

HESPERUS.*

IN a late issue, we republished a very favourable notice which appeared in a British Journal, of Mr. Sangster's last volume. A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country; and in illustration of this truth we could point to more than one of our Canadian Poets, whose productions have been more highly appreciated both in Great Britain and the United States than here. It is not creditable to us, as a people, that we should allow works to remain unread, which are winning for Canadian Literature a name and place in the world.

Take, for instance, Mr. Heavyside's "Saul." When it first appeared it attracted but little attention from the public, and if noticed by the press, the reviewers exhausted their stock of ridicule in dealing with it. Every defect was magnified—passages of originality and genius were pooh-poohed—and it was not until a copy of the work came into the possession of an English reviewer, whose eyes were not blinded by local prejudices, that it secured the appreciation it merited. We are not aware that Mr. Sangster has to complain of adverse criticisms from the Canadian press, but notwithstanding the undoubted excellence of the volume, as a whole, we believe the publication of "Hesperus" has not been so financially successful as it deserved. We trust this notice may direct the attention of our readers to the work, and that the first edition may be speedily exhausted and a second one called for.

STORIES TOLD TO A CHILD. By the author of "Studies for Stories." Strahan & Co., London and Montreal.

These delightful stories, we believe, are from the pen of Miss Jean Ingelow, and it is unnecessary to add that they are told with a great deal of ability. The delineations of character are life-like, and in the descriptive portions the author displays a great command over the picturesque. Although the tone of some of them is rather sad they will not, probably, on that account be less popular with thoughtful children.

The wood cuts are good, and one or two of them very quaint and fanciful. We shall probably publish one of the stories in our next issue, for the benefit of our young readers.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

GUSTAVUS Doré's magnificently illustrated Bible is out of print—all the copies of the first edition having been sold by the publisher. It will take four or five months to complete another edition, as the bringing-up of the wood engravings, the hot-pressing of the paper, and the arranging of the borders, will occupy some time.

A "fresh amusement," in the shape of "Jamaica—a New Entertainment," is announced in London. Among three millions of people, there is plenty of room, we suppose, for tastes to differ.

A new work, by the author of "John Halifax," is announced, entitled "A Noble Life." Falkner Lyle is the title of a new novel by Mark Lemon.

Authors and artists frequently smart under the severities of adverse criticism. An artist has recently adopted a new method of retaliation. Mr. Ernest Griset, a clever draughtsman of animals and droll figures, was somewhat slightly spoken of in a notice in the *Athenæum* a short time since. The artist conceived himself aggrieved, and forthwith produced a sketch of his supposed reviewer engaged in a very dyspeptic mood upon a criticism of his dew book. A cat, in attempting an affectionate purr, is savagely kicked, and the picture is further heightened with other pleasantries. This sketch has been placed in the shop-window near Leicester-square, where the artist first made his *début*, with the objectionable criticism beneath, and he notices from the *Times*, the *Saturday Review*, and other journals, arranged around in triumph. Crowds of people, block up the pavement to behold this new style of appeal against an art criticism.

* Hesperus and other Poems, and Lyrics by Chas. Sangster; Kingston. Montreal: R. Worthington.

The English reviewers are severe upon Barnum's new book. The *Court Journal* says: The Humbugs of the World," with an immense deal of bookmaking about it, and second-hand, threadbare information respecting Eve; the tempting serpent; the Delphic oracle; mediæval pretenders to illumination; Count Cagliostro; and various other persons and matters about which we care nothing, and know quite as much, if not a great deal more, than Barnum himself. We doubt if he had any hand in the composition at all, and suspect his latest humbug is putting his name to a compilation vamped up by some mercenary hack.

Messrs. Cassell & Co., London, are about to start a new weekly paper, "The Working Man: A Weekly Record of Social and Industrial Progress."

The Emperor of the French, has taken two shares in a new paper, which is to be started with a capital of one hundred thousand francs, in ten shares.

A reprint was issued in a short time since London of a rare little tract entitled the "Soldier's Pocket Bible, containing the most (if not all) those places contained in Holy Scripture which do show the qualifications of his inner man—that is, a fit souldier to fight the Lord's Battels, both before the fight, in the fight, and after the fight." It has often been said that the soldiers in Cromwell's army were each supplied with a pocket Bible, though no evidence existed to show what edition it could be. A short time since the tract in question was discovered, and is no doubt what every Commonwealth soldier was furnished with by the Government, though only two copies are now known to be in existence.

The French papers abound in gossip respecting Victor Hugo. He is said to have received from his Brussels publishers a sum equal to 150,000 francs for his forthcoming book "Les Travailleurs de la Mer," and for a series of volumes of poems, "Les Chansons des Rues et des Bois," the first of which was lately published, 40,000 francs per volume for twelve years' right of publication. As his gains by "Les Misérables" are said to amount to nearly half a million of francs, the sum total of his receipts reaches a very respectable "figure." His literary activity keeps pace with the public eagerness, and a new book by Victor Hugo, the incidents of which are laid in England, to appear simultaneously in French and English editions, has already been secured by an eminent London publishing firm.

If the relics of saints are at a discount, the current prices of relics of literature show no symptoms of a falling market as the following specimens will prove. Mr. Ellis of King street, Covent Garden, London, offers a copy of an edition of the Greek poet, Lycophron (Geneva, 1601), "rendered famous by having been once the property of the immortal Milton, who has inscribed on the fly leaf, Sumex Libris Jo. Miltoni, 1634, and has also added a considerable number of notes on the margin," it is valued at £52 10s. its possessor. The same enterprising dealer has a copy of the much-coveted "First Folio Shakespeare" (1623), apparently above all price, as none is mentioned. It is described as "one of the finest copies extant, not excepting that of Miss Burdett Coutts, which cost her £787, and in one respect the most desirable copy known, being the only one existing in old morocco binding of the commencement of the last century. It is preserved in a case made from the wood of Herne's oak, in Windsor Park, carved with the poet's arms and monogram." Another dealer offers a volume "Gesneris Mithridates" (1555), "with two lines autograph and signature on the title, su. Ben Jonson, and remarkable passages underlined by the dramatist," for £3 13s. 6d., and a presentation copy of Burke's "Reflections on the revolution in France" (1790), with the autograph inscription, "From the author, with great respect to Miss Goring, E. B.," for £1 5s. Coming down to later times, a volume of original manuscripts of the late Thomas Hood, "a most interesting collection, entirely in the handwriting of the eminent poet and humorist,

containing a variety of his published and unpublished writings, all in the finest preservation, mounted and inscribed with care and nicety in a royal folio volume," is valued at £20 6s. and a French work, "Costumes Françaises—Civil Militaires, et Religieuses," formerly in the possession of W. M. Thackeray, and containing original designs by him, presenting all the vivid life and character so peculiar to his pencil," is estimated at £12 12s.

Mr. Frank Buckland, the son of the eminent Dean Buckland, the great geologist, has in press a third series of his "Curiosities of Natural History," in two volumes post octavo, with illustrations, to be published by Mr. Bently. Mr. Buckland will shortly appear as editor of a new magazine to be called "Land and Water," dealing with the various sports of field and foam.

A new work by Henry Fawcett, the blind professor of political economy at the University of Cambridge, and M. P., for Brighton in the new Parliament, has just been published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co.—"The Economic Position of the British Laborer." His "Manual of Political Economy" has lately reached a second edition. Professor Fawcett was born in 1833, the son of a Wiltshire gentleman. He adopted the law as his profession, but ten years later his legal studies were interrupted by the peculiarly distressing accident whose consequences influenced his future life. In the autumn of 1858, Mr. Fawcett was spending the vacation at home, and, while engaged in partridge-shooting with other members of his family, he received two stray shots from his father's gun, each shot piercing the centre of either eye-ball and rendering him hopelessly blind. This lamentable occurrence made a change of pursuit necessary, and he consequently devoted himself to political economy.

PROFESSOR OWEN'S great and long promised work on the "Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of the Vertebrate Animals" is at last ready for publication. It will consist of three volumes, the first one to appear on December 14, the second on the first of March next, and the third during the spring. It will be illustrated with upwards of twelve hundred engravings on wood, which have required a long period of time for their execution. The work will be issued by Messrs. Longmans.

MR. S. O. HALL was the lecturer at the last free lecture of the season at the Crystal Palace Sydenham. He chose for his subject "Memories of the Authors of the Age," in which he recounted his personal reminiscences of some of our most distinguished writers who have passed from us. Very characteristic was an anecdote of Ettrick Shepherd. He had been invited to dine at Mr. Hall's. Amongst the company was Miss Landon, then in the full zenith of her popularity. Hogg, whose criticisms upon the poetical effusions of L. E. L. had been somewhat severe, greeted the lady with "I did not know ye were so bonny; I've said many hard things about ye, but I did not know ye were so bonny." It is clear that the "Shepherd" would not have said these "hard things" about the lady's poetry had he known the pretty woman who wrote it. But what would he have done with "Our Village," if personal beauty was so essentially a part of his canon of criticism? Miss Mary Russett Mitford, whom L. E. L. declared to be the ideal of Sancho Panza in petticoats, was one of the kindest of women, but her dumpy figure often raised a laugh against her. On one occasion she had come to dine with the Halls, when her host found she was, in some way or other, the subject of some suppressed merriment. Her dress, never very well assorted, was set off on the occasion by a yellow turban, more striking than becoming. Her host considerably tried to discover the cause of this merriment, nor was he long in doing so. On the back of the head-dress was a shop-ticket, "Very Chaste, 5s. 6d." The turban had been purchased on her way, ere she joined the party invited to meet her. Mr. Hall quietly removed the ticket without Miss Mitford being aware of its existence.

"LETTERS D'UN MORR" will be the title of M. Emile de Girardin's series of letters on the French Government and political parties, which is about to appear in the *Presse*.