutary reading.

An article appears in the July *Atlantic* that is likely to become the standard and classic "story of progress that is unparalleled in human achievement." It is "The Century's Progress in Science" as told by Professor John Fiske, who in a most competent and skilful manner sets forth the great romance of scientific progress in a summary that may be read at a sitting. *The Atlantic Monthly*, in the course of its correspondence with representative successful public school teachers and superintendents, had the happy thought to ask a selected group of them to write out their professional autobiographies. Half a dozen of these "confessions" appear in this number. "The Real Problems of Democracy" are defined and discussed in the July *Atlantic* by Mr. E. L. Godkin, apropos of Lecky's "Democracy and Liberty." Hon. E. J. Phelps, formerly minister to England, discusses in an able manner our relations with Great Britain, showing what we may hope for from arbitration and what must always be left for diplomacy. A somewhat startling article is that by Professor George B. Adams, of Yale, who maintains that the world dominance in government must have its centre in the United States and not in England—a notable historical paper involving a large prophecy. Mr. George W. Cable tells, with apparent frankness, and in a very attractive fashion—or pretends to tell—the secrets of the story-teller's art. However little practical knowledge the amateur may get from the article, every reader will get entertainment, with a good deal of philosophy to boot.

The complete novel in the July issue of *Lippincott's* is "A Judicial Error," by Marion Manville Pope. It is a strong story, based on a murder for which the wrong man was convicted and hanged. He has a friend who determines to prove his innocence, and does it. "A Twenty-dollar Bill," by Algernon Tassin, is a pathetic tale of honesty among the very poor and in the face of the strongest possible temptation—to save a sister's life. Gillam W. Ford tells about "The Rector's Gamecock," which came to the minister in a singular way, and was thenceforth a bird of peace. Jean Wright narrates briefly "An Old Story"—which is not a familiar or commonplace one at all—of the army. A Russian, who for obvious reasons withholds his name, writes forcibly on the "Decadence of Modern Russian Literature." His terrible array of facts shows clearly the benumbing effect of despotism when vigorously exercised through a censorship of the press. "Pennsylvania and her Public Men," by Sydney G. Fisher, is another startling article, presenting facts which, though common property, are enough to set one thinking. "My Rural Experiences" is one of the last papers which the lamented Prof. Boyesen wrote, and one of the best. Annie Steger Winston writes with feeling and instructively on "The Southern Ideal." Caroline T. Banser tells the story of "Yankee Doodle"—the song. John Sheridan Zelle supplies a little essay "On

Being Fond of One's Thoughts." "With the Trade" instances some of the unadvised efforts, requests, and woes of beginners in literature. The poetry of the number is by Florence Earle Coates, Margaret Gilman George, Jenny Terrill Ruprecht, and Grace F. Pennypacker.

Mr. W. A. Coffin, painter and critic of art, contributes to the June *Century* a paper on John S. Sargent and his painting, with special reference to his decorations in the Boston Public Library. Among the illustrations are two engravings by Timothy Cole, one of a group of the Prophets, and another the figure of Astarte in the Library. By an accidental coincidence there are two stories by American writers in the *Century* for June, in which the heroines are English girls. Mrs. Mary Hallock Foote's "Harshaw Bride," as described by her pen and pencil, is a particularly charming young woman, who comes from England to the far Northwest for her wedding, on a cablegram apparently from her fiancé. The second story is "Mr. Keegan's Elopement," by Winston Churchill, in which an English girl in Funchal and her lover, an American naval officer, are made to elope almost without their knowledge or consent. All the characters in Mrs. Humphry Ward's story are English, the American girl is temporarily in eclipse. Mr. James Bryce, in the second of his three papers, "Impressions of South Africa," takes up the race question in that interesting and, at present, very prominent portion of the Dark Continent. Dr. Albert Shaw contributes a paper on "City Government in St. Louis," which deals with a large number of the problems of municipal government which are now engaging the attention of Americans. Mr. J. B. Bishop, one of the editors of the *New York Evening Post*, has a timely paper of political anecdotes, "Humor and Pathos of Presidential Conventions." This June number contains another editorial in advocacy of the gold standard, and articles on the "Unavailability of Trimmers" and "A Duty of Englishmen to America," the moral of the last being that it is the duty of Englishmen to make a more serious study of the aims and achievements of the United States on its higher planes of activity. There is also "A Plea for the Poets," calling attention to Professor Cook's service to literature in the publication of his edition of "Shelley's Defence of Poetry." Professor Sloane's "Napoleon," which is to close in the October *Century*, is occupied in the June number with "Napoleon's Struggle for Maintenance," "The Austrian Marriage," "The Consolidation of Napoleonic Empire," "The Inheritance and the Heir," "The Array of Nations," "The Congress of Kings," and "The Invasion of Russia." The pictures, as usual, richly reinforce the narrative, and one of them is a portrait of Napoleon by Berthon, engraved by Kruell, and here published for the first time, the original of which is in Canada.

An article of great contemporary interest in *Scribner's* for June is Henry Norman's vivid picture of the present condition of affairs in the most crucial point in all European politics—the Balkan Peninsula, where a half-dozen little Principalities are the buffer between the great Powers of Europe. A few months ago Mr. Norman made a visit to this region, and this article is the first presentation of the impressions then gathered of Roumania, Serbia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Bulgaria, and Montenegro. The crisis brought about by the Armenian question is of course intimately related to affairs in the Balkans, and Mr. Norman's article is a clear presentation of the exact situation