

REVIEWS.

They still hold sway in England, and are as vigorous as their many imitators started in later years. It may not be amiss to give a sketch of their origin and general scope.

The *Edinburgh Review* was commenced in the year 1802. Its founders and earliest contributors were Sidney Smith, Francis Jeffrey, and Brougham, the latter of whom is said to have written six articles in the first number. In those days, however, some of the articles were very short—not more than two or three pages in length; sometimes a number contained nineteen articles, now there are rarely more than ten. In the first twenty numbers Jeffreys wrote seventy-five articles, Sidney Smith twenty-three, Francis Horner fourteen, and Brougham eighty. Its political principles were in accordance with those of the Whigs, and they were advocated with such ability that the Tories felt the necessity of establishing a rival organ, and in 1809 the first number of

The *Quarterly Review* made its appearance. Its success was immediate; the circulation is said to have risen soon to 12,000 copies. Wm. Gifford was the editor; and among its contributors were Canning, Walter Scott, John Wilson Croker, John Hookham Frere, and Southey. Jeffrey of the *Edinburgh*, and Gifford of the *Quarterly*, held absolute sway in the critical world for many years. Gifford died in 1826; Jeffrey in 1850. Lockhart, the son-in-law of Walter Scott, succeeded Gifford as editor.

The *Westminster Review* was started in 1823 by Jeremy Bentham, with Sir Wm. Molesworth, John Bowring, James Mill, and Roebuck for principal contributors, as the organ of the Reformers, advocating Public Economy, Free Trade, Law Reform, and Catholic Emancipation. Subsequently the *London Review* came out in the same cause. The *Foreign Quarterly Review* made its appearance in 1827, and occupied itself, as implied by its name, with Continental Literature. In 1836 the *London* and the *Westminster* were combined, and published as "*The London and Westminster Review*." A change of proprietorship occurring in 1840, the word "*London*" was dropped, and the original title

"*Westminster Review*" restored; and finally, in 1846, the *Foreign Quarterly Review* was united with the *Westminster*, and at the same time the section known as Contemporary Literature was commenced, giving short notices of recent works, both foreign and domestic.

The *British Quarterly Review* was commenced in 1845. It was founded by the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, a distinguished Congregational minister, who considered that the numerical strength and literary resources of the Nonconformists justified the establishment of a first-class quarterly review.

Blackwood's Magazine was projected by Wm. Blackwood, a bookseller in Edinburgh, in the year 1817, in the interests of Toryism. The *Edinburgh Review* had proved so potent an auxiliary of the Whigs, that it was felt important to establish some check to its influence in Edinburgh. W. Laidlaw and Thomas Pringle, with occasional material furnished by Walter Scott, took charge of the early numbers; but the editorship soon passed into the hands of Professor Wilson (the far-famed Christopher North), round whom rallied a band of young men of talent, scholarship and ambition, who soon gave the Magazine an influence and reputation which have attended it up to the present time. Wilson died in 1854.

THE VOTERS' LISTS ACT WITH NOTES; together with some remarks upon the Voters' Lists Finality Act, by the Junior Judge of the County of Simcoe. Barrie: Wesley & King. 1878.

This is a most useful little work. Judge Ardagh's "Suggestions to Municipal Officers; relating chiefly to their duties in respect to Voters' Lists, was so well received that he was encouraged to proceed further. Most accurate in his information, which is given with great clearness, we shall hope to receive from the pen of this author, when he can find time, a more ambitious volume on this or some other subject with which he is familiar. We recommend all who are interested in the subject, and they are legion, these election times, to procure a copy of it.