

first book only two hundred copies were sold, so he ordered the rest home and lugged them upstairs, consoling himself with the thought that he had now a library of over seven hundred books—all written by himself. Both Southey and DeQuincey, for a time, claimed the distinction of being the sole readers of Landor's "Gebir," the honour afterwards extended to a dozen or score besides. On the other hand, a few authors to their surprise have found themselves world-famous. Mrs. Stowe's "Uncle Tom" appeared first in an obscure newspaper, when republished she hoped to get a new dress by it, as she much needed one. Her first cheque for it was \$10,000; 300,000 were sold in America, over two million in England, and twenty-one translations into foreign languages. Murray's cheque to Macaulay of £20,000, for his history is certainly one of the curiosities of literature. Literary aspirants may find valuable hints, cautions, and consolations in the varied pages of this very interesting book.

Unknown to History; A Story of the Captivity of Mary of Scotland. By CHARLOTTE M. YONGE. Cr. 8vo, pp. 589. New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Wm. Brigg. Price 1.75.

Miss Yonge is one of the most conspicuous examples of successful authorship of recent times. From the profits of a single book, "The Daisy Chain," she gave \$10,000 to the erection of a Missionary College at Auckland, New Zealand. She is the author of over thirty novels and tales, ten books of history and other miscellaneous works. This last, we judge, will be found one of the most popular of the series. It is based upon an historic foundation than which is none of more blended pathos and tragedy in the whole range of fact or fiction. The story of the beautiful and unfortunate Mary, Queen of Scots, for three centuries has enlisted the sympathy of almost every heart in Christendom. We fear that Froide has, for many of us, dispelled the romance of her story and the fascination of her character. But to her own sex

and to most readers she will still exercise the spell that turned the heart and head of almost every man she met, save stern old censors like Knox. To such readers this well-wrought historical tale will be doubly welcome, as confirming their love and admiration of the hapless Queen, whom we fear the stern verdict of history will brand as false as she was fair.

The Civilization of the Period of the Renaissance in Italy. By JACOB BURCKHARDT; authorized translation by S. G. C. Middlemore. Two vols. 8vo, pp. 397, 383. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Price, \$7.50

The period of the Renaissance in Italy will always prove one of the most fascinating departments of historical study. Like the century plant, which, after long decades of seeming sterility, burst in a single night into its consummate flower of beauty, so, after the long and barren period of the dark ages, burst into full bloom the wonderful flower, in art and literature, of the Italian Renaissance. There have not been wanting numerous histories of the political, religious, literary, and artistic aspects of this period, from that of Macchiavelli to that of Sismondi; but Dr. Burckhardt's is the first, to our knowledge, which, with true German acumen and philosophical insight, to change the figure, lays bare the springs of this Arethusan fount, and traces its streams through their many devious meanderings.

At the outset he describes the tyrannies which dominated Italy, and the conflict of the Guelphs and Glubellims, and the republics of Venice and Florence. He shows the dangers to liberty of the papacy, and the utter degradation of Rome. It kindles one's indignation to read of the misrule and humiliation of the once proud mistress of the world, and the wanton destruction of her monuments of classic and Christian antiquity. Her marble palaces and temples were used as fortresses for barbaric factions, and as quarries and lime-kilns for the ignoble struc-