

Abreast of the Times

to do the same thing with the favourite of to-morrow. For a certain kind of literature is "current" with a vengeance, and runs away faster than the sands in the hour-glass of life.

Charles Lamb congratulated himself on having a most catholic taste in matters of reading, but felt obliged nevertheless to draw up a catalogue of books that are no books, among which he includes "all those volumes which no gentleman's library should be without." Taken seriously, this seems a rather prejudiced assertion of the right of private judgment. One might dispense with Court Calendars and Almanacs and such like, and not miss much; but Josephus and Hume and Gibbon, whom Lamb's whimsical palate also refuses, have been accorded a place among useful writers by a general consent which can scarcely be ignored. There are also many books dealing with matters of immediate interest which will either be read promptly