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THE CANADIAN LITERARY NEWS LETTER

And Booksellers' Advertiser.

Vol. I.

MONTREAL, JANUARY, 1855.

No. 1.

THE CANADIAN LITERARY NEWS LETTER.

The frequent applications made to the Colonial Trade, respecting new works issued from the press in Great Britain and the United States, their prices, sizes, &c., and which in many instances they are unable to answer promptly and satisfactorily, have induced the Publisher to undertake the present **monthly Literary News Letter**. In one of the leading divisions will be presented Lists of the latest published works in Europe and America—the prices quoted will be those current at the places of publication, to which, of course, the Canadian bookseller will have to add a reasonable advance to cover difference in currency, freight, insurance, and his own profit. Another division will contain brief notices or criticisms of the most important new books taken from the best informed sources, discoveries or improvements in science and art, anecdotes of Literary men, &c. &c. Free use will be made of all the best Literary Journals, and such private means of information as are accessible respecting new books, authors, &c. In the present number, we have been greatly indebted to the London Athenæum, Bent's (London) Literary List, and Norton's (N. York) Literary Gazette. The concluding pages will be devoted to Publishers' advertisements of their books, newly issued or about to issue from the press. The Trade in Britain and the United States are invited to avail themselves of the columns of the News Letter, for making their publications known. Terms, 3d. or 5 cents per line, payable in advance.

TO ADVERTISERS.—The circulation of the *News Letter* is guaranteed to be 2500, and it will be carefully and judiciously distributed by different Booksellers throughout the Province among Literary Institutions, Clergymen, Lawyers, Physicians, Engineers, Merchants, and others likely to be interested in such a publication. An excellent opportunity is thus afforded to advertisers to make their respective publications known. Publishers in the United States may communicate with the undersigned direct, and orders left with Messrs. Trubner & Co., Paternoster Row, London, will be transmitted to Montreal.

Montreal.

H. RAMSAY.

ENGLISH COPYRIGHT IN THE COLONIES.

From the *London Athenæum* 23rd Dec.

ADVICES from the Cape of Good Hope bring a piece of intelligence, against which it is necessary for all men of letters, for all who respect literature, and for all who desire to maintain an honourable character for the trade in books, to enter instant protest. This African colony has just received a constitution,—and the first use to which it has turned its initiative of legislation is to pass a Bill to rob the authors of the parent country. Incredible as it may sound, a Bill has actually passed both Houses of the Colonial Parliament, authorizing "the importation into the colony of the Cape of Good Hope of books, being foreign reprints of books first composed or written, or printed, or published, in the United Kingdom, and in which there shall be copyright."—In other words, the American pirate system is introduced into the colony! Such a Bill is equally preposterous and wicked. Admit the principle, and all our colonies will adopt the rule. It is cheaper to appropriate than to purchase. What is good in Cape Colony will be thought good in Australia, Canada, Hindostan and the West Indies. Of course, we do not for one moment believe that this pirate Bill will be sanctioned here, unless by oversight. The Act of Parliament gives the

English author a property in his intellectual labour in the British Empire; Cape Colony is part of that Empire; and a local Act cannot be allowed to invade an Imperial right. But literature must defend itself against these inroads. Sorry are we to see the first session of the colonial legislature disgraced by the passing of such a Bill; the more so as the colonists must feel that they are offering an unprofitable insult to England, for we trust there is no possibility of a Bill being accepted by the Queen, the bases of which are laid in moral wrong and in violation of an Imperial statute.

From the *London Athenæum* 30th Dec.

"In your observations in last week's *Athenæum* on the enactment of a law at the Cape of Good Hope, permitting American reprints to be imported into that colony, you properly say—Admit the principle, and all our colonies will adopt the rule. What is good in Cape Colony will be thought good in Australia, Canada, Hindostan, and the West Indies." Now, my belief is, that a law of this very kind is already in operation in the British American colonies, where, during my late visit, I found American reprints of British copyrights on every book-eller's counter. Inquiring into the subject in Nova Scotia, I was informed that, by a lately enacted colonial law, such pirated reprints were admitted on payment of a certain fine or duty, the amount of which was to be handed over to the proprietors of the copyright works so imported; but on pressing the question, I learned that not one farthing had ever been so paid over to any English publisher. Whether, however, there is such a sham law or not, the result is practically the same. Reprints of books and periodicals from New York are admitted in vast abundance without the slightest obstacle into Canada, and all the other British American possessions; and as these countries are becoming great and populous, and with a prevalent taste for English literature, the damage done to British publishers is more than can be justly estimated. Publishers in this country, as a class, have surely been remiss in allowing this gross invasion of their rights to go on so long; and unless they speedily interpose, their exports to the colonies will at no very distant day cease altogether. The question, indeed, has another bearing. The stoppage of the trade in pirated editions to the colonies would be felt as a severe blow by piratical American houses and help materially to promote the enactment of a law of international copyright in the United States. As a complaint from one party can be of little avail, I should recommend a meet-

ing of English publishers to consider what steps should be adopted.—Yours, &c.

W. CHAMBERS."

"Edinburgh, December 26."

The Editor of the *Athenæum* and his correspondent, Mr. W. Chambers, have wasted a great deal of wholesome indignation upon the Cape of Good for legalizing the import of foreign reprints of English Books. "This African Colony," as it is somewhat contemptuously styled, is only availing itself of a privilege sanctioned by law, in the same way as New Brunswick, Canada, and other colonies had previously done. Both writers appear to be ignorant of the legislation which took place some years ago respecting copyrights, and, indeed, we know that few, if any, of the publishers in England—the parties most interested in the matter—are any better informed.

The law is not "a sham" of provincial manufacture, as Mr. W. Chambers supposes, but emanates from a quarter for which he will doubtless entertain more respect. The Imperial Statute 10 & 11 Victoria, Cap. 95, enacts as follows:—"That in case the Legislature, or proper Legislative Authorities, in any British possession, shall be disposed to make due provision for securing or protecting the rights of *British Authors* in such possession, and shall pass an act, or make an ordinance for that purpose, and shall transmit the same in the proper manner to the Secretary of State, in order that it may be submitted to Her Majesty, and in case Her Majesty shall be of opinion that such act or ordinance is sufficient for the purpose of securing to *British Authors* reasonable protection within such possession, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty if She shall think fit so to do, to express Her Royal approval of such act or ordinance, and thereupon to issue an Order in Council, declaring that so long as the provisions of such act or ordinance continued in force within such colony, the prohibitions contained in the aforesaid acts, and hereinbefore recited, and any prohibitions contained in the said acts, or in any other acts against the importing, selling, letting-out to hire, exposing for sale or hire, or possessing foreign reprints of books first composed, written, printed or published in the United Kingdom, and entitled to copyright therein, shall be suspended, so far as regards such colony; and thereupon such act or ordinance shall come into operation, except so far as may be otherwise provided therein, or as may be otherwise

prescribed by such Order in Council, any single copy from Britain. Doubtless it was thought, that as it was clearly impossible to other act to the contrary notwithstanding." guard against smuggling along so vast a country, it would serve a good purpose to impose

The Canadian Parliament, as well as that of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and other provinces, availed themselves of the provisions in the Imperial Statute. In Canada the Act 13 & 14 Victoria, Cap. 6, was passed, by which the Governor in Council was empowered to lay a duty, not exceeding twenty per cent, on foreign reprints of British works imported into the colony. This Statute was confirmed by the Queen, and duly published in the London Gazette. Copies laid on the tables of both Houses of Parliament, and all the terms prescribed in the English Statute strictly complied with. The Governor General being thus in a position to put the law in force, His Excellency with the advice of his Council, fixed an ad-valorem duty of 12½ per cent to be paid on the importation into Canada of foreign reprints of such copyright works—the amount of the duty, less the cost of advertising, postage, &c., was to be remitted yearly, on the 5th of January, to the Colonial Secretary, for payment to the parties beneficially interested in the copyrights of the works imported.

It is quite clear that if the "African Colony" makes the same provision for a duty to be paid on reprints as the American Colonies have done, the Law will be entitled to receive the sanction of the Queen. The wisdom and justice of the legislation we have described cannot be defended. It was bad enough for the Publishers in the United States to avail themselves of the rich products of the English press. In their case, however, it was "a spoiling of the Egyptians," but as respects the colonists, by their importing and using such foreign reprints they were taking advantage of their own bretheren and fellow subjects. We suspect that the peculiar position of Canada both as regards her intercourse with the United States and Britain had something to do in forcing legislation on the Imperial Parliament. Shut out for five months of the year from the means of direct importation from England, and bounded on a most extensive frontier by the United States, where books were produced at very low prices, it was not to be wondered at, that a large illicit traffic should have sprung up. Before the trade was legalized there were at least one hundred American volumes imported for one

single copy from Britain. Doubtless it was thought, that as it was clearly impossible to guard against smuggling along so vast a country, it would serve a good purpose to impose a duty which might be of some benefit to the holder of the copyright. The maximum named in the Canadian Act—20 per cent, should we think have been adhered to, and as it must be a matter of great difficulty to keep accounts for so large a number of parties interested, it would have been preferable if the total amount had been devoted to a fund, for the support of such authors and Publishers as might from age, and in different circumstances, or the misfortunes of trade require assistance. We suspect that the cost of collecting will pretty nearly balance the amount of duty, but we will make inquiry on the subject in the proper quarter, and report in our next.

The House of Lords having lately determined that Foreigners cannot protect their copyrights in England, a great deal of valuable literary property has been made available to the publishers of cheap editions. Among others, Messrs. Routledge & Co. issue in neat form the works of Fenimore Cooper the Novelist, Prescott and Bancroft, the Historians, at prices much below those charged by the publishers in the United States. So long as British authors were unprotected in America the question of an international copyright law was one exceedingly distasteful to our neighbours, but now that their own citizens are similarly treated in Britain, it may perhaps be more favourably entertained. Formerly the sums paid by London publishers to authors of the same standing as those we have named above were very large—indeed more, we believe, than what they received from their own countrymen. It is full time that this diamond cut diamond style of using the productions of the most eminent men of both countries should be brought to a close. An international law of copyright would not only effect this, but do away with the complaints against the colonies, noticed elsewhere, for permitting the importation of foreign reprints.

The Life and Correspondence of CHARLES Lord METCALFE, late Governor General of Canada, by John W. Kaye, 2 vols.—London, Bentley. Montreal, John Armour.

This is a most instructive work, and should

be extensively read. Like the Despatches and Correspondence of Wellington, it serves to show to what a pitch of elevation in the State, the exercise of energy and decision of character joined to high moral principle and cultivated mind, can raise the man who is blessed with the possession of these qualities. From Metcalfe's first landing in India, almost a boy, till worn out by a cruel disease, and the arduous labours of a long and useful career, he quietly breathed his last, in his native England, we watch his progress with unflagging interest and delight. Scarcely a page but reveals some trace of his noble nature—be it courage—it is shewn when though a civilian, he went forward among the first to the storming of an Indian Fortress—or when despite the frown and discountenance of his superiors, he unravelled and denounced the gigantic commercial conspiracy which lorded over the east so long; or be it benevolence—his princely hospitality—his numerous good deeds are everywhere abundantly revealed; or be it his diplomatic skill, his different Treaties with the native princes and his masterly Indian Reports, are all evidences that he possessed that quality in an eminent degree.

The latter portion of the second volume is devoted to Lord Metcalfe's administration of the government of Canada. Parties in the Province differ, as a matter of course, in their estimate of the value to be put upon his Lordship's services, but none can deny the strict integrity that governed his conduct throughout the very trying period of his Government. This portion of the Editor's labour is the least successfully performed,—the materials for the Indian history appear to have been abundant and trustworthy, but the comments on Canadian politics and public men must have been based on very defective or partial information. The following sketches of Mr. Hincks, and Mr. Lafontaine are fairly enough given, but men of all shades of politics will we are sure indignantly deny that the portrait of Mr. Baldwin bears any resemblance to the original.

"The Inspector-General of Accounts, or Chief Finance-Minister, was Mr. Hincks. He was in many respects a remarkable man. The son of an eminent Irish divine, he had settled in Canada many years before, and had devoted himself to literary pursuits. The literature which he cultivated was the literature of politics. He became editor and proprietor of a leading Liberal journal, the *Toronto Examiner*. The ability with which he conducted the paper rendered it a formidable political organ. From this condition of colonial

journalist, the influence of which in troubled times is not to be estimated by the social position it confers, he was elevated to high official rank by Sir Charles Bagot. Even the most strenuous of his opponents admitted his fitness for the office he held. He was an excellent accountant and financier. It was represented to Sir Charles Metcalfe that he was by far the best man of business in the Council—clear-headed, methodical, persevering, and industrious. But as a partisan he was vehement and unscrupulous; with a tongue that cut like a sword, and no discretion to keep it in order.

The two foremost men in the Council remain yet to be noticed—Mr. Lafontaine and Mr. Baldwin, the Attorneys General for Lower and Upper Canada. The former was a French Canadian and the leader of his party in the Colonial Legislature, as he had been, since Papineau's retirement, the leader of his people before they had been permitted to take part in the Councils of the State. All his better qualities were natural to him; his worse were the growth of circumstances. Cradled, as he and his people had been, in wrong, smarting for long years under the oppressive exclusiveness of the dominant race, he had become mistrustful and suspicious; and the doubts which were continually floating in his mind, had naturally engendered there indecision and infirmity of purpose. But he had many fine characteristics, which no evil circumstances could impair. He was a just and an honorable man. His motives were above all suspicion. Warmly attached to his country, earnestly seeking the happiness of his people, he occupied a high position rather by the force of his moral than his intellectual qualities. He was trusted and respected rather than admired. As the leader of an important and an united party he occupied a large space in the eyes of the public; and without any particular fitness for such prominent action, was now about to take a conspicuous part in the great events which were rapidly developing themselves.

A far abler and more energetic man was Mr. Robert Baldwin—the son of a gentleman of Toronto, of American descent, who had formerly been a member of what was called the "Family Compact." The elder Baldwin had quarrelled with his party, and with the characteristic bitterness of a renegade, had brought up his son in extremest hatred of his old associates, and had instilled into him the most liberal opinions. Robert Baldwin was an apt pupil; and there was much in the circumstances by which he was surrounded—in the atrocious misgovernment of his country, in the oppressive exclusiveness of a dominant faction, and in the political convulsions which it had engendered—to rivet him in the extreme opinions which he had imbibed in his youth. So he grew up to be an enthusiast—almost a fanatic. He was thoroughly in earnest; thoroughly conscientious; but he was to the last degree uncompromising and intolerant. He seemed to delight in strife. The might of mildness he laughed to scorn. It was said of him, that he was not satisfied with a victory unless it was gained by violence—that concessions were valueless to him unless he wrenched them with a strong hand from his opponent. Of an unbounded arrogance and self-conceit, he made no allowances for others, and sought none for himself. There was a sort of sublime egotism about him—a magnificent self-esteem, which caused him to look upon himself as a patriot, whilst he was serving his own ends by the promotion of his ambition, the gratification of his vanity or his spite. His strong passions and his uncompromising spirit made him a mischievous party-leader and a dangerous opponent. His influence was very great. He was not a mean man; he was above corruption; and there were many who accepted his estimate of himself, and believed him to be the only pure patriot in the country. During the illness of Sir Charles Bagot he had usurped the

Government. The activity of Sir Charles Metcalfe, who did everything for himself and exerted himself to keep every one in his proper place, was extremely distasteful to him. He did not understand the character of the man who had been sent to govern them; and it would have been strange, indeed, if one so blinded by passion and self-esteem, and so intolerant of opposition, had not soon wrought himself into a state of furious antagonism to the Governor-General.

The manner in which Metcalfe was raised to the Peerage is not generally known. We quote the correspondence which took place on the occasion.

SIR ROBERT PEELE TO SIR CHARLES METCALFE.

WHITEHALL, December 1, 1843.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have great satisfaction in submitting to her Majesty my advice that, as a public mark of her Majesty's cordial approbation of the judgment, ability, and fidelity with which you have discharged the important trust confided to you by her Majesty, the distinction of the Peerage should be conferred upon you.

"I would say more if I did not feel assured that the most gratifying communication which I can make to you is the simple transmission of a copy of the letter which her Majesty was pleased to write to me, signifying her Majesty's hearty approval of the proposal which it was my gratifying duty to make to her Majesty.

"I have the honor to be,

"My dear Sir, with sincere esteem,

"Most faithfully yours,

"ROBERT PEELE."

SIR ROBERT PEELE TO THE QUEEN.

WHITEHALL, November 30, 1844.

"Sir Robert Peel, with his humble duty to your Majesty, begs leave to submit for your Majesty's favorable consideration the claim of Sir Charles Metcalfe for some distinguished mark of your Majesty's approbation.

"Lord Stanley is strongly impressed with the belief that such a proof of your Majesty's confidence and favor would greatly strengthen him in the execution of his arduous task were it announced at the eventful crisis of the opening of the Canadian Legislature, which will assemble early in December.

"Sir C. Metcalfe has persevered in the discharge of his public duties amidst every difficulty that factious combination could offer to him, and under the pressure of severe and depressing bodily suffering.

"Sir Robert Peel humbly recommends to your Majesty that, for the purpose of marking your Majesty's cordial approbation of the services of a most able and faithful officer of the Crown, of aiding him in the discharge of a most important public trust, and of giving confidence and animation to the Canadian friends and supporters of Sir Charles Metcalfe, and of connexion with the mother country, Sir Charles Metcalfe should receive the honor of an English Barony, and that your Majesty's gracious commands in this respect should be notified to him by the next mail, if your Majesty be pleased to approve of his elevation to the Peerage."

THE QUEEN TO SIR ROBERT PEELE.

WINDSOR CASTLE, November 30, 1844.

"The Queen hastens to answer Sir Robert Peel's letter of this morning relative to Sir Charles Metcalfe. The Queen most highly approves Sir Robert Peel's suggestion that Sir Charles Metcalfe should be raised to the Peerage; for he has shown such a desire to do his duty in the midst of so many difficulties, and such extreme disinterestedness, that he richly deserves this mark of the Queen's entire approbation and favor."

Lord Metcalfe as is well known to our readers did not long enjoy his well won honour. The rapid progress of the cruel dis-

ease of which he died, necessitated the abandonment of his Government. During life he had always been punctual in the discharge of his religious duties, and as it drew to a close, his meditations on sacred things became more frequent, and were profitable. Let us hope, in building him up in the faith and preparing him to meet calmly the common lot of humanity.

"Towards the close of the month of August it became more and more obvious that dissolution was rapidly approaching. An irritative fever had set in; and they who loved him best could hardly desire that it should not prove fatal, when the alternative seemed to be a lingering death by the hideous process of extending ulceration. There were inward warnings which told him that his sufferings were now nearly at an end. Most of those whom he loved best were beneath his roof; but there was one absent—one whom, as death approached he earnestly desired to see. This was Mary Higginson, then seven years old—the eldest daughter of the cherished friend and companion who had followed his fortunes all over the world. He had been tenderly attached to the child ever since her birth, and he now said to Captain Higginson, who was then at Malshanger, "I think the termination of my sufferings must now be close at hand. I desire to see Mary before it comes. Hitherto, on her account, I have denied myself the gratification; but now—go and fetch her to me!" Two days afterwards she came. The meeting quite overcame him. But he recovered his composure after a while, and the presence of the child seemed to comfort him. She remained at Malshanger for a week, spending much of her time in Metcalfe's room, and reading the Scriptures to him every day. At the end of that time he said to her father, "I cannot have many days now to live—you had better take Mary away, that the dear child may not remain to witness the event." Before Captain Higginson could return, the sufferings of the noble patient were at an end.

This child of seven years read God's blessed word to the dying statesman, and he received the glad tidings of salvation as a little child. He was a man, naturally of a reserved disposition. He was not wont to talk much of things that lay very near to his heart. And he was pre-eminently of a nature so sincere and honest that he shrank from anything that might appear like an ostentation of religious feeling, the reality of which, in his self-questioning humility, he might have sometimes permitted himself to doubt. Of his habitual reverence and his gratitude to the Giver of all good gifts incidental proof has already been afforded. He lived in a continual state of thankfulness, which even the agonies of his latter days could not quench or diminish. But it is not thus that the faith of Charles Metcalfe is to be described. He had an abiding sense of the efficacy of the atonement. He rested all his hopes on the blood of the Lamb. They who were most about his person during the closing scenes of his life saw his spirit depart without a doubt of his acceptance. The power of searching the Scriptures for himself had long been denied to him. But sisterly affection had supplied the want which his failing organs of sight had entailed upon him; and every day it had been Mrs. Smythe's privilege to read to him those passages of the Gospel which contain the blessed assurance of forgiveness through Christ. He listened to them hopefully; assented reverently to their truth; and, in the midst of all his great trials derived from them unspeakable consolation.

He had received many letters, some from friends and some from strangers, descanting on the great doctrines of the Christian faith, and exhorting him to cast everything, all that the world can bestow

or inflict upon the most honored and the most-suffering of its inmates, at the foot of the Cross. Among others, Daniel Wilson, the Apostolic Bishop of Calcutta, who was then, after years of faithful service, recruiting his health in England, wrote him a letter full of brotherly love, setting forth the great truth so clearly, that all else appeared dullness and obscurity beside the light of his holy teaching. As the world faded away before the suffering man, such tokens of loving-kindness were precious to him, though the lessons they contained might not have been needed. He had long known the way; and if, as the grave opened to receive him, he was sometimes cheered by the thought of the hungry whom he had fed, the naked whom he had clothed, and the houseless whom he had sheltered, he did not on that account, as the great change approached, lean for support on his own merits.

On the 4th of September, Lord Metcalfe, for the first time did not leave his sleeping apartment. The extreme debility of the sufferer forbade any exertion. There was little apparent change except in a disinclination to take the nourishment offered to him. On the following morning, however, the change was very apparent. It was obvious that he was sinking fast. Unwilling to be removed to his bed, he sat for the greater part of the day in a chair, breathing with great difficulty. In the afternoon he sent for the members of his family, laid his hands upon their heads as they knelt beside him, and breathed the blessing which he could not utter. Soon afterwards he was conveyed to his bed. For the first time for years he seemed to be entirely free from pain. His mind was unclouded to the last. The serene expression of his countenance indicated that he was in perfect peace. The last sounds which reached him were the sweet strains of his sister's harp, raising a hymn of praise to the Great Father, into one of the many mansions of whose house he believed that he was about to enter. "How sweet those sounds are," he was heard to whisper almost with his dying breath. He sank very gently to rest. About eight o'clock on the evening of the 5th of September, 1846, with a calm sweet smile on his long-tortured face, Charles Theophilus, first and last Lord Metcalfe, rendered up his soul to his Maker."

GREAT BRITAIN.

REVIEWS.

(From the *Athenæum*.)

The Life of P. F. Barnum. Written by himself. Low and Co.

Confession in the order—may we not say the *dis-order*?—of the day. In obedience to the fashion, Mr. Barnum, with a readiness reminding us of *Topsh's* "clean breast," has sat down to do what George Sand and his own countrywoman, Mrs. Mowatt, have done before him. By confessing the divers impostures and experiments on public credulity which have raised him from the ranks to a confidential friendship with the most virtuous *artiste* in Europe—to the ownership of a sort of American Abbotsford, his princely palace of Iranistan—and to the possession of a luxurious competence—Mr. Barnum has produced a book which reminds us of one of Defoe's picaresque romances. True, the charm of Defoe's racy and picturesque language is wanting to the record, and we are surprised that a man so ingenious did not call in first-rate literary assistance. There are materials here which Mr. Alexandre Dumas could have spread out into twenty volumes, and which if judiciously administered to the public might have furnished Mr. Barnum's palace of "retired leisure" with a tower as high as Mr. Beckford's,—and a fountain more surprising than the wonder at Chatsworth. On the other hand, any partner admitted to Mr. Barnum's confidence might have failed in keeping up the right tone of

appeal so exquisitely as he has done. He confesses himself "a humbug." He was the first who gave himself that serviceable appellation;—but then he claims for himself the merit of being the charlatan of virtue;—if he be a humbug, he is a Christian humbug—a temperance humbug—a moral humbug. "I have had," says he, with an unctious scarcely exceeded by the sanctify of *Mr Pecksniff* himself,—

"and hope always to have, my seasons of loneliness and even sadness; and, though many people may not see how my profession of 'a showman' can be made to appear consistent with my profession of another kind, I must claim having always revered the Christian religion. I have been indebted to Christianity for the most serene happiness of my life, and I would not part with its consolations for all things else in the world. In all my journeys as 'a showman,' the Bible has been my companion, and I have repeatedly read it attentively, from beginning to end."

We have met nothing comparable with the above since we inadvertently on Mrs. Conwell Baron Wilson's raptures over the piety of the late Harriet, Duchess of St. Alban's, because that lady beside her embroidered handkerchief and *vinai-grette*, always wore in her pocket a Bible. At a later page we are treated to "Barnum's Rules for success in Business." [Then follows a searching review of this extraordinary man's history, showing up his gross inconsistencies, his successful shams and impostures and stripping him of the moral qualities with which he has invested himself. It is humiliating to think that for any purpose and to serve any interest such a preposterous humbug should ever have been countenanced.]

Thirty Years of Foreign Policy: a History of the Secretaryships of the Earl of Aberdeen and Viscount Palmerston. By the author of 'The Right Hon. B. Disraeli, M.P.' Longman & Co.

This is rather a pamphlet than a history. The author discourses at large on a text from one of Lord Aberdeen's speeches, in which the proposition was maintained that the foreign policy of England, during the last thirty years, had been inspired by the same principles under the guidance of different ministers. To establish this view, and to narrow, as much as possible, the distance between Lord Palmerston and the present Premier, there is a good deal of ingenuity brought to bear,—so that the political analysis wears on its surface the appearance of victorious demonstration. But while the lines of diplomacy incessantly converge, until they seem to unite in a single channel, and to flow along in a clear and common stream, it becomes evident that the writer, labouring to present a triumphant parallel and an irresistible conclusion, forgets some of the main difficulties of the case, and deserts his logic for the sake of fine casuistries. In one respect, however, his second production is superior to the first: it displays less acrimony, and is less personal in its reflections. But even this merit, we are afraid, is owing, not so much to the author's improved temper, as to the nature of his topic;—he has to deal in modified panegyric, and has little opportunity for innuendo or accusation. When, however, once or twice, the form of a hostile politician rises, it seduces him again into the use of bitter insinuations.

BOOKS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

A Boy's Adventures in the Wilds of Australia; or, Herbert's Note Book. By William Howitt. (Hall & Co.)—All the boys in England, whether "old boys" or young ones, will rejoice in this fascinating book, full of anecdote and wild adventure; sober as we are and little given to roam, it has inspired us with a strong desire to take a journey in the Bush, if we could see the end of it. The descriptions of the scenery, the trees, and the

animals are extremely spirited and graphic,—they have all the appearance of being written on the spot, and are redolent of the fresh open air. We have very seldom read a book of travels that has charmed us so much, and we shall consider that the young folks who find it hanging on the bough of their "Christmas tree" are extremely fortunate.

Paragols for the Fireside; or, Tales of Fact and Fiction. By Peter Parley. (Grant & Griffith.)—This is more to our taste than many other of Peter Parley's books. The stories are told with an unctious that we have often missed. Some of them are extremely interesting—we would instance 'Flint and Steel,' and 'The Children of the Sun,' a tale of Pizarro and Peru.

The Forest Exiles; or, the Perils of a Peruvian Family amid the Wiles of the Amazon. The tale is life-like and animating,—and the descriptions of forest life have a freshness quite peculiar to their story-teller. The character of the old Indian possesses great charms, and his anecdotes of birds, beasts, and plants will render him an interesting person in the eyes of all adventurous holiday-boys with a taste for natural history.

(From the Athenæum.)

THE WAR.—Nothing could be better timed, just now, than a book which describes, without satire, calumny, or idealism, the actual state of matters in the Czar's empire. Such a book is *The Englishwoman in Russia: Impressions of the Russians at Home.* By a Lady. Ten Years Resident in that Country. (Murray.) The writer lived on terms of familiar intimacy with persons of different ranks in the capital and other cities, visited districts which travellers rarely see, and enjoyed a long experience of the interior social life of Russia. Her narrative, therefore, is a record of personal observations, composed with little, if any artistic skill; but simple, lively, pleasant, and apparently truthful. It thus invites, deserves attention as a faithful report upon matters of no little interest at the present time. The character of the Russians as a people,—of their institutions and of their usages,—is not to be judged upon the testimony of flying tourists or deluded prisoners of war. It is fit that we should hear how society develops itself under the sceptre of the Romanoffs; but we must have better evidence than notes of summer trips, reminiscences of ball-rooms and theatres, or grateful acknowledgments by gentlemen who have been hustled in the ante-chambers of the Hermitage, or feasted at a governor's table.

The "Englishwoman in Russia" is not a liberator of the Russian people. She has much to say of their amiable qualities; she admires some of their customs, and has even a good word to bestow, by way of variation, on their Emperor. There her commendations cease. She cannot say that Russia is civilized, or prosperous, or happy. Its society is habitually gloomy, and during its festal seasons rejoices according to a ritual, orders its merriment by a programme, and enters into the Carnival like Tragedy in a comic mask. The region which contains these "barbarous polities" is suitably dull: while dirt and splendour seem to be united in the interior of many a Russian mansion. Some of the "Englishwoman's" remarks on this point are too plainly expressed for quotation; but it were well if she had nothing worse to relate of the Emperor and his "children." One of her earliest glimpses of the social practices in vogue was at night, when she met an escort of Cossacks emerging from St. Petersburg with convicts for Siberia. There was a girl in the party, not seventeen years of age, who had been knouted, and was on her way to exile.

Messrs. Colnaghi & Co. have issued in their series of pictorial illustrations of the War, a large plate representing *The Combined Fleets of England, France, and Turkey attacking Sebastopol, on the 19th of October*, drawn by Mr. O'Reilly,

—a *Battle of the Alma*, taken, as it appears, from the heights to the right of the half-broken bridge, and giving a view of the scene of this great victory not hitherto, we think made public; it is drawn by Major Adye, R. A., and is a very spirited drawing.—another *View of Sebastopol*, taken from the trenches before the town, and chiefly interesting as a memorial of the brave Lieut. Thorold,—and another plate illustrating the *Loss of the Tiger*, from the drawings of Lieut. M. B. Dumm, of H. M. S. the *Niger*.—We have also, from the same prolific press, a couple of plates on a single sheet, being No. 16 of Mr. Dolbey's 'Sketches in the Baltic,' in further illustration of the capture of Bomarsund. One of these represents a party of Chasseurs de Vincennes advancing to the attack,—the other a pleasure party after the assault, where English sailors and French soldiers are refreshing themselves with a dance.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

(From the Athenæum.)

Messrs. Griffin write:—"We observe in last week's *Athenæum* some remarks from a Correspondent as to 'corrected' editions, and a query whether our new edition of Lord Brougham's Works will be revised by the author. We are happy to say that his Lordship is at the present moment engaged in carefully revising and correcting his various writings for this edition."

A New York paper contains a long letter from London on the state of the copyright question, having some strong observations on the transactions of certain publishers in this country. Mr. Bentley comes in for a share of the abuse; the writer hinting doubts of his literary honesty, whispering away the significance of certain facts published by him, and insinuating a general distrust of all statements coming from the house in New Burlington Street. We are not Mr. Bentley's champions or apologists; but there is an unfairness in the letter to which we refer that all honourable minds will at once rebuke. Has Mr. Bentley's house paid—or has it not paid—the alleged amounts to American authors? That is the question. We have Mr. Bentley's authority for stating that the following sums have been paid by his firm for American copyrights, to these American writers:—

—that is, to Mr. Washington Irving, 2,450*l.*—to Mr. Prescott, 2,495*l.*—and to Mr. Fenimore Cooper, 12,590*l.*—in all 17,535*l.* Can any of these facts be denied? If not, where is the justice of classing Mr. Bentley with the literary pirates.

We hear of two literary works "in progress" of unusual interest. One is by M. Kossuth,—the other by M. Mazzini. M. Kossuth, we believe, is preparing for the press a collection of his letters from Turkey, which will probably contain some curious pieces of secret history. A revised edition of the great Magyar's speeches on the question of the day—the war, how to manage it in the interests of freedom—may also be expected from M. Kossuth's hand.—A few weeks ago, contemporaries spoke of M. Mazzini as being engaged, at the instance of an American publisher, on a 'History of Italy.' There was no truth in this rumour. The Roman triumvir, we believe, is employing his leisure on a work likely to be of importance for the future of Italy—the development of the Italian Religious Question.

Our readers will hear with pleasure that the great corporation in Leadenhall Street—a corporation ruling over a hundred millions of men—has taken measures to give practical effect to its liberal theories. Haileybury, so long the sole pathway to employment in our Indian Empire, is to be broken up. In December, 1857, the college will be closed:—and every school and college in the country will be allowed to send its candidates for examination. Oxford influence has had much to

do with this useful change of system. Oxford may possibly become the head-quarters of Oriental learning:—but the advantage gained for itself the University will have to share with humbler institutions. Places of trust and honour in the East will now be open to all candidates.—and the magic words, so often heard in the midst of revolution, "careers open to talent," may become the motto of the Great Company.

Mr. Crofton Croker's library and collection are announced for sale. Many of the books are rare,—including old Anglo-Irish ballads, broadsides, pamphlets and original correspondence.

MEDICAL BOOKS.

A Treatise on Diseases of the Lungs. By A. W. Clarke, M.D. (Highley.)—Few works, even on the diseases "that flesh is heir to," are so painful to read as books on consumption—most painful when, as in Dr. Clarke's case, they are ably written. Indeed, looking at the whole literature of medicine, we doubt if any subject has been more ably treated than diseases of the lungs. But we get no farther. The Registrars' Reports tell the same tale of yearly loss; and the promise of a remedy held out so often by medical writers is so long delayed as to make the heart sick with excitement and baffled hope.

Sudden Death. By A. B. Granville, M. D. (Churchill.)—Who that has read the author's 'St. Petersburg,' 'Spas of Germany,' or 'Spas of England' will doubt that so painful a subject as sudden death in his hands would assume a popular and even interesting character. We opened the book, however, expecting something more especially medical than the above work,—but we have been drawn on, and must confess that Dr. Granville has treated his subject in the fearful manner which its name would suggest. He appears most laboriously to have investigated the Registrar General's documents, and to have proved therein that sudden death is on the increase. He gives a frightful chapter of individual cases, but defers his remedies for another volume. His chapter on early sudden death is one demanding the attention of the legislature, as he gives good reasons for his suspicion that a large amount of this death arises from the practice of infanticide. Should he not pursue the subject any further, he will have called attention to an important class of maladies,—and the result of his researches in the offices of the Registrar show for what important purposes that immense collection of data may be employed. There is one of these results so comforting at the present moment that we cannot but allude to it. He shows that putting together the year of cholera, 1849, with that of the succeeding year, the amount of deaths in the latter was so small that the mortality in the two years together did not exceed the average of the two preceding years 1847 and 1848, although the population had in that time increased considerably. As a book giving the results of some genuine work it is worthy the attention of the medical man and the public.

The Ear in Health and Disease. By W. Harvey, F.R.C.S. (Renshaw.)—Mr Harvey is well known as an aural surgeon; and an epitome like the present, on the functions and diseases of the ear, will form an acceptable volume to the large mass of practitioners who have to attend to these diseases as well as every other which flesh is heir to. The volume contains a number of wood engravings.

FINE ARTS.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Royal Gallery of Art. Edited by S. C. Hall. Part I. Colnaghi & Co.

This work contains a series of engravings from

the private collections of pictures belonging to the Queen and Prince Albert at Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, and Osborne House.

Buckingham Palace is rich in Dutch and Flemish pictures.—Windsor in Italian masters and the works of Rubens and Vandyke. At Osborne there are about five hundred and fifty pictures, chiefly specimens of modern British Art, or choice examples of the Belgian and French schools. Many of these are by living British painters, and this collection has arisen entirely since Her Majesty's accession.

A selection from these works of Art, we are told, is to be engraved by the "best burins," not merely of England, but of France, Germany, and Belgium.

The first number of 'The Royal Gallery of Art' is an instance of the varied subjects with which the Art-world is to be enriched. A great picture at the present day can be scarcely said to influence the world until it has been engraved. Then it reaches the poor artist, who has no time to visit royal collections,—then it educates unperceived the thoughtful boy or the mechanic, who has been reared in ignorance of the beautiful.

Accustomed as we are to seeing the same picture day after day on a hundred walls and in a hundred windows, we can esteem the generous love of Art that led Her Majesty to throw upon her un-used treasures, and increase their usefulness while she lessens their rarity.

It is pleasant to see in this project modern Art admitted to its fair place beside the ancient;—to see Ruysdael's 'Windmill' and Mr. Roberts's 'Spanish Bridge,'—Domenichino's 'St. Agnes,' and Sir Charles Eastlake's 'Una,'—Hogarth's 'Mrs. Garrick,' Guido's 'Cleopatra' and Mr. Stanfield's 'Mount St. Michael' admitted into brotherly equality, without rivalry, and without acknowledgment of inferiority. There is no necessity to put the beauty of one cloud against that of another. There are many degrees of excellency. Men, aiming at different objects, and sailing to different ports, can have no cause of dispute.

MARMION, by Sir W. Scott; Illustrated with 80 Engravings, by BURKE FOSTER and JOHN GILBERT.

This is the third gorgeous volume in succession of Sir Walter's poetry which has appeared at the festive season, viz., the Lady of the Lake, The Lay of the Last Minstrel, and Marmion. Each volume is a triumph of art in paper, typography, engraving, and binding.—Marmion, like the last unmarried daughter of a family on hand, being probably the best of the series. These works are admirably adapted for Christmas and New Year's Gifts. Marmion appears very opportunely in these warlike days. It will afford an excellent opportunity to stay-at-home non-combatants of a warlike turn of mind—while investing in safety and comfort the parlour grate, which resembles Sebastopol in so far that it cannot be easily invested on all sides—an opportunity of contrasting the way in which battles were fought in the era of Chevy Chase and Flodden, with the victories of Alma, Balaklava, and Inkermann,—where, no doubt, many of the heroes of the latter bloody field emulated the deeds of the doughty Widdrington, who,

When his legs were smitten off
Did fight upon his stumps.

When will the *Bright* era commence, when men, by common consent, shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks? That desirable event is still, we fear, a great way off—sufficiently distant to permit of Marmion, as a memorial of the wars of the olden time, to pass more frequently through the press than we need here attempt to specify.

An Essay on Church Furniture and Decoration.

By the Rev. Edward L. Cutts, B.A. Crockford. This essay is a small-typed, heavy, accurate, useful, archaeological tract, digestible by the elect, aviare to the general.

The author is the Honorary Secretary of the Essex Archaeological Society, and author of a small work on Sepulchral Slabs and Crosses. The dryness of our author's style arises, we are sure, rather from a desire to be accurate, condensed, and brief, than from any inability to write more pleasingly. The best proof of this is two very graphic passages in his remarks on Gothic polychrome. He believes that the Goths, like all other great architects, never divorced colour and form. The old builders, he thinks, who had to deal with marbles and mosaics, looked only upon oak and stone as rude materials, requiring enrichment,—compo and deal having not yet given them, by comparison, a real as well as an imaginary value.

UNITED STATES.

REVIEWS.

(From Norton's Literary Gazette.)

HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN, FORMATION, AND ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, with Notices of its principal Framers. By GEORGE TICKNOR CURTIS. In two volumes Vol. 1 (8vo. pp. 518.) New York: Harper & Brothers.

It is one of the many regrets linked to Mr. Webster's memory, that he did not live to write, as he had designed, the history of the Constitution of his country. Of all men, he was the best fitted for the noble task by his nature, habits, and whole character, and especially by his profound study and comprehensive, well-nourished views of that great code of civil government, which was so laboriously framed by the early statesmen of the republic, and to which he had himself, during his long public life, held so near and important relation as its expounder and defender. We have, however, the agreeable reflection, that this task, now worthily executed by another hand, was commenced and carried forward under Mr. Webster's immediate advice and encouragement.

This first volume of his work gives evidence of careful and thorough research into the original materials of his history, and of ability to seize and comprehend the great points of his subject, and to set them forth with distinctness and skill, and historic faithfulness. His style has most of the qualities specially needed in this kind of composition. It is clear, concise, vigorous, always manly and dignified, and quite free from the affectation and superfluous embellishment which disfigure some American works in the same or kindred departments, especially some recent ones, emanating even from writers of established reputation. With these sterling qualities ever present, the reader can more readily pardon the absence, which he must sometimes observe and regret, of vivacity, and quickness, and liveliness of movement, which would certainly have relieved and brightened some parts of the narrative less rich than others in sources of intrinsic interest.

We shall look with interest for the second volume of this valuable work.

Sketches of the Lives and Judicial Services of the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. By GEORGE VAN SANTVOORD. New York: Charles Scribner, 1854, p. 533.

It is a singular fact, that among a people so fond of biography as are the Americans, the life of only one of the five eminent public men who have occupied the high station of Chief Justice of the United States has hitherto been written. John Jay, the stainless patriot of the Revolution—the eminent statesman and incorruptible diplomatist of the age of Washington, the first Chief Justice, is the only one whose life and services have been fully chronicled in the literature of the country. It is to supply this obvious deficiency

that the work before us has been undertaken. It is the carefully prepared production of a lawyer and scholar, who evidently appreciates the nature and value of historical researches, and is withal, familiar with the public men of the country and the changeful policies that have marked our successive administrations. In bringing together, therefore, the facts relating to the lives of the Chief Justices, he has also aspired to trace the history of the American Judiciary as exhibited in its highest tribunal, and to present an outline of the constitutional jurisprudence of the country. In this most worthy aspiration he has attained a very creditable success, and has furnished a volume which will prove a valuable addition to the library alike of the lawyer and the general scholar. He has placed before us, as well as his materials—in some instances not very copious in personal details—would allow, the characters and public services of Jay, Rutledge, Ellsworth, Marshall, and Taney—who, in succession, have occupied the distinguished post of Chief of the National Judiciary, and in connection with the biographical sketch of each one, he has also presented a brief review of the great causes at whose trial they were severally called to preside.

Fanny Fern's new book, *Ruth Hall*, tells the story of the struggles and successes of an authoress, and it will, of course, be taken as a passage of autobiography, whether it is so acknowledged by the writer or not. The curious public, who long ago settled the question, "Who is Fanny Fern?" will begin anew to discuss her history and her relations, and will busily trace out likenesses and analogies between the story and the real life. How much of it is fact and how much fancy, we neither know nor care, but we are sure it must have been a bitter experience of life that could lead to such a book, which sneers at religion, sees no kindness in humanity, and admits not the strong instincts of natural affection.

It will not want for readers, however, for it is written in the dashing, brilliant style that seems a natural gift and no acquired art with Fanny Fern. It shows the same quick observation, keen satire, and impassioned feeling, that characterized her previous writings.

James Munroe & Co. (Boston) have issued a new and enlarged edition of Rev. Dr. Parkman's *Offering of Sympathy to the Afflicted*. There are in every community many to whom such a book is a well of comfort and a source of satisfaction; and this little volume is one well calculated to soothe the sorrows and heal the heart-wounds of the mourners who "go about the streets." This field in literature is comparatively little cultivated, and we would suggest to our publishing friends, that a "Book for Mourners," edited in the right spirit and appropriately illustrated, would look well on the lists of "books for presents," and would unquestionably meet a ready sale.

Phillips, Sampson & Co. are rendering a great service to all who can appreciate a good edition of the *Standard British Poets*, by the publication of their new series under the editorial supervision of Epes Sargent. We have had occasion to call attention to the previously issued volumes of this edition, as being in every respect worthy of the position they claim, as *Library* copies of the Poets. The last issue contains the works of Collins, Gray, and Goldsmith, with notes, memoirs, and engraved portraits of the authors.

Mr. J. Parton has made a real picture-biography of *Horace Greeley*, and therefore a most readable book. The compiler of these incidents and facts states that Mr. Greeley is wholly innocent of this book—that it was undertaken "*con amore*," and mainly procured from personal intercourse with the early friends, partners, &c., of the subject of this book. The portrait and other engravings are neatly executed.

A second and cheaper edition of Rev. Charles King-ley's *Hypatia; or, New Foes with an Old Face*, has just been issued by Crosby, Nichols & Co. This volume presents a picture of life in the fifteenth century, in its social and spiritual aspects, although the author states that he has presented the church's case far more weakly, as respects her sins, than the facts deserve. There are thrilling passages in this fictitious history, which bring to mind the pages of "Alton Locke."

Evening Hours with my Children; or, Conversations on the Gospel Story, published by R. Carter & Brothers, is a thin quarto, with broad margins and large type, such as children know well how to appreciate. It has twelve large and striking pictures, illustrating scenes in the life of Christ, which are made the subject of lesson-conversations between a mother and her children. It is admirably adapted for reading in the nursery.

Peter Parley, that most famous charmer of children, has returned from his travels in time to wish all his young friends a happy New Year, but we can assure him that his readers will not wish a budget of new stories as good as those he used to tell us in days of old, and a portfolio of new pictures, the like of which he has never shown before. Then, to cover the whole, the Messrs. Appleton, from their treasure-house of beautiful things, have brought out some pretty fancy bindings, ornamented in quite a new style, that will make young eyes glisten with delight. One of these books, *The Wanderers by Sea and Land*, tells the adventures of "Ike Izzy and I," over the sea, and its pictures show some of the sights of Paris. *Faggots for the Fireside* is an assortment of prose and verse, fact and fancy. So is the *Winter Wreath of Summer Flowers*, but this is a larger and older book, and its French engravings are beautifully colored. A more attractive book of the kind it would be hard to find.

Bancroft's History of the United States, volume vi. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. The eight years embraced in the recent volume of Mr. Bancroft's History, being from the repeal of the Stamp Act, in 1766, to the decisive measures resolved upon in 1774 by the British Parliament against Boston, and which eventuated in American Independence, has very properly been entitled by him "The Crisis." The narrative is at once lucid, eloquent, instructive, and poetical, and studded at intervals with those bright life-pictures for which in his previous volumes he has become famous.

The Mothers of the Bible, have been made the theme of a very clever little book, by Mr. S. G. Ashton. The Rev. A. L. Stone, of Boston, enriches the volume by an eloquent introduction, wherein the duty and advantages of searching the Scriptures are delightfully set forth and powerfully urged. Though following in the wake of more pretentious volumes upon kindred topics, this book will fill an unoccupied niche and contribute to the enjoyment of many a fireside circle. It was needed, and will be warmly welcomed. Actuated by a desire to share with others her own experience of the fullness and wealth of the Scriptures, our authoress has culled a choice bouquet of flowers from the true Garden of the Soul, and twining around them, with rare taste, the silver threads of thought, here presents them fragrant, and fresh withal, to gladden and bless many a heart and home.

Messrs. J. P. Jewett & Co. have also issued, in a very attractive form, *Sketches of Places and People abroad*, being the republication (with additions) of a book of travels in Europe, written by William Wells Brown, a fugitive from slavery. The author (we may also call him the subject) of this volume, was, until his twentieth year, "held to service" under circumstances familiar to the Southern States; his mind and body being alike in bondage during the best

years of his life. The narrative and sketches here given to the public evince a steady and successful "pursuit of knowledge" After difficulties, and a development of latent talents at once remarkable and encouraging. The sketches were written during Mr. Brown's term of service as delegate to the Peace Congress of 1849, and comprise meager notices of the many places visited, strung together on an ever-visible black thread. The style is marked by a not very modest mediocrity; but the places and persons mentioned are of intrinsic interest, aside from the vein of vanity which has woven a web of words over them. The book, however, under the circumstances, is worth buying and reading. We came near forgetting to mention that a portrait of the author darkens the portal of his book.

Martin Merrivale X His Mark, is the quaint title of a first-rate book published recently by Phillips, Sampson & Co. The author has hidden himself behind the pseudonym of "Paul Creyton," but we can assure him that his readers will not perceive the necessity for an *incognito*. Whatever his name may be, we must say that he has made "his mark" and deserves the thanks of the reading public for having presented to them so readable a work. It cannot fail to be popular; and we shall be surprised if this volume does not attain a circulation equal to that of the "Lamp of Lighter," to which, in some remote degree, it bears a resemblance. The plot is somewhat complicated, though not intricate; the scenes, many and varied, are interwoven effectively; the characters introduced are well drawn, and remind us forcibly of "people we have met." In fact, we have read no book lately, which so nearly approaches the style and power of Dickens. There is a freshness about the humor, a depth to the pathos, a detail in the description, an intimate acquaintance with human nature, and an originality evident throughout, which, in these days of professional book-making it is a satisfaction to meet with.

Out Doors at Idlewild; or, The Shapings of Home on the Banks of the Hudson. By N. P. Willis. [Charles Scribner.] We venture to say that the "Home Journal," with all its attractions, has had none greater during the last year and a half, than these letters, which have opened the gates of Idlewild, and offered the freedom of its walks and rides and the genial companionship of its owner. They are written in one of the pleasantest of the varied moods of the author, who, as everybody knows, has a remarkable facility for making his letters seem like talks, familiar and friendly, as if all his readers were personal friends. Nothing comes amiss to his graceful and versatile pen, which here rambles over the picturesque scenery of the Highlands, and delights in the freshness and freedom of out-door life. We are glad to learn that the kind of life has had the desired beneficial effects on the health of the invalid writer. Long may he live to enjoy his beautiful home on the Hudson!

Life in the Clearings, versus the Bush. By Mrs. Moodie. DeWitt & Davenport, publishers. This is a lively and entertaining book, although it hardly has the freshness of the previous work, of which it is, in one sense, the counterpart. That was a picture of a home in the wilds of Canada, with the deprivations, annoyances, and vexations it involved. This, written after an interval of twenty years, shows a more intimate acquaintance with the thriving towns and villages of the Province, where, if there is less novelty, there is also less discomfort. "Life in the Clearings" is not confined to a personal narrative; the writer introducing anecdotes, adventures, and mishaps of other persons, as well as her own experience, observations, and reflections. We infer from the opening chapter, that she desires to do away with any unpleasant impressions of Canadian life which her first volume may have made. How far she

has succeeded, our readers must judge for themselves.

The Power of the Pulpit, by Gardner Spring, D. D., has passed to a second edition. It is addressed especially to those who are entering the Christian Ministry, and discusses with much vigor the grand object of Preaching, the scope of pulpit instruction, and other themes intimately connected with these. As the work of a venerable pastor whose experience has been so varied, and whose power has been so widely felt in the community, it is certainly deserving of an extensive circulation. M. W. Dodd is the publisher of this volume.

Dr. Cumming's Sabbath Evening Readings on the New Testament are not the least interesting of his works. The two volumes already received are running commentaries on the books of Matthew and Mark, exhibiting, with much clearness and beauty, many obscure portions of Sacred Writ, and bounding with original interpretations.

A great sensation is now being produced by that famous pre-announced anti-slavery novel, "Ida May: a Story of Things Actual and Possible." The work was issued on the 22nd Dec., on which day one of the publishers informed me they had actually sold, not simply sent off, 7,500 copies. It was amusing, dreary and rainy as was the day, to see how the book was snatched from the retail counters in this city. I had read the story beforehand, and I am free to say that I regard it as a work of great power, while it is free from the main objections which usually lie against works of the class.

Another work which is exciting considerable attention and remark is the "South-Side View of Slavery; or, Three Months at the South in 1854" by Dr. Nehemiah Adams, of this city. The public have already learned something of this work from the letters of Dr. Adams and Hon. H. A. Wise, which have been published in the daily journals. The effect of this correspondence, published without the knowledge or consent of Dr. Adams, was to prejudice the community against the book. But now we have the work itself. And what is it? Is it an apology for slavery? By no means. Nor is it a rabid ebullition of feeling against it. The writer went south the last spring, and there looked upon things with his own eyes. For the first time he saw slaves and slavery as they are in the localities he visited. He observed, reflected, reasoned, formed conclusions, and generalized; and here, in his book, we have his clear and candid mind on many important points connected with the great subject of slavery and freedom. He evidently speaks from the fullness of his heart, and he does it with a candor, moderation, and Christian simplicity worthy of all acceptance.

The "Newsboy," from the press of Mr. J. C. Derby, is pronounced a book good and true. It may be read with profit, and should awaken the sympathies of the community in behalf of those lads, in our cities, who hardly know how to obtain the means of living from day to day.

Yours as ever, N. M.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

In *Putnam*, for January, we are made acquainted with some of the hidden wonders of the Ocean and the Life which abounds in its depths. The question is asked, "Was Napoleon a Dictator?" but we do not perceive that it is answered. "Prof. Phantillo," is a romance of the Water Cure. "Spenseriana," embraces a sketch of the Poet's life, and a Review of Selections from Prof. Hart's book. "Hard Swearing on a Church Steeple," "The Rich Merchant of Cairo," and "Israel Potter," continued. "Negro Minstrelsy, Ancient and Modern," compares the modern Jim Crows and Zip Coons and the ancient "specimens" of Percy

Ritson and others. "Are all Men descended from Adam," argues in favor of the Unity of the Race. "Secret Societies," is the title of the next article, which denounces Know-Nothingism as bigoted, narrow, and intolerant, and that neither Democracy nor Christianity will justify the means or ends it proposes.

The *Knickerbocker* for December, comes to us with its "Editor's Table," as usual, laden with the choicest *morceaux* of literary gossip. Among the original papers, are "A Winter's Evening Tale."—"My Campaign Reminiscences." Paper fifth. "Matrimony and Medicine," a Tale of a Doctor's Wooing. "A Second Chapter on Laughter," by Chas. A. Munger. "Sea-side Gossip at Mattapoisett;" and "Juna; or, the Garden of the Tuilleries."

Among the numerous Scientific papers in *Silliman*, for January, we note the following:—Prof. Dove, "On the Theory of Atmospheric Phenomena," Valenciennes and Fremy "On the Composition of Eggs in the Series of Animals." Part I. Major Lachlan "On the Rise and Fall of Lakes." Agassiz on the "Ichthyological Fauna of Western America."

The *London Quarterly*, for October, opens with the "London Commissariat," a very entertaining article, detailing how much food of all sorts is eaten in London, and where it comes from. The origin, history, and uses of church bells, are illustrated in an article of 20 pages, in which the author has brought together much curious as well as useful information; it closes with the touching tradition told in connection with the peal of Limerick Cathedral. Art. III. is on the "Present state of Architecture." Art. IV. is an able review of the Silurian system in Geology, as originated and defined by Sir R. I. Murchison. (Gellishsmith and his intimates are well drawn in a review of Forster's Life of that universal favorite; and the Eclipse of Faith, with its Defence by the author, are examined with discrimination and just praise. The Life and Works of Samuel Foote, the joker and mimic, are elaborately delineated in a final article, forming a valuable chapter in literary biography.

The *North British Review*, for November, contains: I. "The Wonders of the Shore," or a popular and interesting article on Natural History. II. "Popular Education in Scotland," which earnestly contends for the improvement of the National System, by providing retiring pensions for teachers, by increasing their salaries while at work, and by founding and supporting "training colleges." III. "Milman's History of Latin Christianity." IV. "The Insoluble Problem," or Metaphysics and Divine Revelation. V. "Kaye's Life of Lord Metcalf." VI. "Sir H. Holland on Mental Physiology, Electro-Biology, &c.," a most timely article in these days of Mormonism, phreno-mesmerism, table-turning, and spirit-rapping. VII. "William Cowper." VIII. "Progress and Prospects of the War" between Russia and the Western Powers, urging very clearly the necessity for the "Re-construction of Poland," the banishment of Austrian dominion from Italy, and the "resurrection of Hungary."

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Of Forthcoming Works by various English Publishers.

A Manual of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; or, the Influence of Hot Climates on European Constitutions, and of European Climates on Tropical Invalids, by Jas. Bird, M.D., F.R.C.S. *Churchill*.

On Lateral Curvature of the Spine; its Pathology and Treatment, by Bernard E. Brodhurst. *Churchill*.

Christian Politics. An Essay on the Text of Paley, in Three Books, by the Rev. Hen. Christmas. Author of "Echoes of the Universe," &c. *Hope*.

Memoirs of Distinguished Female Characters belonging to the Period of the Reformation, by the Rev. James Anderson, Author, of "Ladies of the Covenant," &c. *Blackie*.

The Tour of Mont Blanc, the Alps of Savoy, and other parts of the Penine Chain, by Professor James D. Forbes, Author of "Norway and its Glaciers," &c. *A. & C. Black*.

God is Love; an Exposition of 1 John. Ch. 4, v. 8, by the Rev. Adolphe Menod. translated by the Rev. J. Charlesworth. *Seeley*.

On the Influence of Education and Training in Preventing Diseases of the Nervous System, by R. Brudenell Carter, M.R.C.S. *Churchill*.

Exegetical Handbook to the Old Testament, a Translation of, and Commentary on the Old Testament, in Hebrew and English; containing a new English Translation from Hebrew Text, based upon the Authorized English Version, with Marginal Synoptical Views of the Alterations adopted, and Introduction to each Chapter and Section; Copious Notes. Critical, and Philological, by M. Kalisch, D.Ph.M.A. Also another Edition, with the English Translation and the Commentary only. *Longman*.

Hours with Mystics, by Robert Alf. Vaughan, B.A. *Parker & Son*.

Our Native Land; a History of England for the Young, by the Author of "Scriptural Instruction for the Least and Lowest." *Seeley*.

Impressions of China, and the Present Revolution; its Progress and Prospects, by Capt. Fishbourne, late Commander of the *Hermes*, on her Visit to Nankin. *Seeley*.

History of England from the Fall of Wolsey to the Death of Elizabeth, by J. A. Froude, late Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford. *Parker & Son*.

Oxford Essays, written by Members of the University of Oxford;—also Cambridge Essays, written by Members of the University of Cambridge. The former to appear at the commencement, and the latter in the Spring of 1855. *Parker & Son*.

A First Italian Reading Book, by James P. La-caita. *Longman*.

An Index to the first fifty Volumes of "Blackwood's Magazine."

A History of England during the Reign of George the Third, by William Massey, M.P. *Parker & Son*.

The Warden, a Novel, by Anthony Trollope. *Longman*.

Ancient Jerusalem; a New Investigation into the History, Topography, and Plan of the City, Environs, and Temple. Designed to illustrate the Records of Scripture, and including Remarks on several of the Prophecies, and especially on the Prophetic Temple of Ezekiel, by the Rev. J. F. Terupp, Vicar of Barrington. *Macmillan*.

The Courts Martial at Windsor: a verbatim Transcript of the Short-hand Writer's Notes of the Three Trials, printed, by permission of the Judge-Advocate, on behalf of the Officers of the 46th Regiment. *Clowes & Sons*.

Knowledge is Power: a View of the Productive Forces of Modern Society, and the Results of Labour, Capital, and Skill, by Ch. Knight. *Murray*.

The Plurality of Worlds. The Positive Argument from Scripture. With Answers to some late Objections from Analogy. *Bagster & Sons*.

The English Woman in Russia; or, the Russians at Home, described by a Lady, a ten Years resident in the Country. *Murray*.

"Westward Ho;" being the Voyages and Adventures of Sir Amyas Leigh, of Brenow, county of Devon, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth of Glorious Memory, by the Rev. C. Kingsley. *Macmillan*.

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Cambridge in the 17th Century. Part I. containing—Lives of Nicholas Ferrar, Fellow of Clare Hall, and Matthew Robinson, Fellow of St. John's College, edited, with Notes, from the MSS. in the Public Library and in St. John College, by J. D. B. Mayor, Fellow of St. John's. *Macmillan*.

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The Truth and the Life, by the Rt. Rev. C. P. Mellvaine, D.D., Bishop of Ohio. *Seeley*.

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