

CURRENT LITERATURE.

GEMS OF THOUGHT—WRITTEN FOR MAN.

THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

"FOR WE BE BRETHREN."

Genesis, XIII. 8.

I.

On some far tented Eastern plain
Two brothers parted long ago ;
One journeyed tow'ards the Western main :
The other wandered to and fro
Within the limits of his race
Until he found a resting place.

II.

Though far apart our lot be cast,
Howe'er unlike in tongue or hue,
At some time in the shadowy past
Our fathers thus have said adieu.
Each twain in all the teeming earth
To one fond mother trace their birth.

JOHN READR.

SONNET—PURPOSE.

Brother! awake from thy long lethargy ;
Walk forth into the world ; search out the task
That is allotted thee ; tear off the mask
Of morbid thought, that ever blindeth thee.
God hath appointed each good man to be
His warrior in the righteous cause ; go, ask
His benison and, donning sword and casque
March forth to meet the common enemy.
Each good deed done shall be a death-blow given
Unto a sin conceived : each true word said
Shall be a javelin that hath not sped
In vain, its force doth come from Heaven.
Waste not the time—man's inmost spirit saith,
" Life without purpose is a lingering death."

AMARANTH.

A BATCH OF BOOKS.

A MORTAL ANTI-PATHY, by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Crown 8 vo. pp. 327. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Price \$1 50 The autocrat announces on the title-page that this volume is the first opening of the *New Portfolio*, necessarily implying that it is to be followed by other openings, while on his last page he calmly informs us that he "may take up the *New Portfolio* again, and consider whether it is worth while to open it," which means, presumably, that he won't do it unless he is entirely satisfied with the success of the first opening, and being an autocrat there is of course no possibility of compelling him. Well, let this be understood at the outset. If the new *Portfolio* contains anything else so good as "*A mortal Antipathy*," Dr Holmes' love for his fellow men and desire to advance their best interest are too well known to put us in any uncertainty as to whether it will be opened again or not, for this last work of his, if not altogether the best, is one of the best his pen has produced. While, as in "*Elsie Venner*" the plot hinges upon an abnormal phase of human nature, an extraordinary antipathy to woman kind in the hero being substituted for the ophidian element in the heroine which lent peculiar fascination to the earlier work, there is also in addition thereto a chatty discursiveness which constantly reminds one of the "Breakfast Table Series."

The Story is a very simple one, provided

of course you take the Doctor's word unhesitatingly for what may be termed the medical side of it. Maurice Kirkwood while an infant in arms is unintentionally given a terrible fright by a beautiful young girl, and so intense is the effect upon him that thenceforth the near presence of a lovely young woman, no matter under what circumstances, sends him off forthwith into a deadly swoon. This constitutes the mortal antipathy, from which the heroine, Euthymia Tower, ultimately rescues him in a manner so dramatic that we will not spoil the interest of the story by revealing it here. Besides these two chief actors there is a very admirable and imposing "girl with brains", Miss Leureda Vincent; a dear old Dr Butts; a most interesting and improving Pansophic Society at which remarkably clever papers are read; an irrepressible modern "interviewer," and a score of other entertaining characters who in one form or another furnish outlets for the writer's wise, witty, tender, and trenchant notes and comments upon men and things. It is not a book to be hastily read, nor to be laid aside after a single reading, but like everything else Dr. Holmes has written, to be read first of all for the pure pleasure of the reading, then re-read for the profit, and then taken up again and dipped into here and there for mental refreshment in times of weariness. The next opening of this wonderful *Portfolio* will be eagerly looked for by all who read "*a mortal antipathy*."