

has just published a collection of Essays, entitled, "Cobwebs of Criticism," which reproduce much interesting and curious information concerning the reception, by contemporary critics, of the early works of Byron, Keats, Shelley, Leigh Hunt, and Wordsworth.

A STRIKING literary feature of the May *Century* will be Julian Hawthorne's paper on "The Salem of Hawthorne," in which the scenes of Nathaniel Hawthorne's daily life and of his romances are described with a personal knowledge and an insight which only a literary son could command. Incidentally, much new light is thrown on the character of the father and on the relations of his scenes and his people to real places and persons. Harry Fenn has made several pictures for the paper.

A CURIOUS pamphlet is advertised in London, under the title of "The Battle of the Standard." It is described as "the interlocutory documents in the action in the Court of Queen's Bench, Cooper v. Mudford and others (the proprietors of the *Standard* newspaper), for the recovery of 1000 guineas for an advance copy of the Earl of Beaconsfield's last novel, 'Endymion,' with elucidatory hints." This refers to the appearance in the *Standard* of a review of "Endymion" before the issue of the book to the press.

FRENCH criticism on English public and social life seems to be now the fashion. A second edition of *La Vie Publique en Angleterre, par Philippe Daryl*, has just been issued in Paris, which affords John Bull a capital opportunity to view himself as he and his country appear in the eyes of a shrewd but not unkindly observer. The first part of the work deals with English literature, the press and the stage; the second, with Parliament, elections, and municipal matters; and the third, with the Queen, the army and navy, and the courts of justice.

"THE Wife of Monte-Cristo," being the continuation of Alexander Dumas' celebrated novel of "The Count of Monte-Cristo," is in press and will be published immediately by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia. It has all the power, vividness and intensity of that renowned romance, and weaves a spell of fascination about the reader impossible to resist. The Count himself, and other well-known personages, figure very prominently in the charming narrative. All who have read "The Count of Monte-Cristo," will look with interest for "The Wife of Monte-Cristo."

IN "Essays and Leaves from a Note Book," by George Eliot, we have in an authoritative form the early contributions to the *Westminster Review* of the distinguished novelist. With most of the matter we are already familiar, in the collection of essays, principally on German literature, which appeared in cheap form about a year ago in New York. Interest, nevertheless, will centre in the book, which is edited by Mr. Chas. Lewes, a connection, we apprehend, of the late George Henry Lewes. The "Leaves from a Note-Book" seem to be material partly worked up for use in a novel, or to be expanded some day into an essay.

GEORGE H. ADAMS & SON make an announcement which will be read with interest by the multitudes who are looking for good maps, but do not know where to find them except in high-priced atlases. These publishers will begin on the 1st of May the publication of a geographical and industrial monthly to be called "American Progress." One of the characteristic features of the magazine will be the treatment in each issue of some single State or Territory with reference to its geographical and industrial position, to be accompanied by a new map of such State or Territory, corrected up to the last date. Dr. L. P. Brockett will act as editor.

MATTHEW ARNOLD says we in Boston are "artificial." He is now at a safe distance and will not explain himself to us by word of mouth, therefore we must try to give our own interpretation of his opinion. To be "artificial" would seem to mean that which is not what it *pretends to be*. Now let us see where we are not what we pretend we are. Are we not the most cultured people in the land? We are, or else we think we are. Are we not the most polished of American people? We are, or we think we are. Have we not the proudest ancestry? We have, or we think we have. Are we not the most benevolent, the most musical, in fact, is not Boston the "hub" of the republic, or is it only that we think so from ignorance of the world? Do we not make for ourselves graven images? Do we not set our gods up on pedestals so mighty that the pedestal is out of all proportion to the image? Let us ponder. This is a time for meditation and prayer. If these sins are ours, let us find it out and try to be forgiven, not only by Matthew Arnold, but by the world at large. The best the world has to-day ought to be our ambition to deserve.—*Boston Home Journal*.

APROPOS of the attacks made upon our methods and our manners in books written by travelling Englishmen, a *Times* correspondent relates the following story: "When Sir Charles Dilke was in Nevada, then in the heyday of its lusty youth, he was somewhat disappointed that he met none of the rude and rough manners which all tourists had taught him to expect to find there. Harry Mighels, editor of the *Carson Appeal*, a college man, wit and *bon vivant*, but a joker withal, was willing to see the stranger gratified. So, one day at the hotel dinner table, Mighels, who had a slight acquaintance with Mr. Dilke, said, in his choicest affectation of the true nasal tone of the true American, 'Mr. Dilke, do you know Thomas T. Carlyle?' Mr. Dilke acknowledged that he had a speaking acquaintance with the great man, whereupon his interlocutor said, with warmth, 'Wal, he kin sling ink, he kin!' Mighels afterward told Bret Harte how he had 'sold the English maker of note-books,' whereupon Harte said: 'You think you have done a very clever thing, Harry, but that will appear eventually as a genuine Americanism.' Sure enough, the incident subsequently was printed in Dilke's book, where the curious reader may find it to witness the truth of what may seem an improbable yarn."

## BOOK NOTICES.

THE WORKS OF ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON, Poet Laureate. New edition, corrected by the author. New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchison.

THE CUP AND THE FALCON. By Alfred, Lord Tennyson. New York: Macmillan. Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchison.

The latter volume is the latest work of the Laureate, and comprises two short dramas, "The Cup," produced by Mr. Henry Irving in London in 1881, and "The Falcon," first put upon the stage of the St. James' theatre, London, in 1879. By neither representation, however, did Mr. Tennyson add to his literary or dramatic renown. The plot of the former composition is laid in Galatia. An ex-tetrarch, "Synorix," by Roman assistance regains the governorship of the province from which he had been driven for his tyranny, and compels the wife of his slain rival, "Camma," to marry him. To this she consents, but only in order to poison herself and "Synorix" at the altar. Mr. Tennyson is indebted to the story of Ser Federigo in "The Decameron" for the materials of "The Falcon." The latter drama is still less fitted for production than the former.

The "Collected Works," though they contain a few poems which have not, until now, been re-printed since their first appearance in the edition of 1883, are not complete. Neither of the dramas "The Cup" and "The Falcon" are included, nor does "The Charge of the Heavy Brigade" appear. The volume, however, is a very handsome and reliable edition of the Laureate's versifications, and presents them in convenient and economic form, and as such meets a real want.

THE STATESMAN'S YEAR-BOOK FOR 1884. London and New York: Macmillan & Co.

Mr. Martin has been succeeded by Mr. J. Scott Keltie in the editorship of this veritable *multum in parvo*. This "statistical and historical annual of the states of the civilized world" has attained its majority—the 1884 edition is the twenty-first issue—and is deservedly so well known as to make it unnecessary to expatiate on its merits. Additional statistics on political, educational, social, agricultural, mining, and manufacturing matters are included, and information on six more countries—Madagascar, Orange Free State, the Transvaal, Zanzibar, Burma, and Hawaii—have necessitated the adding of some hundred pages more than the book swelled to in previous years.

CREATORS OF THE AGE OF STEEL. [By W. T. Jeans. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

This is a work which bears evidence on every page of the loving familiarity of its writer with his subject. Not only has Mr. Jeans broad and comprehensive views, but his knowledge includes the *minutiae* of the manufacture of iron as well as an intimate acquaintance with the minds and work of those who have made its almost universal adaptability possible. The synopsis of the life and studies of Sir Henry Bessemer is most interesting reading, and the passages in which it is told how the "Bessemer steel process" alternated between success and disaster, ending in revolutionizing the iron trade, and saving the world five million dollars in a score of years, read more like a chapter of romance. The same might almost be said of the chapters on Sir William Siemens, Sir Joseph Whitworth, and Sir John Brown's inventions.

MY HOUSE. By Oliver B. Bunce. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs.

Mr. Bunce has condensed into a book of ordinary dimensions a fund of instruction and advice on house decoration which is of the highest value to those who would make their residences something more than places of shelter and rest. To men of taste and to almost all women the experience of others in domestic architecture and ornamentation is most acceptable, and to such Mr. Bunce's book will prove a treasure. He tells how he has beautified "my house," outside and in, gives hints on the construction and planning of verandahs, porches, lawns, gardens, and the rest, and plants here and there the most refreshing bits of word-painting on scenery and ornamentation. Present and intending housekeepers cannot do better than consult Mr. Bunce's book.

PARTS III AND IV OF THE LIFE OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN (by Sarah Tytler, published by George Virtue, Adelaide street, Toronto) contain beautiful steel engravings of the Prince and Princess of Wales, Osborne Castle, and the Princess Helena. The portrait of the Prince is particularly good. Chapter V. deals with the coronation, and "The Maiden Queen" is treated of in the following chapter, "girl-like in her fondness of a racket and perpetual excitement." In her "Journal" Her Majesty "thanks God that none of her dear children are exposed to the dangers" of the position of a maiden queen of eighteen. "A worse school," says the Queen, "for a young girl, or one more detrimental to all natural feeling and affection cannot well be imagined." Chapter VII is devoted to "the betrothal," and how the young queen subsided from the liege lady to the loving woman. In the Eighth chapter is a minute account of Her Majesty's marriage, and in Chapter IX. the royal pair are subjected to critical survey as man and wife. The author comments on the fact that time has confirmed the proud and glad condition of the first day of wedlock, when the Queen wrote to Baron Stockmer: "There cannot exist a dearer, purer, nobler being in the world than the Prince."