

"speech! speech!" again before the close of his engagement. Frankly we cannot give Mr. Mantell equal praise in the parts of his dual character where he has to lay bare the workings of a heart weighed down by impending and inevitable doom. The "Corsican Brothers" is not a good play. We have found it more disappointing every time we have seen it. The smoothness of its action, the rounding off of its harshness, everything depends on the power of the central character, and the possession of the necessary power, we would rather say genius, to fill it is granted but to few. We have seen the play made memorable by the actor of the Dei Franchi, but that is neither here nor there. Mr. Mantell's impersonation is praiseworthy, and the charm of his personality is always with him. We hope some day to see him when that charm and his undoubted capabilities in certain lines will have full play. We shall not speak of him this week in his familiar part of "Monbars," but shall endeavour to notice his "Hamlet" and "Othello" in our next week's issue. To his assumption of "Hamlet" on Friday night we are looking forward with much expectation. Of the minor characters in the "Corsican Brothers" we need not speak. They were creditably filled, but, as we said, they are to us entirely subordinate to the central impersonation. It was pleasant to see the large audience that greeted Mr. Mantell on the opening of his engagement. We regret that owing to the necessity of going to press on Tuesday, we shall be unable to notice the play at the Academy for this week.

MR. KREHBIEL, the musical critic of the *Tribune* has written a paper on Chinese music for the January *Century*. The composer, Henry Holden Huss, has supplied grotesque harmonies to some old Chinese marches, and these accompany the article.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

SHERIDAN'S RIDE. By T. Buchanan Reid. Illustrated from original designs. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

This now somewhat hackneyed poem again visits us, and though we confess that reiteration is apt to be wearisome, yet the beauty of the new designs, the fineness of the engraving and the excellence of the letter press and paper make the old war song, in its new uniform, a pleasing addition to the holiday issues.

THE SONG OF THE EXILE; A Canadian Epic, etc. By Wilfred S. Keats. Toronto: Hart and Company. 1891.

This pretty volume and its attractive title might well draw a lover of the beautiful and of Canada to make himself acquainted with its contents. Nor will these be disappointing. This exile (soon, however, to be restored to love and home) has real poetic gifts; and if he does not always fly on a well-sustained wing we must remember that the greatest sometimes "nods." Our exile, temporarily disappointed in love, leaves England for our Western Shore and goes through all the older Canada, telling in verse its romantic story, and telling it well from the Plains of Abraham to Queenston Heights. The author is a loyal Briton and an impassioned Free-righter; Roman Catholics and citizens of the States receive rough treatment at his hands. Just as we are about to join in his despair, he receives a most satisfactory letter from England, telling him that he has only to return and be happy. Listen to this:—

Slowly advances the Jesuit faction,
Crafty and subtle the means they employ.
Protestants fight, but uncertain their action—
Party dissensions their power destroy.

We commend these sentiments to Col. O'Brien.

RAISE THE FLAG; And Other Patriotic Songs and Poems. Toronto: Rose Publishing Company. 1891.

The title of this beautiful little volume indicates the occasion of its existence. Last February a deputation waited upon the Minister of Education to advocate the raising of a flag on the school-houses on national anniversaries. A large flag was offered by a local newspaper to the school in each county which produced the best essay on the subject of "Raising the Flag." "As an encouragement," says the editor of the present volume, "to the children who have written the best essays in each school, and who would otherwise receive no recognition of their success, a few loyal Canadians have compiled (and subscribed the cost of producing) this little collection of Patriotic Songs and Poems, as the most appropriate remembrance to be given to the scholars who have written the best essays on these subjects."

We wish we could transcribe the whole of this excellent preface, breathing the most ardent attachment to the land from whence we have sprung, and manifesting the most undoubting confidence in our own national destinies. It is not quite easy even to indicate the nature of the contents of this volume, and it is still more difficult to enumerate them or to give specimens. We have, of course, Mr. Muir's widely known "The Maple Leaf Forever," Mr. Kirby's admirable "U. E. Loyalists," Mr. Cockin's excellent "Fair Canadian Land," Mr. Hughes' spirited "Upon the Heights of Queenston," Mr. Moberly's arousing "Destiny," not to mention the extracts from Mr. Mair's classical poem "Tecumseh" and other poems. The whole volume is in every way commendable; and so long as such books

are published and read there is little danger of the Union Jack being supplanted by the Stars and Stripes. Instead of quoting from any of the better known poems, we will give the first and last of four stanzas which are printed on the back of the title-page:—

Canada! Maple-land! land of great mountains!
Lake-land and river-land! Land 'twixt the seas!
Grant us, God, hearts that are large as our heritage,
Spirits as free as the breeze.

Last-born of nations! The offspring of freedom!
Heir to wide prairies, thick forests, red gold!
God grant us wisdom to value our birthright,
Courage to guard what we hold.

THE GOLDEN KEY. By George Macdonald. Boston: D. Lothrop Company.

A fairy tale by George Macdonald will always find eager and delighted readers. How can a writer who, whatever his shortcomings may be, is yet one of the purest and noblest novelists of our time fail to entertain and instruct the wee ones for whose joys and griefs he has ever shown the warmest interest, and the tenderest sympathy. The child life of George Macdonald's books is as the fragrance of the flowers in springtime, and its death as the decay of their delicate bloom. "The Golden Key" unlocks for the children a sweet little literary treasure.

THE SECRET OF AN OLD HOUSE. By Evelyn E. Green. London: Blackie and Son; Toronto: The J. E. Bryant Company.

Mrs. Green is a refined writer of tales for Children, and this last contribution advances rather than diminishes her reputation. We want more of such pure, healthy books for our children. They are good mental and moral food, and are gratifying to the juvenile taste. Dinah and Tim, the children of a "black country" doctor, exert a good influence over the fortunes of Gerald Ducie, a lad of the morbid, self-sufficient type, and are the means of restoring him to the good graces of his estranged grandfather. Their good offices lead to the material advancement of their father. Some useful historical information is imparted through the pleasing medium of this well told story.

THE VOICE IN SPEECH AND SONG. By Theodore E. Schwank. New York: John B. Alden.

Within a comparatively small compass we have in this volume a treatise at once philosophic, scientific and popular. The author has command of a rich and copious diction, and a graceful and attractive style. His familiarity with his subject, coupled with his mode of explaining and enforcing his views, by concise exposition, vivid illustration, appropriate anecdote and judicious reference, render his work one of more than ordinary merit. The voice is considered from its genesis as a simple instrument of sound, through the vast range of its capabilities as the means of human speech and song. Its timbre, quality, modulation are discussed, as well as its scope in accent, rhythm and command of an audience. We commend this work as one of more than ordinary interest to the casual reader, and of surpassing interest to the thoughtful reader, singer or speaker, by whom it will be found replete with interesting, instructive and improving information.

THE CRITICAL REVIEW. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. Toronto: D. T. McAlinsh.

We have before us the first number of a new review of "Theological and Philosophical Literature," published quarterly at eighteen pence (thirty-six cents) a quarter, and six shillings a year. The names of the publishers, Messrs. T. Clark, and of the editor, Dr. S. D. F. Salmond, are a sufficient guarantee for the high character of the review and the excellence of its contents; and we can assure those who may procure the first number under this conviction that they will not be disappointed. To clergymen of all communions it will become a necessity, as we have no other publication in the English language which occupies the same place; but we believe that many laymen are no less interested in these studies. We have here reviews of all recent works on the subject of theology and philosophy, written with competent learning, with perfect fairness, and with adequate fulness. The price places the review within the reach of all, and we wish it prosperity.

THE YOUNG FOLKS' CYCLOPEDIA OF GAMES AND SPORTS. By John D. Champlain, Jr., and Arthur E. Bostwick. Illustrated. New York: Henry Holt and Company.

Mr. Champlain's experience as associate editor of the "American Cyclopædia" has stood him in good stead in the compilation of this volume. The compilers may well say, in the words of their preface, that the book "is a compendium of recreations of all kinds, including outdoor games and plays, athletic and rural sports and pastimes, chemical and mechanical experiments, and amusements," though we must take exception to the words that follow "and every similar thing that can interest a wide-awake boy or girl." Many United States writers are so accustomed to the use of such vaunting phraseology that they are apt to overlook the fact that it rather diminishes than enhances the value of their work in the estimation of that not inconsiderable portion of the world which lies without their borders. However, as the compilers add that "this cyclopædia has

been written for American use from the American standpoint" our exception may perhaps be superfluous. We may say that this is one of the most serviceable, comprehensive and satisfactory publications of the kind that we have seen. The subjects are clearly, concisely and historically treated, and the work abounds with illustrations which are very helpful to the reader. It would prove a useful book of reference in the libraries of adults as well as of juveniles.

PERICLES AND ASPASIA. By Walter Savage Landor, with preface by Havelock Ellis. London: Walter Scott; Toronto: W. J. Gage and Company. Camelot Series.

Probably no better medium could be selected by which the rich hues of Landor's imagination and his refined and classic culture could be impressed upon the reader of today than "Pericles and Aspasia." Within the charming pages of this attractive volume, in a series of imaginary letters, the author seeks to represent to us the scenes, characters, thoughts and expressions of an interesting period in the life of ancient Greece. Though Landor was not a profound Grecian yet his fondness for classical study, his research, his poetic genius, his discursive style, and free and original mode of expression so often taking the form of clear, striking and proverbial phrases, have won for him a position at once unique and interesting amongst the masters of English prose. Mr. Havelock in his modest but appreciative preface truly says of Landor that "unlike Keats, who may sometimes be said to have written as an instructive Greek, Landor always remains himself, an unmistakable Englishman." This volume is by no means the least attractive in the series to which it belongs.

SOCIOLOGY; Popular Lectures and Discussions before the Brooklyn Ethical Association. Boston: James H. West; pp. x., 403.

The title of this book is a misnomer. It is not a treatise on Sociology, but a collection of essays that bear upon the body social only indirectly (with exception) if at all. A better title would have been "Social Aspects of Evolution," for the purpose of the lectures before the Brooklyn Ethical Association is the advancement of the Evolution Philosophy. In the earlier volume entitled "Evolution" we had a weightier contribution to the literature of Evolution than we have in this, and if the Brooklyn Ethical Association means to make its work important, it had better refrain in the future from asking men who are neither specialists in philosophy nor science to appear before it. Mr. George F. Pentecost, for example, may be useful in his generation on the platform when Herr Most's influence needs an antidote; but this does not mean that Mr. Pentecost is competent to deliver himself on "Evolution and Social Reform." If we remember that the book is simply a collection of essays and a collection of very unequal merit, it will serve a purpose; especially the contributions of John Fiske on Youmans, and Mr. D. G. Thompson on the "Scientific Method of Social Reform." But why these, and more particularly Mrs. Treat's essay on "Asa Gray," should have been printed in a work on Evolution, and then denominated "Sociology," passes our comprehension.

THE WORKS OF XENOPHON. Translated by H. G. Dakyns, M.A., Assistant Master in Clifton College. Four volumes. Vol. I. Hellenica I. and II., and Anabasis. London: Macmillan and Company.

The first volume of Mr. Dakyns' long-expected translation of "Xenophon" has at last reached us. We are sorry to think that the second volume will not bear the words "Assistant Master at Clifton College." That is, we are sorry for Clifton, but glad for ourselves in the hope that Mr. Dakyns' well-earned leisure, after a twenty-six years' mastership at the school, will enable him to favour us with his remaining three volumes at short intervals. We are safe in saying that this first instalment of Mr. Dakyns' really great work will meet with almost unstinted praise. We have submitted it to the severe test of reading the Anabasis through in the translation without reference to the Greek, and have found nothing left to wish for in the strength and nervousness of the English. We have also compared several famous and difficult passages with the original and can speak very highly of the closeness of the rendering. The translator has elaborated the life of his author as one who loves one of the most lovable of the Greeks. The foot-notes are ample and admirable, especially in the matter of values, measures and distances. In short, if, in dedicating his work to the Master of Balliol, Mr. Dakyns felt the ambition to do for Xenophon what Dr. Jowett has done for Plato, we do not think he is likely to fall short of his desire.

AMERICAN SONNETS. Selected and Edited by T. W. Higginson and E. H. Bigelow. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. \$1.25.

This collection of American Sonnets is distinctly in advance of the only two previous collections. In 1867 S. Adams Lee published a selection of 227 sonnets from 45 authors; in 1889 William Sharp edited 250 sonnets from 89 authors; whereas the present collection, though limited to 250 sonnets, represents 153 authors. So few are the really first-class sonnets by American poets that we are tempted to wish each specimen had been from a