

description of scenery and incidents—in portrayal of character, particularly that of the radical Ellis, the hero of the tale—he evinces no ordinary talent and ability. The book will find many interested readers.

A ROMANCE OF A BACK STREET, by F. W. Robinson; pp. 103, 15 cents.

A tale of love among the humble poor; full of interest, and written with the characteristic style and cleverness of the author.

COUSIN POLLY'S GOLD MINE, of the same Series, is in great contrast with "Like unto Like." It is a tale of New England life, lacking very much the quaint humour of Mrs. Whitney's or Mrs. Stowe's writings. The book is full of characters which it is difficult to know why they were created. It is a kind of record of births, marriages and deaths of people in whom one has no interest. "Cousin Polly's Gold Mine" will find readers among those who are interested in farm life and in the successful fight which honesty and industry make to win position and influence.

ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF ANCIENT LITERATURE, ORIENTAL AND CLASSICAL, by John D. Quackenbos, A.M., M.D. pp. 428, accompanied with engravings and maps. New York: Harper Brothers.

The name of the author, who is well known as a writer of instructive books, is enough to secure attention to this work. It forms a valuable hand-book to the student, and cannot fail to interest the general reader. It contains in a condensed form the information one often seeks in a variety of books regarding the Hindoo, Persian, Chinese, Hebrew, Assyrian and Egyptian literature. Part II. is devoted to Grecian literature, the ethic and lyric poets, with studies of Homer, Hesiod, Sappho, Anacreon and others of that age. Next follows the history of Roman literature. The engravings and maps add greatly to the interest and value of the book, which is printed in Harper's usual elegant style.

NOS. 17 TO 22 OF FRANKLIN SQUARE LIBRARY.—Harper Brothers, New York. Dawson Brothers, Montreal.

This series of Harper's continues as a marvel of cheapness, in the above numbers we have "Selected Poems of Matthew Arnold" for 10 cents; to the admirers of Arnold's verses, we need only say there are 32 pages of his choicest poetry, literally for "a song;" No. 22 is a reprint of Miss Burney's (Madame D'Arbly) "Evelina," it is perhaps one of the best specimens which could be selected of the novel of a past generation, it may take a place with Miss Austen's "Emma," and others of a like standard; the other three are "The Bubble Reputation," by Katharine King; "Among Aliens," by Mrs. Frances E. Trollope, and "Guy Livingstone; or, Thorough," by Geo. A. Lawrence, all works worthy of a place in this standard series, and all to be had as Mr. Montague Tigg would have said, for the "ridiculously small sum of fifteen cents" each.

"THE RAG FAIR" and "LITTLE STAY AT HOME" are the titles of two new books, for the Holiday Season of the present year, by L. Clarkson, whose "Gathering of the Lilies" last year, and "Violet" of the year before, were so popular. The "Rag Fair" is a superbly illustrated work, the designs having been made by the author, and engraved on wood. For genuine literary power and original artistic design, it far surpasses any previous effort of this successful author, and may safely be considered the most remarkable book that has appeared for years. The "Little Stay at Home" is a collection of delicate and charming writings for the little ones, very handsomely illustrated, and in every way made attractive for children. Both books will be published by F. W. Robinson & Co., Philadelphia.

We gladly welcome *The McGill Gazette* once more amongst our exchanges; it makes its first appearance after the summer vacation full of hope and courage.

MUSICAL.

Mr. Barnes, R.A.M., gave an organ recital in the American Presbyterian Church on Friday evening last. The programme was a good one, and some of the pieces were well played, notably the quaint little minuet by Boccherini. We were somewhat disappointed with Mr. Barnes' performance of symphony music, and still more with the Overture to *Der Freyschütz*, which was taken much faster than we have been accustomed to hear it played, and at the close was very indistinct and uneven. Mrs. Barnes, R.A.M., sang two solos very acceptably, and received great applause. We thought her singing was very much marred by the organ accompaniment, which would have been too much for a good-sized choir to sing against; indeed we have never heard Mr. Gould accompany his choir so loudly as Mr. Barnes played for a single voice.

Mr. Barnes has evidently got talent, and with practice may take a foremost rank among our musicians. We must judge him, however, as we heard him, and having been led to expect a masterly performance were naturally a little disappointed.

MUSICAL HARMONY.

We give the following as a specimen of Richard Hooker's majestic and sonorous periods:—

"Touching musical harmony, whether by instrument or by voice, it being but of high and low in sounds a due proportionable disposition, such, notwithstanding, is the force thereof, and so pleasing effects it hath in that very part of man which is most divine, that some have been thereby induced to think that the soul itself by nature is, or hath in it, harmony—a thing which delighteth all ages, and beseebeth all states; a thing as seasonable in grief as in joy; as decent being added into actions of greatest weight and solemnity, as being used when men most sequester themselves from action. The reason hereof is an admirable facility which music hath to express and represent to the mind, more inwardly than any other sensible mean, the very standing, rising and falling, the very steps and inflections every way, the turns and varieties of all passions whereunto the mind is subject, yea, so to imitate them, that, whether it resemble unto us the same state wherein our minds already are, or a clean contrary, we are not more contentedly by the one confirmed than changed and led away by

the other. In harmony the very image and character even of virtue and vice is perceived, the mind delighted with their resemblances, and brought, by having them often iterated, into a love of the things themselves. For which cause there is nothing more contagious and pestilent than some kinds of harmony, than some nothing more strong and potent unto good. And that there is such a difference of one kind from another, we need no proof but our own experience, inasmuch as we are at the hearing of some more inclined unto sorrow and heaviness, of some more mollified and softened in mind; one kind apter to stay and settle us, another to move and stir our affections. There is that draweth to a marvellous grave and sober mediocrity; there is also that carrieth as it were into ecstasies, filling the mind with an heavenly joy, and, for the time, in a manner severing it from the body; so that, although we lay altogether aside the consideration of ditty or matter, the very harmony of sounds being framed in due sort, and carried from the ear to the spiritual faculties of our souls, is by a native puissance and efficacy greatly available to bring to a perfect temper whatsoever is there troubled; apt as well to quicken the spirits as to allay that which is too eager, sovereign against melancholy and despair, forcible to draw forth tears of devotion if the mind be such as can yield them, able both to move and to moderate all affections. The Prophet David having therefore singular knowledge, not in poetry alone, but in music also, judged them both to be things most necessary for the House of God, [and] left behind him to that purpose a number of divinely indited poems; and was further the author of adding unto poetry melody in public prayer, melody both vocal and instrumental, for the raising up of men's hearts, and the sweetening of their affections towards God—in which considerations the Church of Christ doth likewise at the present day retain it as an ornament to God's service, and an help to our own devotion. They which, under pretence of the law ceremonial abrogated, require the abrogation of instrumental music, approving, nevertheless, the use of vocal melody to remain, must show some reason wherefore the one should be thought a legal ceremony, and not the other. In church music, curiosity and ostentation of art, wanton or light, or unsuitable harmony, such as only pleaseth the ear, and doth not naturally serve to the very kind and degree of those impressions which the matter that goeth with it leaveth, or is apt to leave, in men's minds, doth rather blemish and disgrace that we do, than add either beauty or furtherance unto it. On the other side, these faults prevented the force and efficacy of the thing itself, when it drowneth not utterly, but fitly suiteth with matter altogether sounding to the praise of God, is in truth most admirable, and doth much edify, if not the understanding, because it teacheth not, yet surely the affection, because therein it worketh much. They must have hearts very dry and very tough, from whom the melody of Psalms doth not sometime draw that wherein a mind religiously affected delighteth. Be it as Rabanus Maurus observeth, that at the first the Church in this exercise was more simple and plain than we are; that their singing was little more than only a melodious kind of pronunciation; that the custom which we now use was not instituted so much for their cause, which are spiritual, as to the end that into grosser and heavier minds, whom bare words do not easily move, the sweetness of melody might make some entrance for good things. St. Basil himself, acknowledging as much, did not think that from such inventions the least jot of estimation and credit thereby should be derogated: 'For (saith he) whereas the Holy Spirit saw that mankind is unto virtue hardly drawn, and that righteousness is the less accomplished by reason of the proneness of our affections to that which delighteth, it pleased the wisdom of the same spirit to borrow from melody that pleasure which, mingled with heavenly mysteries, causeth the smoothness and softness of that which toucheth the ear, to convey, as it were by stealth, the treasure of good things into man's mind.' To this purpose were those harmonious tunes of the Psalms devised for us, that they which are either in years but young, or touching perfection of virtue, as yet not grown to ripeness, might, when they think they sing, learn. Oh the wise conceit of that heavenly Teacher, which hath by His skill found out a way, that doing those things wherein we delight we may also learn that whereby we profit."

Mr. Neuendorff has been elected conductor of the New York Philharmonic Society.

Ten thousand people attended Theodore Thomas's farewell benefit at Gilmore's Garden.

Mrs. Osgood sailed for England on the 23rd inst., to fulfil engagements at the Crystal Palace and other concerts.

It is asserted that of those who learn to play upon the piano but one in a thousand ever acquires a correct knowledge of the use of the pedal.

Make yourself an honest man, and then you may be sure that there is one rascal less in the world.—*Carlyle*.

A WOMAN'S *right* is to be good looking; her privilege, to be *well-dressed*; her duty, to be *sweet-tempered*.—*Whyte Melville*.

EDUCATION is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army. If we retrench the wages of the schoolmaster, we must raise those of the recruiting sergeant.

Extract from a private letter sent to the Holman Liver Pad Co. from one of the most influential gentlemen in Ontario, of what the Pad has done for him: "Dear Sir,—The excruciating pains I have suffered from congestion of my liver since I put it on. My appetite is good, and I can eat almost anything that is set before me with impunity. I certainly have not eaten any Dutch sour kraut or boiled cabbage, but I have taken the next best things—ham and eggs. Before I put it on, my stomach was as delicate as an infant; and the very lightest food, such as oatmeal gruel, porridge or chicken soup, I dare not touch. I will be using it. One gentleman, the Treasurer of our County, got one that I sent for, and I heard him say that his health has not been so good in seven years as it is now. Another gentleman whom I also let have one, told me he would not be placed back in the same state of health that he was in before he put it on for a thousand dollars. What I want to have your advice on is this: I have worn two, and if the constant use of it would not be injurious to my health I would wear one all the time. I dread a recurrence of the torture I have suffered."—*Adv.*
At wholesale only by Lymans, Clare & Co., Montreal, and Lyman Brothers & Co., Toronto.