

A CATALOGUE OF BOOKS (Hughton, Mifflin & Co., Boston), and such a Catalogue as but few houses could issue, brim full of the masterpieces from the pens of the most popular authors of the United States—Longfellow, Whittier, Emerson, Hawthorne, Lowell, Lucy Larcom, the Cary Sisters, and—well, stop—nearly all who have won fame in the world of letters, and have become, as it were, our other selves. The mere names and prices of the books is not all, for the portraits of the different authors are very finely engraved and are speaking likenesses.

With the Catalogue comes the beautiful Holmes & Emerson Calendars, works of Art, that will compare with the best—don't laugh at us for having tried to pick up that piece of evergreen jutting out of the left-hand side of the Emerson Calendar.

IN THE JANUARY CENTURY is an open letter from Noah Brooks, giving an account of the wonderful achievement of the San Francisco bookseller, H. H. Bancroft, in writing a complete History of the Pacific Coast States. Wonderful, in that from small beginnings, as a collector of books, he gathered together such a mass of information, manuscript and printed matter that it required a complete staff ten years to properly index it preparatory to his writing the history. Eighteen volumes are now published, leaving still material for many more.

L. R. O'BRIEN one of the few Canadian Artists who have made for themselves a name outside of the Dominion, has some fine illustrations of Cloverly, an English fishing village, in the Christmas number of *The Illustrated English Magazine*, a fine number throughout, a noticeable feature being several of Gainsborough's works excellently engraved.

THE WILLARD TRACT SOCIETY have just issued "The Christian Secret of a Happy Life," by H. W. S., and "Grace and Truth," by Rev W Mackay, M. A.

The first named has a very complimentary introduction by Rev. John Potts and Rev. H. M. Parsons, sufficient of itself to certify as to its worth. The latter bears this testimony, "I wish I could present a copy to every Minister of the Gospel, in the United States," D. L. Moody.

They also send us, the verbatim report of the Moody convention, which is given with a year's subscription to The Mission Union, at the low price of 50 cents.

BABYHOOD.—This periodical enters upon a comparatively new field, and with appearances decidedly in its favour. Its columns are to be devoted exclusively to the Care of Infants and Young Children, and to the general interests of the Nursery, and will be under the charge of Leroy M. Vale, M.D., as Medical editor, and the universal favorite Marian Harland, as editor of the department relating to general nursery routine. The topics discussed in the first number, are "Baby at Home in Winter," "Adulteration of Milk," "Vaccination," "Increase and Preservation of Youthful Beauty," "Familiar Talks with Mothers," etc.

There should be an opening for a magazine of this class, especially when it is so attractively gotten up and so ably edited. The subscription price is \$1.50 a year, and it is published at 18 Spruce street, New York.

MACMILLAN & Co. have in press a little volume by Archbishop Trench, entitled "Brief Thoughts and Meditations on some passages in Holy Scripture," which will probably excite more than usual interest, in view of the author's retirement from the See of Dublin.

JAMES R. OSGOOD & Co. have published early this month, simultaneously with its publication in England, Mr. Cross's biography of George Eliot. It was at first intended to issue it at Christmas, but the numerous corrections that have been made prevented this. The work comprises three volumes.

THE CANADIAN SCHOLAR'S HAND-BOOK of the International Lessons for 1885, by Rev. Edwin W. Price, D.D., Toronto,—James Bain & Son.

A neat and compendious manual, containing sufficient well-arranged material for the ordinary Sabbath-school scholar. The index is a specially good feature. It was a happy thought of the publishers to add the shorter Catechism.—*The Presbyterian Review*.

"Married Above Her," announced in December number as to be published by T. B. Peterson & Bro., has been issued, and contrary to what is very often the case is not only not disappointing, but is of that absorbing interest that holds the reader's attention from beginning to end without flagging.

The unknown authoress is to be complimented on this, we suppose, her first venture in the field of letters.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the London Free Press.

"SIR,—With reference to your editorial of to-day calling attention to the school reader monopoly, we beg to state that we are quite ready to pay the Minister for a set of his plates whatever they fairly cost, and to give security to the amount of fifty thousand dollars that we will issue the series of 'New Readers' in every respect fully equal to the prescribed standard at one-third lower prices than those now advertised by the syndicate of publishers, and give to the trade a higher rate of discount than the one the Minister is said to have fixed (20 per cent).

"This is no new idea of ours, as we offered years since to produce the old series so that they could be sold to the public at one-half their then current prices, provided the Government own the copyright and made the publication free to all on equal terms and conditions, as may be seen by our communications in the *Toronto Globe* of 1st December, 1877, and January 17th, 1880. We then also said:—'Let them say what they please, it is still beyond all question, that wherever and whenever a monopoly is granted to any private party in an authorized school book, then in one way or another the public will suffer in competition being choked off and prices being unduly raised. This has been in the past; it is so now in Ontario, and it will continue to be so till such copyrights are held by the Minister whose sanction gives them value.'

"We ask nothing for ourselves alone, but ask open action by the Government on behalf not only of all engaged in the production of school books, but on