

tropes ; the language of the heart abandoned for that of the fancy. The address of a lover to his mistress, for example, is studded with stars and flowers ; her locks are nets of gold ; her lips rubies ; her heart a rock which the river of his tears attempts in vain to melt. Flatulant bombast like this jars upon English ears. To us it is so intolerable that we have run to the opposite extreme, and have failed to do justice to the incontestible merits of some of the greatest minds the human race has produced.

In a future edition we hope M. Routhier will give us a chapter on the proverbs of Spain. It was a remark of Lord Bacon that "The genius, wit and spirit of a nation are discovered in its proverbs," and Spanish proverbs are singularly characteristic.

But we are thankful for what we have. The work before us is readable from beginning to end, and we heartily commend it to the notice of our readers. M. Routhier possesses all the intellectual and some of the emotional qualities of style. He neither overdraws his subject nor leaves it indistinct ; he is clear without being prolix, and suggestive without being exhaustive. If on the one hand, he has neither the strength of Taine nor the imagination of Hugo ; on the other hand he has neither the harshness of the first nor the exaggeration of the last. Though he possesses neither the creative power of Dumas nor the analytic genius of Balzac, yet he is free from the egotism of the one and from the frequent obscurity of the other. Like De Stael, M. Routhier pleases, instructs, inspires with love of God, of good and of country. And it may be, that, within the confines of the Dominion, "A Travers l'Espagne" is destined to accomplish for Spain that which in France "L'Allemagne" did for Germany ; and that this admirable work of M. Routhier is to be the means of inducing our scholars to enter upon the serious study of a literature, more conservative of the national traditions, more loyal to the national institutions, more penetrated by the national religion, than any other in the world. R. G. SUTHERLAND.

Five Years in Panama : By Wolfred Nelson, M. D. ; N. Y., Belford & Co. Montreal : Drysdale & Co. ; 12mo, pp. xiv., 287. Ill \$1.50. 1889.

If Dr. Nelson is to be relied upon, Panama is as good a place as any in the world to keep away from. It is safe neither for the living nor for the dead. Constant malaria, small pox and yellow fever ; occasional earthquakes and revolutions ; complete indifference to sanitation on the part of the authorities ; oppressive taxation and repressive legislation, all combine to make the Isthmus perilous to the living ; while the abominable practice of "unburial" renders it an insecure resting-place for the dead.

"Five Years in Panama" is the work of a shrewd observer. His scientific training, his privileged position as a medical man, his knowledge of the Spanish and the French languages, have furnished Dr. Nelson with ample facilities for studying the natural and unnatural in the surroundings of his tropical home.

Chaps. I, II and III record the author's voyage from New York to Colon, and what befell him on the way across the Isthmus to Panama. An idea of the rapidity of tropical vegetation may be gathered from the author's statement that "if the Panama railway were unused for six months, it would be grown over and covered with a tropical jungle."

In Chap. IV we are taken through modern Panama, and are given a sketch of its early history.

Chap. V. introduces us to "Life on the Isthmus," its occupations and its amusements. The chief industry of the native population, we are told, is "Revolution as a profession, a science and a game." The principal amusements are bull-teasing (a milder form of the Spanish bull-fight) ; horse-racing and masquerading. Says the Dr. : "The masses in Panama are little better than semi-civilized, and when they are more than half drunk they are absolute savages." To those whom business or pleasure may attract to the Isthmus we strongly recommend the following warning : "The Dean of the Medical Faculty of Panama neatly divided the seasons as follows : 'First you have the wet season, lasting