

NEW BOOKS REVIEWED.

The next best thing to the reading of a good book is, perhaps, the perusal of an intelligent review of it to me it is always a source of lively satisfaction.—Oladstone.

THE PLAGIARIST.—By Wm. Myrtle. Cloth, 218 pp., 2s. 6d. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. The plot of this novel is melancholy, but the tale is worked out with skill. Gilbert Heath, a young Scotch student, is taken by a rich uncle on a tour through Italy. He has artistic and literary talents and resolves to write a book, embodying his studies and criticisms of art in the famous galleries. Before the work is concluded he comes accidentally upon an unpublished manuscript by a dead critic of great eminence. He finds it in a strong box with some trust deeds in a solicitor's office where he is employed. The temptation to appropriate it proves too strong. He incorporates portions of the manuscript into his book, which becomes a great success. Heath falls in love with Gertrude Marshall, the daughter of an Edinburgh professor, and eventually wins her. His uncle dies, leaving him a fortune. The old professor also dies, leaving his daughter rich. Heath is at the pinnacle of success and happiness. Now comes retribution. His literary theft is suspected by a critic, and then discovered. A clause in the professor's will forbade the opening of an old cabinet containing rare manuscripts. Heath resents this prohibition and determines to get access by false keys. He attempts to do so, and a loaded pistol, ingeniously concealed inside the cabinet, goes off and kills him. It was the old professor's means of protecting his literary treasures from robbery. The curtain falls upon the sad picture of a young wile crazed with grief and bearing a dishonored name. The tragic interest of the story is great.

OLD EBENEZER.—By Opie Read. Cloth, gold top, uncut edges, \$1. Laird & Lee, Chicago. Old Ebenezer is not a man, but a Kentucky town. Sam Lyman is the hero of both tale and town. A briefless lawyer without money or influence, he secures both by his own merits. At a gathering of young people a marriage ceremony is performed in joke between Lyman and the belle of the town. It proves valid, and the enmity of her wealthy father is incurred. Every effort is made to drive Lyman out of town, concluding with a dastardly outrage by Whitecaps. The victim repels the latter attack with force, but the plotters of the outrage he conquers by kindness and a mild temperament. He heaps coals of fire on the heads of all his enemies, excepting one who deserves, and receives, a thrashing, though the hero should not have kicked his man when

he had him down. The dialogue is bright and humorous, and the tone of the book very healthful and pleasing.

A MARCH ON LONDON; WITH MOORE AT CORUNNA; WITH FREDERICK THE GREAT.—By G. A. Henty. Cloth; illus., \$1.50 each. Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. These are the three newest tales of that fascinating writer of romances and adventure stories. Mr. Henty's books are practically all of equal merit, and this season's installment are no exceptions to the rule. They are, as every bookseller knows, continually in demand by parents and other guardians of youth for gifts. No better class of books can be put into the hands of lads, and we have yet to find a single person of mature age who is not able to enjoy the pages of Henty as if they were written for older people. As usual, the bindings are most artistic, and the gilt edges add vastly to the attractive appearance of the volume. The illustrations are well done.

"A March on London," is a tale of Wat Tyler's Rising, and that episode of English history is made to invest with interest the fortunes of two young Englishmen who enter the service of the King. Mr. Henty does not make the mistake of being tedious by reviving too detailed a picture of that far-off time.

We come down to very modern history in the second of these volumes. The Peninsular War cannot be too often revived for the benefit of British boys, since the stubborn courage which finally overthrew Napoleon is apt to be relegated to a secondary place during the early period of its exercise. The author makes his hero a bright, mischievous boy, the son of a brave Irish officer, who sees active service abroad. A sequel is promised to carry on the career of the young soldier.

"With Frederick the Great" deals also with military episodes—those of the Seven Years' War. The book is as useful as it is entertaining. It supplies the reader with a vivid outline of the heroic struggle of Prussia against heavy odds. Maps and plans, eight in number, supplement the story and render it of much educational value. The hero of the tale is a young Scot who enlists in the Prussian cause.

JEROME, A POOR MAN.—By Mary E. Wilkins. Cloth, \$1.25; paper, 75c. Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. Jerome, boy and

man, is a fine fellow. His courage and independence are so great that he resolves to win the squire's daughter by his own unaided exertions. He has already won her heart, but determines to make the money necessary to marriage and not live upon hers. Jerome has, in a heated argument, signed an agreement with the two richest men in the New England village, where the scene of the story is laid, to give away to the poor any fortune that is left him, provided they also forfeit large amounts. A rich and eccentric bachelor in the place leaves him the fortune, hoping and believing that Jerome will fulfil his promise. Jerome does, although the temptations to keep the money are many and he seems to be sacrificing his happiness for honor. But all comes right, and he and Lucinda are made happy. The flavor of New England humor and rusticity (a good deal idealized), make "Jerome" a very readable book.

LAWRENCE CLAVERING.—By A. E. W. Mason. Cloth, \$1.25; paper, 75c. Colonial Library. Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. This is a lively story, compounded of adventure, lovemaking and English life in 1715. Clavering is a Jacobite living in Paris. He succeeds to his uncle's estate in Cumberland, the heir being disinherited for Jacobite opinions, and Clavering only to succeed if he leaves politics alone. He accepts the estate in the hope that the exiled King will soon come to his own, and that the estate may then be confirmed to the rightful heir. This quixotic scheme Clavering endeavors to carry out. He is inexperienced and unsophisticated. The dispossessed heir is a knave who proposes to take advantage of Clavering's honesty if King James wins and claim the estate, and to turn informer if the revolt fails and pose as a loyal Whig. Clavering discovers the villainy, and escapes to join the Earl of Mar's forces, taking refuge meanwhile with an old Jacobite, whose daughter, Dorothy, he loves. Dorothy and her father escape, after the rebellion is suppressed, to France, but Clavering gives himself up to save the life of a man wrongfully accused of treason by the treacherous heir. He is taken to London, tried and condemned, but escapes from Newgate across the water, where he is happily united to Dorothy. The latter is a charming little shrew, patterned after the Di Vernon of Sir Walter Scott.

HERE THEY ARE!—By J. F. Sullivan. Art cloth, illustrated, 350 pp., \$1.25. Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. A more delightful Christmas volume than this it would be hard to discover. Its attractive binding, in colors, its numerous marginal and full-page pictures of the funniest kind, and its large