

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THE SCOTCH-IRISH IN AMERICA. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke and Company. 1890.

This volume will be very interesting to the energetic people whom it represents. There are few tribes which have made a more distinct mark upon the British colonies and settlements than the Scotch-Irish. The Ulster men are certainly not unknown here in Canada, and they have done great things on the other side. We have here the Proceedings and Addresses of the Second Congress of the Scotch-Irish Society of America, held at Pittsburgh in 1890, and they are of very great interest.

THROUGH THICK AND THIN; or, School-days at St. Egbert's. Edited by Laurence H. Francis. Boston: Estes and Lauriat.

We should like to know something of the evolution of this book. We imagine that the word "edited" in Mr. Francis' title could be well replaced by the word "compiled," or, better still, "spoiled." All school stories since "Tom Brown" seem fated to be built on the lines of that great masterpiece, and yet to fail most miserably in acquiring the tone of their predecessor. The tone of "Through Thick and Thin" is unhealthy and abnormal, and that is all we care to say about it.

THE CHURCH IN THE MIRROR OF HISTORY; Studies on the Progress of Christianity. By Karl Sell, D.D. 3s. 6d. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. 1890. Toronto: McAlinsh.

The present volume will be found very useful in two ways, either in helping those who are familiar with the general facts of Church History to bring their knowledge into a connected series, or as furnishing a guide to those who may be undertaking that most useful and important study. The points taken are Primitive Christianity, the Early Catholic Church, the Middle Ages, the Reformation, the Counter-Reformation, Christianity during the last century. Brief but admirable sketches are given of the leading men of different ages. Fathers, Schoolmen, Reformers, pass before us in succession, and are sketched with a vigorous and sympathetic hand. Any teachers or clergymen who may wish to lecture on any of these epochs will find much help from these pages.

COUNTESS SARAH. By George Ohnet. Toronto: William Bryce.

The heroine of M. Ohnet's novel rejoiced in an impossible Irish name before her marriage—O'Donnor.

We confess to knowing Ireland pretty well, but cannot bring ourselves to believe in the existence of an O'Donnor from the time of the flood even until now. This is not a criticism; it only suggests that we should not fool with the names of peoples that are not our own.

Countess Sarah is a good character story, and agrees with our idea of its author that he is rather a dramatist than a novelist. He is great in the conception of striking incidents, and for this reason, if for no other, we cannot afford to pass his books by. We had almost omitted to notice two people mentioned in one story by rather amusing names. The Marquis of Mellivan-Grey is the title of ingenuity for an English Peer.

In naming the "Hero (sic) of the Ashantee War," Lord Clifton, did M. Ohnet know that he was taking in vain the name of a living Englishman, and, if so, did he intend to perpetrate a delicious joke?

THE BLIND MUSICIAN. By Vladimir Korolenko. Translated from the Russian by Aline Delano. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.

In this exquisitely written book the life of the "Blind Musician" (the son of a Russian gentleman) is brought before us from his birth, with masterly skill. The somewhat sad babyhood and the sorrow of the young mother are touchingly described, and the almost excessive care to guard her little one from all harm or mischance, until she is checked by the wise thoughtfulness of his crippled uncle (a fine character), who makes a most careful study of the best means to adopt for the development of the other senses of the afflicted boy, that he may be so trained and educated as to counterbalance, as far as possible, his blindness, and grow up a useful and even happy man. In this object he is ably assisted by the mother and by the charming little girl "Evelyne," the friend and companion of the lad, whose patient and self-denying efforts to interest him, and help him to "see with her eyes," are beautifully told. The translator, Aline Delano, in her short preface, says: "In this sketch, called by Korolenko, 'A Psychological Study,' the author has attempted to analyze the inner life of the blind. He has undertaken to lay before the reader not only the psychological processes in the mind of the blind, but their suffering from the lack of sight as well, uncomplicated by any untoward circumstances." She also adds a letter from Mr. M. Anagnos, of the Perkins' Institution for the Blind, in which he expresses his very warm approval of the manner in which Mr. Korolenko has treated his subject. He says: "It is ingenious in construction, artistic in execution, and full of imaginative vigour." The gradual development of the boy's sense of touch—even of colour—and of his wondrous gift of music, is deeply

interesting and instructive, especially as Mr. Anagnos—a specialist—in his letter says that the author's "ideas on the intellectual development and physical training of the blind are correct." The book has an introduction by George Kennan, the well-known advocate of oppressed Russians, which adds greatly to its interest, as he is personally acquainted with the author, and tells us under what terribly adverse circumstances Mr. Korolenko has written and worked with "heroic patience" for the good of his country and of the civilized world. For all true musicians this book will have a great charm which will not be lost to the general or scientific reader, as it presents a profound psychological study, unique in character, instructive in treatment and presented with consummate literary skill. High praise is also due to the translator, Aline Delano, for the ease and beauty of her work.

THE LIFE OF HONORÉ DE BALZAC. By Frederick Wedmore. London: Walter Scott.

There is a refreshing cock-sureness about Mr. Wedmore that happily serves to mitigate our annoyance at his overwhelming self-conceit. To read him is to feel as a cat ought to feel when its fur is rubbed the wrong way. In his opening note he writes "my methods of work are incompatible with the production of extensive volumes." For this relief much thanks!

Mr. Wedmore sets forth by declaring that among the writers whose successes in pure literature this century allows, five alone must be accounted forever influential—Goethe, Wordsworth, Balzac, Dickens, Browning. We have not space to argue with Mr. Wedmore, not that it would be of much use to do so, but will merely suggest that it is a foolish thing to set up your little idols for the other fellow to knock them down.

Balzac was unfortunate in his life, and he has been unfortunate in his biographers. They are full of reservations. They tell us too little or too much, and in the end we must go back to his novels and letters and fashion a Balzac for ourselves.

Mr. Wedmore says of his hero: "Would indeed that his humour were more prominent, his hand sometimes a little lighter!" Would indeed, we say in turn, that Mr. Wedmore's hand were less heavy!

If a man knows not Balzac at all, let him read "Eugenie Grandet; or, the Peau de Chagrin," and then tackle Mr. Wedmore; by no means let him venture on Mr. Wedmore first. In the latter case we fear it would be good-bye Balzac.

THE Popular Science Monthly for January has for its frontispiece a fine picture of the explorer and scientist, Professor Mitchell, who lost his life whilst pursuing his favourite study, on the Black Mountain, on the 27th of June, 1857. The prominent articles of the number are: "New Chapters in the Warfare of Science, XI; From Babel to Comparative Philology," a scholarly presentation of the points of contact and divergence between Theology and Science, with reference to the period mentioned by Dr. A. D. White, ex-President of Cornell. "The Peopling of America," an able contribution to the subject in the form of a published address delivered before the Congress of Americanists, by the distinguished Anthropologist, M. Armand de Quatrefages. A very able and instructive contribution to the series of papers on "The Development of American Industries since Columbus," being a well illustrated article on "Iron Mills and Puddling Furnaces," by W. F. Durfee, to be continued. Professor Huxley's unfinished article on the timely topic, "The Aryan Question and Prehistoric Man," is marked by his well-known scientific fervour, logical keenness, lucidity and force of expression. "The Storage of Electricity," is competently treated by Dr. Samuel Sheldon. The other articles are in keeping with the character of this able and popular magazine.

In Macmillan's Magazine for January, Professor Goldwin Smith projects a politico-literary bomb into the ranks of protectionists, big and little, far and near, in his article "Exit McKinley"; and of the results of this famous Bill he says: "The revolution has come . . . A free trade victory it will be, and, in time, it will go round the world. Depend upon it, the death knell of Protectionism has been rung. McKinley with unwitting hand has set the torch to the great pile of iniquity, and he will be enrolled in his own despite among the benefactors of mankind." Professor Smith gives and we suppose expects "no quarter." Those who differ from him on political grounds will no doubt, in Canada at all events, reply to his strictures with whatever point and force they can command. We must, however, take exception to the reference to the efforts of the patriotic Canadians who, irrespective of party or creed, are seeking to foster in Canadian children the noble sentiment of loyalty to Canada and the Empire,—where they are stigmatized as "the rank and file of jingoism," etc. Surely love of home and country, reverence for the memories of patriots slain in her defence, devotion to the tie which binds us to our Mother Land, should win praise rather than scorn from one of the most accomplished historical scholars of our race. The celebrated treatises on the sublime of Longinus, and Burke are discussed by H. L. Harell. The other articles in the number are, as usual, interesting.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

Wives and Daughters continues to merit the praise which we have already bestowed upon it.

MR. PARTON will soon publish through the Riverside Press the second series of his "Captains of Industry."

PRINCIPAL GRANT has been crossing swords with Henry George, and in his lecture at Trinity College dealt that popular champion some doughty blows.

LT.-COL. G. T. DENISON delivered an able and patriotic lecture on "The British Empire" at the school house of Holy Trinity Parish, under the auspices of the Guild of St. Luke's Parish, on Monday evening, the 19th inst.

THE first publications of G. P. Putnam's Sons for the new year will comprise: "The Vikings in Western Christendom, A.D. 789-888," by Charles F. Keary; "English Prose: Its Elements, History and Usage," by John Earle, Professor of Anglo-Saxon in the University of Oxford; "A Literary Manual of Foreign Quotations (Latin, Italian, French and German)," by John Devoe Belton; and in the Heroes of the Nations Series, Vol. III. of "Pericles and the Golden Age of Athens," by Evelyn Abbott, M.A., Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford.

A MOST interesting announcement is that of Adam and Charles Black, of Edinburgh, of a new edition in twelve parts, with copious illustrations from original plates and engravings of Sir Daniel Wilson's well-known "Memorials of Edinburgh in the Olden Time." To the loyal Scot, the zealous antiquarian, the lover of localities encrusted with historic memories, or the general student of historic or biographic literature, this new edition of one of the most fascinating books of its class will be a treasure. The preparation of this work was no doubt to its distinguished author a labour of love, and its perusal will prove to each successive reader an unending source of interest and instruction drawn by a master hand from the memorable historic scenes, events and personages of that glorious city, "The Modern Athens."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- Corbet, Robert, St. John. Uncle Dumpie's Merrie Months. 75c. London: Dean & Son.
- Norton, Charles Ledyard. A Handbook of Florida. New York: Longmans, Green & Co.
- Smythe, Ed. H., LL.D. The Law of Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes. Toronto: The J. E. Bryant Co.
- Schurman, Jacob Gould. Belief in God. \$1.25. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons; Toronto: The Presbyterian News Co.
- Taylor, Dr. Isaac. The Origin of the Aryans. 2 vols. New York: The Humboldt Publishing Co.
- Whinyates, Amy. Blue Beard. 30c. London: Dean & Son.
- Debrett's Peerage. 2 vols. \$5.00 each. London: Dean & Son.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE

IN THE WIDE AWE AND WISDOM OF THE NIGHT.

In the wide awe and wisdom of the night
I saw the round world rolling on its way,
Beyond significance of depth or height,
Beyond the interchange of dark and day.
I marked the march to which is set no pause,
And that stupendous orbit round whose rim
The great sphere sweeps, obedient unto laws
That utter the eternal thought of Him.
I compassed time, outstripped the starry speed,
And in my still soul apprehended space,
Till, weighing laws which these but blindly heed,
At last I came before Him face to face;
And knew the universe of no such span
As the august infinitude of Man.

—Charles G. D. Roberts, in the Independent.

CANADIANS AS SOLDIERS.

SPEAKING of Canadians, Major Edmond Malet remarked that they made the best soldiers physically that he ever saw. In his company, the 81st New York Volunteer Infantry, in the late war, he said he had forty-five of them, and no hardships could dampen their gay spirits nor toil exhaust their hardy frames. In those terrible forced marches of the army of the Potomac in the Peninsula, with the thermometer far up in the nineties, and the dust a foot deep, when thousands of men fell out by the road-side, many of them never to march again, these Canadians trudged along cheerily, beguiling the weary way with joke and song. They could not understand the wastefulness of their American comrades, who would haul aside overcoats, blankets, and other impediments, on a hard march without a thought, so they would carefully gather them up, add them to their own load, and bring them into camp. "One evening, I remember," said the major, "a Canadian soldier came into bivouac, after a fearful march from early dawn, with twelve overcoats piled on his knapsack, which he had carried all day. He sold them back to their original owners for \$1 each." Boston Globe.

WE do not correct the man we hang, we correct others by him.—Montaigne.

How immense seem to us the sins which we have not committed.—Mme. Necker.