

## OUR TABLE.

LIFE OF LORD CLIVE; BY THE REV. G. R. GLEIG.\*

THE familiar acquaintance of the Reverend Author of this work, with the various events which have characterised the establishment and continuance of British rule in the East Indies, peculiarly qualify him for the task he has here fulfilled. His "History of British India," "Life of Warren Hastings," "Sale's Brigade in Affghanistan," and several other similar volumes, have brought him before the world as one intimately versed in the "romance and reality" of East Indian History; and the work now before us fully maintains the reputation thus acquired.

The appearance of Robert Clive on the stage of Eastern warfare and politics was the commencement of a new era there. Under the able management of M. Dupleix, most of the Native Princes in Hindostan had formed alliances with the French, and thrown off every shadow of respect for the treaties formerly entered into with Great Britain. Hemmed in by the hostile natives, and opposed to superior French forces, both on sea and land, the British commanders were reduced to the utmost extremities, when the vigour and skill of Clive intervened and turned the scale in favour of the British. The forces of France were met and routed: the natives reclaimed to their former alliance. Conquest after conquest, alliance after alliance, followed in rapid succession; and when Lord Clive gave up the reins of Government in India, he left the British power there securely and firmly established, with scarcely a single open and avowed enemy. Their ancient rivals, the French, were routed from every stronghold; the native powers, either through policy or sincere esteem, were bound firmly to their cause, and the foundation laid for that anomalous empire, which the merchant princes of the East India Company have since then so widely extended. The history of such a man, at such a period, could not but be fraught with the deepest interest, and well has the task he has undertaken been fulfilled by the Reverend Chaplain-General of the Army. This work presents a clear and succinct narrative of the brilliant and exciting period we have mentioned. Mr. Gleig has been ac-

cused of having shown too much partiality to his hero in his "Life of Warren Hastings;" but in the present instance no such charge can possibly be made. The facts are detailed in a plain and unvarnished manner, with an avowed determination neither to overshadow the excellences of Lord Clive, nor to explain away his faults—an intention which appears fully sustained throughout the work.

The "Life of Lord Clive" forms part of "Murray's Home and Colonial Library," to which we have had more than one opportunity of adverting with heartfelt commendation. Since our last notice of this series, several very valuable works have appeared in it, such as "The Story of the Battle of Waterloo," and "The British Army at New Orleans,"—both by the talented author of the work we have just noticed.—"Ruxton's Adventures in Mexico," and a very interesting publication by Lord Carnarvon, on "Portugal and Galicia." We would once more heartily recommend this series to our readers, as having most fully carried out the promise of the Prospectus, by being "not merely low in price, but of sterling merit, originality and permanent interest."

### THE IMPROVED HOUSEWIFE.

THIS popular work, by Mrs. A. L. Webster, a practical housekeeper for upwards of thirty-four years, has now reached its tenth edition, a copy of which is before us. To this edition about forty pages of new and valuable matter has been added, besides a Perpetual Calendar showing at one view the day of the month, and its corresponding day of the week for one hundred and fifty years.

The leading Canadian and American Journals speak highly of this work as a most useful manual, and, as far as our experience enables us to judge, we think the encomiums lavished upon it are deserved. Its decidedly practical character we look upon as its highest recommendation. It is we believe, for sale by the Agent only, who has also for sale an interesting little book, being a *fac-simile* of a Boston Edition of the New England Primer, published in 1777.

\* John Murray, London; Armour & Ramsay, Montreal.