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Publishers' Circular
AND

GENERAL RECORD

OF

BRITISH AND FOREIGN LITERATURE

Issued on the 1st and 15th of each Month

LONDON

SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE & RIVINGTON
CROWN BUILDINGS, 188 FLEET STREET, E.C.

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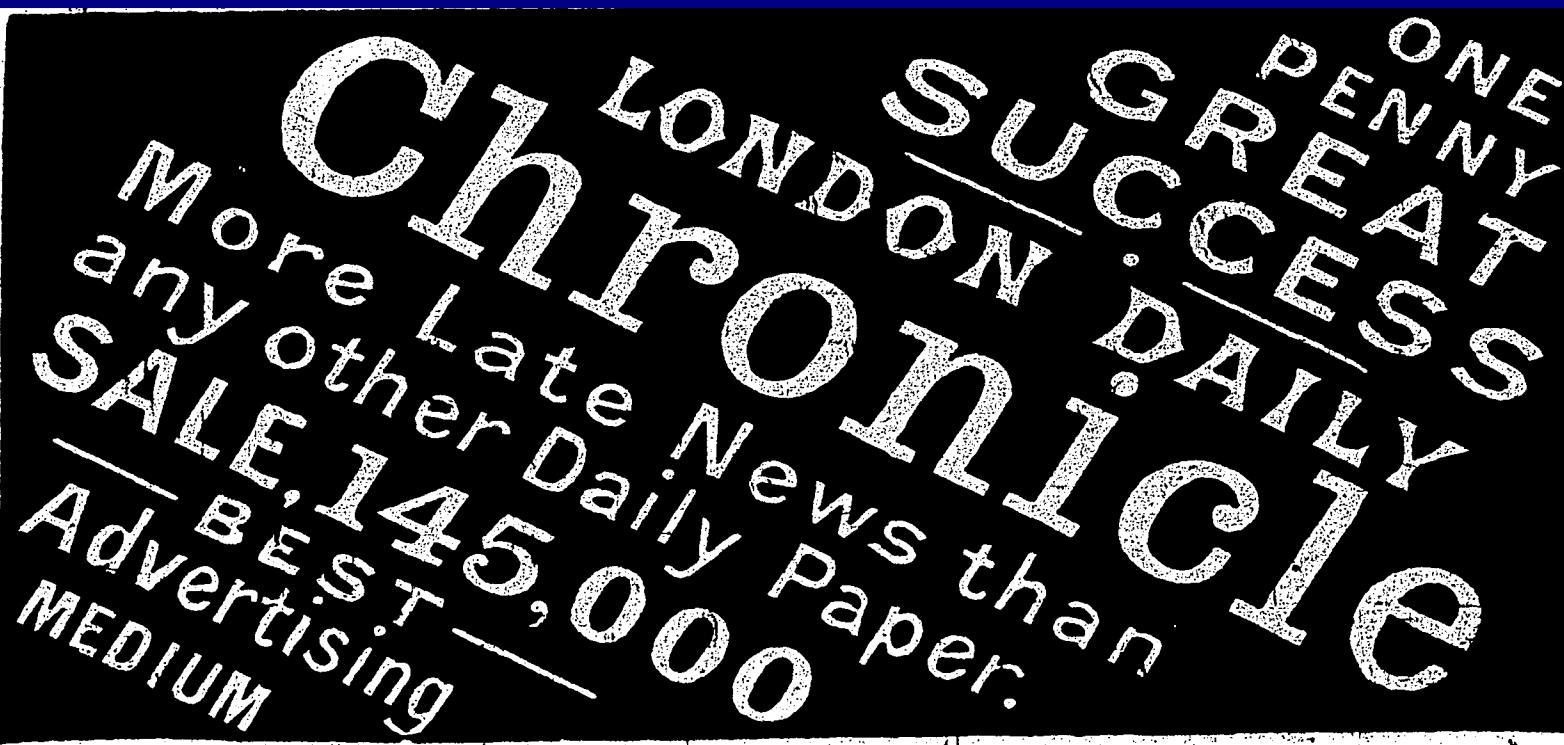
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188 FLEET STREET : April 15, 1887.

MARK TWAIN has done good service to Education by his article 'English as she is Taught.' On looking at his pages one is at first inclined to think the whole affair a huge joke on the part of the arch-humourist who did not hesitate to declare that his facts were invented by himself. Not a few of the statements now advanced arouse a suspicion of the exercise of versatile ingenuity in the art of tapping the laughing vein of the public. Be that as it may, fun or no fun, Mark Twain's article again throws light upon the evils of the cramming system now in vogue in English as well as American schools.

This cramming is especially noticeable in the study of literature. In England the custom has not reached the same advanced stage that America can show, but it is steadily moving onwards. American children, being much more precocious than the young folk of England, are usually crammed with a store of general names—not knowledge—which astounds the English visitor. The study of literature in England does not embrace the productions of the world. It is peculiarly insular in its ramifications, just in the same way as our teaching in history and geography is invariably strongly associated with the British people and the British Empire, one of the favourite ideas of educationists being that initial instruction should deal with our own people and our own land.

Provided Mark Twain's remarks are accepted as a credible account of the condition of the education of the young in America, the subject calls for more attention than has hitherto been bestowed upon it. The lesson, too, is one that should not be overlooked in this country, where the practice of cramming the infant mind is visibly extending. We do not think, however, that it has reached the pitch of ludicrousness which is shown by the American examples given by Mark Twain. Assuredly our friends on the other side can truly say

that they 'lick creation' in this, as in some other respects. We give a few instances of replies to questions on literary matters:—

'The House of the Seven Gables' was written by Lord Bryant.

Edgar A. Poe was a very curdling writer.

Cotton Mather was a writer who invented the cotton gin and wrote histories.

Beowulf wrote the Scriptures.

Ben Jonson survived Shakspeare in some respects.

In the Canterbury Tale it gives account of King Alfred on his way to the shrine of Thomas Bucket.

Chaucer was succeeded by H. Wads. Longfellow an American Writer. His writings were chiefly prose and nearly one hundred years elapsed.

Shakspere translated the Scriptures and it was called St. James because he did it.

Gibbon wrote a history of his travels in Italy. This was original.

George Eliot left a wife and children who mourned greatly for his genius.

George Eliot Miss Mary Evans Mrs. Cross Mrs. Lewis was the greatest female poet unless George Sands is made an exception of.

Sir Walter Scott Charles Bronte Alfred the Great and Johnson were the first great novelists.

Thomas Babington Makorlay graduated at Harvard and then studied law, he was raised to the peerage as baron in 1557 and died in 1776.

Homer's writings are Homer's Essays Virgil the Aneid and Paradise lost some people say that these poems were not written by Homer but by another man of the same name.

A sort of sadness kind of shone in Bryant's poems.

Holmes is a very profligate and amusing writer.

These replies are equalled in comic absurdity by the replies given in other branches of learning. And yet it is curious to notice

the doubtful spark of intelligence which seems to flicker in the darkness of blissful ignorance. Many a laugh will ring out over the pages of Mark Twain's latest effusion, but there is another side to the question which should commend itself to the notice of the upbringers and guardians of youth.

AN ORDER OF HONOURABLE SERVICE.—The Empress of Germany has just written to express the great pleasure it has given her Majesty to learn of the success which has attended the Honourable Order of Domestic Service instituted in connection with *The Quiver*. This Order was established in January last, since which date about 6,000 letters have been received and answered by the editor, and over 2,000 members have already been received into the Order. Of these nearly fifty have been in their present situations upwards of half a century (the length of service extending up to sixty-five years), whilst some hundreds have served more than twenty-five years. Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian has graciously consented to become Patron of the Order, the Vice-Patrons being : The Marchioness of Tavistock, the Countess Waldegrave, the Lady John Manners, the Lady Brabazon, the Lady Sophia Palmer, and Lady White Cooper. About £200 has been expended in prizes, medals, and certificates. Nearly one hundred letters continue to reach the editor daily from persons desirous of being enrolled as members of the Order.

MURRAY'S NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY.—Part III. of this exceedingly valuable work, published in Oxford at the Clarendon Press, and in London by Mr. Henry Frowde, has now been issued. It extends from Bat to the end of Bo, and contains in all some 8,765 words, chiefly of Teutonic or old French origin. Of these 5,323 are main words, as distinguished from combinations or compound words and subordinate entries. Of the main words, 3,802 are in current use, 1,379 are marked as obsolete, and only 142 as foreign or imperfectly naturalised. We give these particulars as being not only interesting in themselves, but especially acceptable to the lovers of etymology ; and a further feature we may note in connection with this part is that 'three-fourths of all the English words recorded since the twelfth century are still in living use.' Turning to the work itself, we are struck with the untiring energy and zeal that have been bestowed upon it ; in every way it exhibits complete thoroughness of investigation and research. A point to which we should allude is that the head-quarters of the dictionary have now been removed to Oxford, and by this means it is hoped to bring out the succeeding parts at shorter intervals than hitherto ; while, with the same object in view, the original staff has been largely augmented.

BOOKBUYERS.—I know a man, writes a contributor to *The Epoch*, who has, this week, bought (and paid for) two books, by American

living authors, both bound in cloth. I hasten to write about him, as probably one of the last specimens of a class rapidly becoming extinct. He is a fine-looking old gentleman of 60, portly and of generous habit. He is keen-sighted and has never worn glasses. He takes but one newspaper, and tells me that he only reads the latest telegrams, a few real estate advertisements, and the financial article. He attributes the disappearance of his class principally to two things—the periodical habit and the materialistic tendency of the age. 'The periodical habit,' says he, 'resembles dram-drinking, but is more insidious in its results, which are, primarily, atrophy of the mind, and then a fatty degeneration of the soul. Its first symptoms are quite normal : the person attacked merely reads the morning newspaper on his way to business, school, or other occupation, and his condition is quite indistinguishable from perfect health. In fact, however, the difference is this :—That, instead of looking at those parts of his paper which really concern his business or appeal to his mind, he feels a necessity of at least reading a line or two in every paragraph, whether it is of interest to him or not. And it will soon be noticeable that he is restless and uneasy when deprived of his morning paper. He misses the accustomed stimulus, and this despite the presence of other objects of the greatest interest, or the fact that he is in a place where the morning paper can be of no possible use to him. The desire is as imperative while he is camping in the Adirondacks as when riding into Jerusalem, at a Spanish bull-fight or in the Roman Catacombs, on a Broadway horse-car or at the Bayreuth festival. Soon the dose must be increased in amount. He adds an evening paper, then another morning paper, then all the Sunday papers, and finally his stomach rejects all other food. At this point his condition is truly pitiable. He is incapable of continued thought. He has no personal opinions or direct vision of truth. All his mental food is given to him second or third-hand, as it has passed through the mind of a series of editors and reporters ; such parts as they could not digest being, of course, eliminated. He loses his good taste, his reasoning powers, his fondness for truth, his purity of character, and his appreciation of beauty and virtue, and in their stead has but a morbid craving for new but unimportant facts. His mind receives with avidity the particulars of Mrs. Maloney's domestic habits in Kalamazoo, while it would reject the truths contained in Plato's ' Republic ' as ' chestnuts.'

THE 'CENTURY GUILD HOBBY HORSE.'—This quarterly publication (London : Kegan Paul, Trench & Co.) attracts increased attention in artistic circles as each consecutive number appears. The present number is rendered peculiarly attractive by the appearance of Mr. Ruskin's brief but finely characteristic study of Arthur Burgess, the celebrated draughtsman in black and white. Another contribution well worthy of fixed attention is Mr. Mackmurdo's 'Arbitrary Conditions of Art.' The verse contributions are of equal

quality, and of fairly high standard. As a frontispiece we have a beautiful reproduction of 'Priscilla and Aquila,' one of the designs prepared for the decoration of the chapel at Eaton Hall. We must again commend the richness of this publication in so far as general appearance is concerned.

JOHNSTON'S 'COLONIAL AND INDIAN ATLAS.' Containing maps and plans of every British possession throughout the world, this atlas is at once useful, attractive, and marvellously cheap. At the present time it ought to be a greater favourite than any other atlas of the same nature. The historical notes form a singularly good descriptive guide to a knowledge of the rise and progress of the British Dominions. The work, which is published by Messrs. W. & A. K. Johnston, is dedicated to the Earl of Rosebery, chairman of the Imperial Federation League.

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

To the Editor of the PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR.

SIR,—This controversy provokes my indignation, my most just indignation. It is close upon fifty years ago that I offered my first book to a firm of publishers, on which, I still recollect with pride, I received a handsome profit; and since then I have had business relations with ten or twelve of these much-maligned gentlemen, and have had from them scores of accounts; some, I must confess, with errors in them, but these were corrected as soon as they were pointed out. And I do not hesitate to say that the publishers of the first class, with whom only I have had dealings, are as honourable a set of men as are to be found in any profession in London.

Mr. Besant, who has brought an indiscriminate charge of rendering fraudulent accounts against the publishers, has evidently been studying the tactics of the Irish Brigade. It is a pity there is not a Speaker to call him to order.

A few months ago an authoress wrote to me from Italy, complaining bitterly of the treatment she had received from one of the largest Row houses. I asked her to send me the account and the agreement: these I scrutinised narrowly. The agreement was on a printed form, very plainly drawn up, and filled in where necessary; and the account, which tallied with it to the minutest particular, showed that the publishers had lost £23 on the book, besides all their trouble!

But what amazes me most, sir, is the base ingratitude of this 'Incorporated Society of Authors.' The proprietors of newspapers are publishers in the truest sense of the word—authors are not yet enumerated in Kelly's Directories—but, if we assume that there are 1,500 men and women, including journalists, now living in London, who are earning their daily bread by the use of the pen, I will undertake to prove that 1,450 of them are working at the direct instigation of publishers. There are not fifty men amongst them who could make a living by publishing their own books.

We have all of us heard of the poor removal 'who long was a booksellers' hack.' Publishers of the present day still keep 'hacks' (they are treated very differently now), but they keep racers as well, who are housed in splendid stalls, and who often win the blue ribbon of the year. How much gratitude do authors owe to the founders of the *Quarterly Review*, the *Cornhill Magazine*, *Longman's*, *Murray's*, *Macmillan's*, and many others, all of which were originated by publishers or their own special editors? 'The Encyclopædia Britannica,' 'The Dictionary of National Biography,' 'English Men of Letters,' and a host of similar works were designed by literary architects—publishers—and these architects employ the services of hundreds of authors to build up their structures. Mr. Walter Besant, Mr. Blackmore, Mr. Payn, Mr. Rider Haggard, and several other successful novelists are their own architects, and in their turn give much employment to printers and booksellers; but out of every hundred books that turn out successful I should say ninety are originated by publishers.

Lord Byron wanted John Murray to publish an emended edition of the Bible, and drew his attention to a well-known new reading concerning Barabbas, and Campbell toasted Napoleon because he had shot a publisher; but these were good-natured jokes. Mr. Besant, who has some terrible accusation hanging over the publishers, seems to be in bitter earnest, and goes far beyond the limits of reasonable discussion. Mr. Besant has lately backed out of a rash statement he made about a 6s. novel, and I understand that he will soon be flatly contradicted on a very important point concerning the custom of royalties among French publishers. Surely a man who brings such accusations as Mr. Besant does, ought to be more careful than this. The latter cannot be left as it is. Mr. Besant, or the secretary of this new literary trades-union, must either lay before the world the results of their 'three years' special and silent investigation' (this is as terrible as a sensational novel), or this 'Incorporated Society of Authors,' numbering possibly sixty all counted, must stand convicted of having sanctioned statements that, as Mr. George Smith says, 'are absolutely unfounded.'

There are 'all sorts and conditions' of publishers; if there be any black sheep among them, let us have them pointed out. It will be to the interest of all parties—except the black sheep.—I am, &c., JUSTITIA.

To the Editor of the PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR.

SIR,—In a review of the Life of Charles Reade, lately published, the writer in the *Times* of this morning (April 13) says: 'In fact, Reade was emotionally and even passionately litigious; he went in for law as the knight-errants sought chivalrous adventure; and a large proportion of his literary profits must have been paid away to the legal profession.' In a letter written to Baron Tauchnitz, in 1872, Anthony Trollope says: 'I never had any contention with any publisher, though, either on my own account

or that of others, I suppose I have had more dealings with publishers than any man living.

I commend these extracts to the notice of Mr. Walter Besant.—I am, &c. C.

Mr. Joseph Hatton writes as follows:—
 'I can conscientiously warn the young author who, finding his MS. rejected by good houses or responsible editors, is induced in despair to pay for an appearance. The path of literature is a thorny path, no matter what successful authors may say to the contrary. Everybody writes nowadays, and many write well. It has therefore become all the more difficult for beginners to obtain a hearing and when they do they must have something very well worth saying or a story very well worth telling to command attention in the first place, and to earn anything in the next. Read the memoir of Charles Reade, just published, and note how hard a fight even that strong man had to make his way, and, having made his way, to keep his position. If Mr. Besant has encouraged any young author whose only hope is to live by his pen, to believe that the chief obstacle in his path is the avaricious publisher, I fear he may be responsible for much heart-break and misery.'

should be a call for such a work in itself affords ample testimony to the growth of the movement. Like all the previous issues in this series, it is clearly written, thorough, and eminently practical. It is intended, as we learn from the introductory chapter, not only to interest the general reader, but to form a useful handbook for all who are interested in any of the various ramifications of cycling; and this twofold object it admirably fulfils.

Everyone knows how within a few years only cycling has risen to the rank of a British pastime, healthy to the system and invigorating to the minds of those who have learned to spin merrily along the highways and byways of our delightful country, with its beauties of field, forest, and flood, its shady lanes and quiet towns and villages which have been half slumbering since the old days when the stage coach woke the inhabitants to knowledge of life in the outer world. Cyclists have done more to enliven old roads than any other class. The railways cut off many familiar retreats from the wistful eyes of seekers for places of rest.

We have remarked that this book, the joint production of Viscount Bury and Mr. G. Lacy Hillier, is a useful one; and its usefulness forms its most prominent claim to



CYCLING.*

Not very many years ago the 'Encyclopædia Britannica' gave as a definition for the word 'velocipede' that it was a child's toy worked by means of a wheel and crank. A number of our readers will doubtless remember the toy in question. The velocipede itself was invented as far back as the year 1779, but it was not until much later that it came into popular favour. After many ups and downs it permanently succeeded in winning public esteem in 1867, and since then the course of its popularity has been an ever widening one.

Nothing could better display the attractiveness of the pursuit and the extent to which it has spread than the volume in the Badminton Library which now lies before us. That there

notice. Perhaps some of the pleasures of the road might have been introduced with effect, but possibly under those conditions the work would have expanded beyond reasonable limits. There is now sufficient practical work to speak of in connection with cycling, and the aim apparently of the books in the Badminton Library is to be as thoroughly practical as possible. Many delightful pleasures are auxiliaries of our national sports, but they are to be found and enjoyed by the sportsman himself, and not described to the novice; beyond, perhaps, in an endeavour to awaken the latter's sympathies towards healthy exercise.

The new volume of the Badminton Library contains all the latest information respecting the modern iron horse and its riders. To the latter the book will be invaluable. The historical sketch is copious and admirably written. The descriptions of machines are precise and

* *Cycling*, by Viscount Bury, R.C.M.G., and G. Lacy Hillier. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1887.

exhaustive, besides being well illustrated. Regarding the last-mentioned feature, we may say that the book is very amply supplied with sketches from the pencils of Viscount Bury and Mr. Joseph Pennell. Mr. Pennell's 'Pilgrimage' is still happily remembered by cyclists. A full index facilitates ready reference to the contents of the volume. Our illustration represents one of the latest developments of bicycle construction, namely, the 'Rear-Driving Safety Bicycle.'



GOETHE AND CARLYLE.

The 'Correspondence between Goethe and Carlyle,' edited by Charles Eliot Norton (Macmillan & Co.), has just been added to the literature of Carlyle's personal character and history, which now nearly equals in magnitude the literature directly published by him. Not a single stage in Carlyle's long and intense career but is now elucidated to public view with a fulness and detail such as is hardly equalled in the case of any other literary man. If Carlyle lived much in his books, he had yet a great fund of life to spare outside of them, and the saying that an author's life is only in his published works will not apply to him. The present volume is peculiarly interesting, not only as a record of the mutual appreciation of two of the most significant, if yet strikingly contrasting, figures in literature in this century, but also because it presents Carlyle to us at a critical period, when his youth was passed, his formal education finished, and his public career still a problem. We here see Carlyle at the 'parting of the ways,' and his choice of the better part or definitive 'conquest of the Mud Gods,' as he phrases it. 'I then,' he says long afterwards of this crisis, 'felt and still feel endlessly indebted to Goethe.' It should be a special treat in literature to observe how, as depicted in this volume, the vehement and puritanic Carlyle, at the outset of his career, renders almost unqualified homage to a genius in such contrast with himself in respect of temperament, upbringing, education, social culture and position; and how with all his unstinted admiration Carlyle yet preserves his own unique personality perfectly intact. Underlying the many outward contrasts there must yet have been a large essential community between the two. 'Wilhelm Meister' with its endless multiplicity of characters, each depicted to the life in every particular, may be compared with Carlyle's 'Frederick the Great' which is crowded with quite as many figures, each delineated with an integrity about equal to that of Goethe's portraiture. The editor, Mr. Norton, has done his part with the taste and judgment which have been so much appreciated in his earlier issues of Carlyle's 'Letters and Reminiscences.' The difficult task of translating Goethe's letters into English is done with care and fidelity, if yet in a style much short of perfect success. The letterpress and externals, moreover, are all that could be desired to facilitate the enjoyment of the contents.

Notes and News

Lieutenant George B. Davis, of the United States Army, who is Assistant Professor of Law at the Military Academy at West Point, has written a 'Manual of International Law,' which is a contribution of substantial value to the literature of that subject. Its distinctive feature is the historical point of view which is assumed from the beginning and steadily maintained, so that the law of nations is presented as a growing and flexible expression of civilisation. It will be immediately issued by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co.

Mr. T. Fisher Unwin will publish immediately a new one-volume novel, entitled 'A Little Summer Shower.' The scenes, we are informed, are laid in the picturesque old town of Bruges and on the Upper Thames.

In these days of charges and counter-charges of plagiarism it is quite refreshing to find an author who can lay undisputed claim to invention in his works. This is Mr. Christie Murray's case. One of his most interesting novels, 'First Person Singular,' contains a graphic account of a meeting of Nihilist conspirators, at which was produced an infernal machine ingeniously hidden in a book. According to the details to hand of the recent attempted assassination of the Tzar, this was the very device used to conceal the machinery which was to send the Emperor of All the Russias to his last account. Is this a mere coincidence, or have conspirators, like authors, taken to study literature for *ordayas*? At all events, we should advise novelists with a talent for invention of this kind to protect themselves from imitation by securing a universal patent; and we might suggest to Mr. Murray that if he has any present intention of visiting Russia, he had better defer its execution, unless he is anxious to edify us with a thrilling account of 'Life in Siberia.'—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

Messrs. Skeffington, of Piccadilly, have received the following letter in acknowledgment of a copy of their collection of Jubilee Hymns sent to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone :

21 Carlton House Terrace, S.W.,
April 1, 1887.

DEAR SIRS.—Mr. Gladstone has seen the set of Jubilee Hymns and Music set thereto which you have issued, and can only say that so far as he can judge they are admirably adapted to their purpose. I am, yours obediently, W. H. GLADSTONE.

The current number of the *Political Science Quarterly* (published by Mr. Henry Frowde, of the Oxford University Press) contains, among other interesting items, two very practical contributions, entitled 'The Limits of Competition' and 'Persistence of Competition.'

A new edition of E. V. B.'s 'Days and Hours in a Garden' is announced by Mr. Elliot Stock. It is to contain a new preface and several additional illustrations by the author.

Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. intimate that Rose's 'Key to Engines and Engine Running,' subscribed at 7s. 6d., is an 8s. 6d. book. Of course those houses which have taken copies will have the benefit of the difference.

We learn that the Editor of *Little Folks* magazine has, during the past few days, received many thousand literary, artistic, and other contributions from children residing in Great Britain and the Colonies in connection with the special scheme which he inaugurated to enable girls and boys to take part in the Jubilee celebration. The competitors range in age from four to sixteen years, and the list of successful candidates, together with various selections from their work, will appear in the number of *Little Folks* magazine published during the Jubilee week.

A new serial by Mr. F. Marion Crawford author of 'Mr. Isaacs,' 'Doctor Claudius,' &c., entitled 'With the Immortals,' will begin in the May number of *Macmillan's Magazine*.

The following advertisement from the *Derbyshire Advertiser* is, as a correspondent suggests, worthy of wide attention:—"Burke's Guide." Wanted, "Burke's History of the Landed Gentry." Two guineas will be given for copy of about 150 or 200 years old.—Apply *Advertiser* Office, Derby.' Perhaps some of our readers who regularly read the 'Books Wanted' pages will report to the advertiser!

Miss Dora Roberts, the author of 'Two Royal Lives,' has received letters from Sir F. Knollys, on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and from Baron Knescher, on behalf of Her Majesty the Empress Queen of Germany, thanking her for copies of her book, which their Majesties have been graciously pleased to accept. The book has now reached a second edition.

A work, entitled 'The Australasian Federal Directory of Commerce, Trades, and Professions,' which has been in preparation some time, will shortly be published in London under the direction of Mr. J. W. F. Rogers, of Melbourne and Sydney, at 57 Chancery Lane. It has been compiled by some thousands of persons, many of them colonial government officials. The work will give, both in an alphabetical and a classified form, the business addresses for over three thousand Australasian towns, large and small. Reviews of the social and commercial development of the eight colonies of this group will appear in the Directory, with maps and gazetteer.

Mr. Tedder, librarian of the Athenæum Club, has reprinted his 'Proposals for a Bibliography of National History.' Our readers will remember that this paper was originally read at the Plymouth Meeting of the Library Association in 1885. The pamphlet is of enduring value to historical workers; but we fear that, practically, the scheme will not commend itself to those who take a mercantile view of its bearings. Mr. Tedder's pamphlet is published by Messrs. J. Davy & Sons, of Long Acre.

The North British Publishing Company, of Glasgow, are making the experiment of issuing Mr. Harry Blyth's tales in uniform shilling volumes. The first one, entitled 'The Secret of Sinclair's Farm,' will be published at the end of the month.

Mr. T. Fisher Unwin will publish immediately the sixth volume of 'The Story of the Nations,' entitled 'The Moors in Spain.' Mr. Stanley Lane-Poole is the author.

The same publisher will also issue a society novelette by a new writer, entitled 'Warring Angels.'

The revision of the Kaffir Bible has been completed at King Williamstown, after eighteen years' labour. The Rev. Mr. Krapf is coming to England to see the work published.

We have received Mr. Roche's last catalogue, which, as usual, contains many scarce books. We notice in it a number of books on India, from the library of Talboys Wheeler, the historian—who, by the way, is not dead, as Mr. Roche says he is—which are of interest.

Accompanying the new trade list issued by Messrs. George Waterston & Sons is an extremely useful sheet, showing the actual sizes of sticks of wax, and giving the number of sticks to the pound weight. The 'Bee Brand' of Messrs. Waterston still maintains its supremacy.

The seventieth volume of Cassell's National Library, to be published on the 25th of April, will consist of Mr. Coventry Patmore's 'Angel in the House' complete. By the kind permission of the author, Messrs. Cassell & Co. have been enabled to include this much-admired copyright work in their Library, and thus place it within the reach of all. It may be mentioned that this is the first work by a living author that has appeared in the National Library.

From Messrs. Houlston & Sons' preface to the seventy-fifth edition of 'Enquire Within for Everything,' it appears that no fewer than one million copies of this book have been sold.

Messrs. J. & R. Maxwell will shortly publish a new edition of 'The Witch's Head,' by H. Rider Haggard, uniform with 'Dawn,' by the same author, recently published by them.

The same publishers also announce the immediate issue of a new novel in one-volume form, by Mrs. Davy, entitled 'A Prince of Como'; and another addition to their Standard Library in 'The Courting of Mary Smith,' by Mr. F. W. Robinson.

'The Roads of Scotland,' by Charles Howard, which will shortly be published by Messrs. Mason & Payne, will be a companion work to 'The Roads of England and Wales,' now in its fourth edition. Messrs. Mason & Payne seem to be keeping up the credit of their publications, so that travellers—cyclists especially—will be glad of the aid afforded by

distinct and accurate maps. A novel road measurer, much more serviceable than a pair of compasses, is to be found among the requisites produced by the firm.

Mr. John Hogg is about to publish, under the title of 'The Queen at Home : Windsor, Osborne, Balmoral, Mentone,' a collection of palace anecdotes and royal reminiscences. The author will not rely for his information on historical works so much as on the pages of contemporary literature, not only from English but from French, German, Italian, and American writers.

We understand that the vexed question whether Lord Beaconsfield was or was not born in the Adelphi will shortly be definitely settled by a communication to one of the daily papers, and that other interesting information on this subject will also be afforded.

Messrs. Cassell & Co. announce a new work by Mr. Cosmo Monkhouse on 'The Italian Pre-Raphaelites in the National Gallery.' The book will be illustrated.

Mr. G. R. Sims' popularity seems to have spread to the United States, for an edition of his poems is announced by a well-known American publishing company.

The 'Last Memorials of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow' is the title of a work announced by Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co. The volume, which is edited by the poet's brother, the Rev. Samuel Longfellow, will consist principally of the letters and journals of the last twelve years of Longfellow's life.

We are glad to learn that Messrs. Horner & Son's new Penny Stories for the People, of which six numbers are now ready, are meeting with much success. As popular attempts to interest the masses, these economical works of fiction are worthy of every encouragement.

Continental Notes

A novel literary project is announced in Berlin. The projector, a Berlin author of a proposed literary journal to be called *Das literarische Deutschland*, solicits subscriptions for the periodical from German literary men, promising them in return to write and to publish in his paper a life of each subscriber!

Deutsche Dichtung, under the able editorship of the well-known Viennese writer, Karl Emil Franzos, will publish during the next few months a series of hitherto unprinted letters of Heinrich Heine, written in Paris during the Revolution of February, 1848. Some remains of the great poet Ludwig Uhland, the centenary of whose birth will shortly be celebrated, are also promised. The April part commences the second volume of *Deutsche Dichtung*.

To celebrate the Uhland Centenary, the firm of Cotta, in Stuttgart, the original publishers of the charming writings of the poet,

announce a superb jubilee edition of Uhland's poems and dramas.

Herr Consul Otto Harrassowitz, of Leipzig, has sent us the March and April parts of the 'Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen.' These parts contain articles of unusual interest. We regret that space prevents more than a bare mention of some of their titles, viz. : Requirements and Means of Libraries ; The Missal of the Archdiocese of Treves in the 15th and 16th Centuries ; Three Italian Manuscripts of 13th to 15th centuries ; On the Literature of Hebrew Palaeography ; &c., &c. These articles are written by competent authorities, whose names are appended to them. We should think this periodical almost indispensable to libraries.

The firm of F. A. Brockhaus, Leipzig, may be congratulated on the completion of the 13th edition of their great undertaking, the 'Conversations-Lexikon,' which forms 16 volumes, whose appearance and contents are equally attractive.

A new novel, by Hector Malot, the author of the popular story 'Sans Famille' (No Relations), entitled 'Vices Français,' has just been published by the Bibliothèque Charpentier.

The well-known firm, Maison Quantin, has added to the Bibliothèque des Chefs-d'Œuvre du Roman Contemporain that striking historical novel of Gustave Flaubert, 'Salammbô,' with ten etchings from designs by the talented book illustrator, A. Poirson.

Our contemporary, the *Nieuwsblad voor den Boekhandel*, states that the 'Cercle de la Librairie' in Brussels proposes to discuss at an early meeting the following subjects : (1) The abolition of discount off new books to private persons. (2) Regulations against the misuse of the sale of books and educational materials through officials, porters, &c., of schools and other public institutions. (3) The establishment of a technical school for printers.

The sale of the library of the late General Pittié produced 31,497 francs.

We have received from C. A. Koch's Verlag in Leipzig, 'Kalkulation und Abschluss,' von E. Wengler, vierte Auflage. The issue of a fourth edition of this well-printed, handy, and unpretentious publication witnesses to its appreciation by the Trade in the Fatherland. In it we find very carefully and clearly arranged estimates of the cost of producing books, together with tables for calculating the value of stock, and the profit and loss on any given publication.

Sale Jottings

The large library collected by the late Colonel Shipperton will be sold, towards the end of April, by Messrs. Sotheby. Among the books are the following : a set of Britton's 'Cathedral Antiquities of Great Britain' (in-

cluding Billing's *Carlisle and Durham*), on large paper; a very choice copy 'Hystoir Agregative des Annalles et Croniques Danico par Jehan de Bourdigne' (Paris 1529); the first French translation in verse of 'The Ship of Fools,' published at Paris in 1497; besides many other valuable works, such as Romance of chivalry, ancient chronicles, county histories &c. The sale will occupy five days.

Immediately after the Hartley sale, Messrs Puttick are to sell a very useful lot of books including 'Badminton Library,' large paper Sir Joshua Reynolds' Works, 3 vols.; scarce editions of Boccaccio, Lafontaine, Racine, &c.

An interesting announcement to collectors of Lincolnshire books will be the news of the dispersal of the late Mr. Howlett's books. He was a well-known local collector and had besides some good works in general literature. Messrs. Puttick are the auctioneers. They are also to sell the late Arthur Grote's library, which contains books of general interest.

Passing through Birmingham the other day, we stopped a few hours to see some books sold at Handsworth. Several of the London trade, beside other booksellers, were present. Among the books sold were 'Lodge's Portraits, 12 vols., large paper, £15 (Downing); 'Rogers' Poems,' 1838, large paper, £4. 15s. (Downing); Scott's' 'Border Antiquities,' £1. 15s. (Pickering). A large collection of autograph letters, including some by Dickens, was sold for £18. 10s. to a private gentleman. Mr. Lowe, of Birmingham, bought several choice and valuable lots of prints at high prices, which latter seemed to prevail generally.

Of the famous H.B. caricatures a set of sixteen volumes, containing 825 pictures, together with the two scarce octavo historical keys, has recently been sold under the hammer at Doncaster for £24. 10s. A complete copy of the work, containing all the 917 pictures which were published, is now rare. The source from which we take the above information does not mention whether the series was coloured or not. Judging from the price, we should say *not*. A complete set, coloured, and in fine state, should be worth a great deal more.

Next Monday Messrs. Puttick commence the sale of the third portion of the Hartley library. The dispersal of the previous portions aroused, as will be fresh in our readers' minds, considerable interest, which is likely to be equalled by the books now under notice. In the catalogue we observe a tall copy of the first folio Shakespeare, unfortunately imperfect; a large body of MS. collections relating to Hampshire by the late Sir F. Madden; Gentleman's Magazine, complete set. Among the large number of books on family history and kindred subjects is almost the entire collection of the late Sir G. C. Young (Garter). A noteworthy feature is Mr. Hartley's own magnificent book, the Genealogical Collections, illustrating the history of Roman Catholic families of England. We have not space to notice other

items, but refer our readers to the gorgeous and really absurdly spun-out catalogue—2937 lots on 366 large 8vo. pages!

The late Rev. H. Ward Beecher's library is shortly to be sold in New York. It consists chiefly of modern illustrated books and theological literature.

On the 19th inst. Messrs. Mallam, of Oxford, have a quantity of books for sale. They will be sold at the Corn Exchange by Carfax.

On the same date Mr. Kemsley, of Woodford, sells at Lambourne a choice library.

Eight hundred volumes of books are to be sold by auction on the 20th at Courtfield Gardens, S.W. Messrs. Weatherall & Green, of Chancery Lane, supply the catalogues.

Obituary

DR. RAY PALMER.—This gentleman, the author of the popular hymn, 'My Faith looks up to Thee,' died in Newark, New Jersey, recently. He was born in Rhode Island, in 1808, graduated from Yale in 1830, and entered the ministry in 1835. Dr. Palmer published 'Spiritual Improvement; or, Aid to Growth in Grace' (1839, reissued in 1851 as 'Closet Hours'), 'Remember Me' (1855), 'Hints on the Formation of Religious Opinions' (1860), 'Hymns and Sacred Pieces' (1865), 'Hymns of My Holy Hours' (1866), 'Home; or, The Unlost Paradise' (1868), 'Earnest Words on True Success in Life' (1873), 'Complete Poetical Works' (1876), and 'Voices of Hope and Gladness' (1880).

ROBERT GRANT.—We are sorry to chronicle the death of Mr. Robert Grant, of Messrs. R. Grant & Sons, the well-known booksellers of Edinburgh. Mr. Grant died on the 1st inst., aged 80.

Trade Changes

The publishing house of Messrs. D. Lothrop & Co. underwent a transformation on March 1, when the corporation was enlarged by the entrance of Mr. E. S. Brooks, of the editorial staff of the Century Company, Mr. W. H. Arnold, for the last seven years manager of the book business of John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, and Mr. E. H. Pennell, for many years in the employ of D. Lothrop & Co. The new firm is to be known as the D. Lothrop Company.

'PENNY DREADFULS.'

(By A JOURNALIST.)

Most people are familiar with the appearance of those peculiar periodicals which are commonly termed 'penny dreadfuls,' and which have an immense popularity with a certain section of the youth of the country. This class of literature

usually gives a fictitious rendering of the stirring and eventful lives of various arch-scoundrels, whose histories are enshrined within the classical pages of the Newgate Calendar, and who, in most cases, were summarily removed from the scenes of their romantic adventures by suspension at Tyburn, or some other equally effective but less renowned gallows. The crude woodcuts on the first pages represent stirring episodes in the careers of these heroes, such as the chivalrous Claude Duval bowing low to a duchess whom he had robbed of her jewels; the dare-devil Dick Turpin, mounted on his bonny Black Bess, taking a ten-barred turnpike gate; the treacherous Jonathan Wild communing with Blue-skin on the subject of some deed of villainy; or Jack Sheppard breaking out of Newgate. Besides the doings of these worthies, there are numerous imaginary characters treated, such as adventurous juveniles who figure as pirates, bandits, smugglers, &c. The bulk of the 'dreadfuls' are indigenous to the region that lies between Fleet Street and Holborn; bounded on the west by Fetter Lane, and on the east by Shoe Lane. The publishers who get up this kind of literature are, as a rule, shrewd, enterprising business men, who have the tact to guess what sort of stories is most acceptable to sensation-devouring youth.

It may be interesting to know that several fortunes have been made out of the publication of 'penny dreadfuls'; and even at the present day, when there is such a cry of over-competition, the firms that own the most popular serials are reputed to receive from them, annually, very comfortable sums.

The authors, it may be mentioned, are specialists in their peculiar line of fiction, their ranks receiving but few accessions from the outside; therefore these writers are practically removed from the fierce rivalry that exists in almost every other department of literature.

They commonly confine themselves to their own province, and do little else in the way of contributing to the Press. One or two of the criminal romancists have reaped considerable pecuniary benefit from their labours, and have been enabled to retire from active life to the luxurious seclusion of suburban villas, devoting what remained of their energies to the common-place but innocuous work of gardening on a limited scale. The majority, however, have been drawn into the vortex of chronic impecuniosity.

A few of the adventurous youths of Britain on perusing these 'penny dreadfuls' are fired with ambition to emulate the exploits of their heroes. It might serve as a valuable check to the impetuosity of these young gentlemen if they only could be made fully acquainted with the whole process of the manufacture of their favourite fiction. A feeling of nausea might thus be engendered similar to that which, as narrated in 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' the methodical Miss Ophelia experienced when she made herself conversant with the details of Aunt Chloe's culinary system. We shall give the following description of the personal characteristics of a degenerate writer of 'penny dreadfuls'; also the *nodus operandi* of working up his copy.

He is a woefully seedy, bleared, unshaven individual. An obliging friend has lent him two-pence, which he is investing in a much-needed repast within a Fleet Street Working Men's Coffee House. Little do the members of a noisy group of apprentices seated in the next box, who are wrangling over some incident in the career of the hero of a story—an instalment of which they have just read eagerly by turns—entitled 'The Boy Bandit of the Balkans,' know that the talented author of

the exciting tale is the dilapidated individual referred to. But the fictionist little heeds the encomiums passed on the pluck of his courageous hero; he is hungry, and this is his first repast for that day. His meal finished, the author departs in search of something in the shape of recreation, which he finds in a visit to one of the contiguous discussion tap-rooms, and listens to the arguments of one or two frothy debaters. It nears closing time, and the fictionist grows a trifle solicitous on the subject of securing a bed for the night. An obliging friend favours him with the requisite sum, fourpence, and the joyful author hurries in the direction of the nearest registered lodging-house. Half-way there is an indecision in his movements; the glare of light from the plate glass-window of a gin-shop forms a sore temptation. The ruling passion gets the upper hand, and he impulsively invests his coppers in a bibulous refreshment, though well knowing that this action will result in an all-night open-air promenade; rather disagreeable, but certainly no novel experience as far as our friend is concerned.

It is 3 A.M. in Fleet Street; the morning is damp, sloppy, and miserable. The bulk of the millions of the metropolitan population are sunk in profound slumber, but the heart of British journalism is in full fierce throb. A few wearied editors, leader writers, and reporters, having finished their labours, are hurrying home. Telegraph boys are scurrying from office to office with missives containing the latest intelligence from all ends of the earth. Juvenile emissaries from the case and machine-rooms of the dailies are conveying huge cans of beer for the purpose of recuperating the flagging energies of their comrades. The night public-houses are open and in full swing; and our acquaintance, the sensational author, having left the friendly shelter of the portico of Covent Garden Market, under which he had passed one or two hours, is now wistfully looking through the window of one of these nocturnal hostleries—like a parched Peri standing at the gate of a beery paradise. Ha! a hospitable friend—an invitation to drink—and for the nonce the novelist is supremely happy.

He seizes this auspicious opportunity of finishing his copy for the succeeding week's issue. Its composition is a work of little difficulty, as the author had thought out the development of his plot while engaged in tramping about the streets. Arranging his papers on the top of an upright cask, he pauses for a moment to collect his thoughts. Having got his hero into a fix, the novelist adroitly gets him out of it, inserting an ingenious *finale* that will serve for a week to keep at full tension the interest of the youths who swallow hebdomadal doses of the 'Boy Bandit of the Balkans.' The author concludes thus:

Firmly pinioned, the Boy Bandit presents an undaunted front to the deadly, glittering array of levelled rifles, in the hands of the callous cruel soldiers who have been deputed to effect his destruction.

Ah! Rupert, of what avail is your lion-like courage now? The Boy Bandit is doomed.

Fire! shouts the officer in charge. The roll of a platoon of musketry breaks the stillness of the plain, and reverberates from cliff to cliff of the inaccessible mountain, on the icy summit of which [!] the boy's devoted adherents are assembled, mourning his fate and vowed revenge.

The smoke clears away.

The brutal soldiery stare in amazement. The spot where the boy stood is vacant. No mangled bullet-riddled corpse is visible. Whither has he flown?

Could he have been snatched from the jaws of death by the spectral hand of the friendly Demon of the Cliff?

Perhaps!

(To be continued in our next)

About noon this literary Bohemian will again be happy. On deposit of his copy the publisher will favour him with a sum to account. A debauch

while the money lasts will be the direct consequence, and two days later—perhaps in less time—the author will be in the destitute condition just described: He is long past taking a lesson from adversity, and will pursue the uneven tenour of his life somewhat after the fashion narrated, with but few variations, until, perforce, he has to take refuge within the sheltering walls of the workhouse.

In dealing with characters of this class there would be a magnificent field for the spare energy of active philanthropists. A Fleet Street Mission is a felt want. We beg respectfully to submit this idea to the Christian workers who are ever ready and willing to endeavour to improve and elevate the moral and social condition of their unstable fellow-creatures.

The 'penny dreadful' artists are also specialists. In their ranks may be found several men of undoubted talent, who with a little application and steadiness might have risen to a respectable altitude in the world of art. Once a man descends to depicting the doings of highwaymen and pirates, however, he loses caste, and remains in that rut. Very often these geniuses are in sore straits regarding the wherewithal to purchase the requisite 'blocks' on which to make sketches; but as there is commonly a great demand for their services—the name of 'dreadfuls' being, alas! Legion—they are seldom reduced to the sore straits experienced by a few of their literary *collaborateurs*.

It is an oft-debated point whether or not the Legislature should prohibit the publication of literature which is proved to have a baneful and demoralising effect on the minds of the youth of the kingdom. When any display of juvenile depravity is clearly traceable to the reading of penny dreadfuls, the newspaper press insists that some supervision should be exercised, and the worst class of these serials summarily stamped out. It is not our province to enter upon a discussion in regard to this question. The proprietors of 'penny dreadfuls,' it need hardly be remarked, do not concern themselves with ethical considerations; they are business men, and publish literature they find to be remunerative.

Reviews, &c.

From Messrs. E. W. Allen & Co.—'Electricity in the Treatment of Disease,' by James R. Tunmer, M.R.C.S. The author of this little volume has been largely indebted to the researches of De Waterville, Poore, Tibbitts, Althaus, Mayer, and others. From each of these authorities he makes copious extracts. His work will doubtless be of assistance in diffusing a better knowledge of electricity, but we should have been glad to see greater signs of original work and less dependence on the investigations of others.

From the Author (101 Queen Victoria Street, E.C.). 'Drum Taps,' by Elizabeth Reeves Swift, is a book that is difficult to speak of, further than to say that it comprises a series of sketches and scenes connected with the work carried on by the Salvation Army. The sketches are more brightly written than is usual with books of this character.

From Messrs. W. H. Beer & Co.—If not displaying exceptional literary merit, 'Isabel's Cross,' by Eliza Green, is a bright little story, written in an earnest unaffected manner. Among readers of the quieter form of fictional literature it will probably find much favour.

From Messrs. Cassell & Co. In 'Rhymes for Young People,' both author and artists have evidently striven with right good will to produce a creditable volume. It would be strange, too, considering the high position occupied by the collaborateurs in the book world, if their efforts were not attended with success. But of this there need be no fear. Mr. William Allingham, on his part, has written some charming verses, admirably adapted for young folk, and Helen Allingham, Kate Greenaway, Caroline Patterson, and Harry Furniss have quaintly and effectively illustrated his fanciful lines. Such books as this cause us almost to regret that we are not young again.

From Messrs. Chapman & Hall.—George Meredith's Novels, new edition. The volume now before us is composed of the 'Shaving of Shagpat,' an Arabian Entertainment, and of 'Farina,' and is the last of the series, which will be a welcome addition to the shelves of true book-lovers. The 'Shaving of Shagpat,' which one of our bibliographers calls 'a burlesque pros poem,' was published so long ago as 1855. 'Farina' was published exactly thirty years ago. For many a reader, therefore, these two stories will be tantamount to new books, seeing that for years they have not been accessible in the ordinary way of business.

From Messrs. Dean & Son.—Mr. S. Charles Phillips, the editor of 'The Paper-Makers Directory of All Nations,' is to be congratulated upon the success which has attended his very arduous work. He remarks that in the present edition the alterations have been very great—caused chiefly through changes in proprietorship of mills, alterations in plant and production, mills ceased working, mills destroyed by fire and other causes, building and working of new mills, &c. Paper-makers and those engaged in associated trades will find the directory an invaluable addition to the office library.

From the same.—'Transformation Object and Spelling Pictures, Instructive and Amusing,' by Walter Strangers. This is one of the most ingenious and instructive books for very young children that we have ever seen. By merely lifting a slip each picture can be changed, so that three different representations are formed, each carrying its especial lesson.

From 'Home Words' Publishing Office.—'The Man of Science, the Man of God; Leaves from the Life of Sir James Y. Simpson,' by the Rev. Charles Bullock, D.D. It is perhaps but natural in this little volume that more attention should be paid to the religious side of the late Professor Simpson's character, and to the influence of his fellowship, than to the great medical and scientific ability he displayed. Not of course that this feature of the subject is by any means ignored—the title of the volume would be a misnomer if so; but the work displays very little interest in the subject, and has only skirted the verge of the study. Throughout the volume other works have been freely laid under contribution, opinions, speeches, and sayings quoted; and the result is a readable compilation well suited to the purpose.

From Mr. Thomas Hookham.—The touching story of 'Blanche, Queen of Castile,' has been conveyed in graceful, easy flowing verse, after the model furnished by Sir Walter Scott, by 'Ronda.' The narrative in some respects readily lends itself

to the requirements of versification, and 'Ronda' may on the whole be complimented on the result of her efforts.

From Messrs. Houlston & Sons.—Mr. Alexander Winton Buchan is already known as the author of 'Poems of Feeling.' His new volume 'The Vision Stream; or, the Song of Man,' should, we think, bring him more prominently before the public. The allegory which he presents is thoughtful and earnest, occasionally rising even to distinct originality of conception, and almost invariably musical in language. For example, we have such lines as these:—

Amen! Amen! A pleasing echo caught
The assenting word, and eastward drew my eyes,
When like a blaze of noon bursting on night
A sudden glory flashed into the sky,—
And floating high above the Vision Stream,
And with it moving, upon wings as swift
As dallying thought might use,—a Human Form
Appeared, if Human fails not of the truth.

From Mr. Calmann Lévy, Paris.—'Joies conjugales,' par Gyp. This is a most amusing series of dialogues or domestic scenes, in which various ridiculous *contretemps* or disagreements incident to married life are set forth. Those of us who are old enough to remember the bickerings of Mr. and Mrs. Naggleton as they used to be printed in *Punch* will be reminded of them by this last book of 'Gyp.' The drollest sketch of all is, we think, that in which the Académie Française is made to get tired of the learned men to whom she is indissolubly bound, and insults them by pretending not to know what they have done to distinguish themselves. This piece is called *Le divorce de l'Académie*.

From Messrs. Crosby Lockwood & Co.—Mr. Paul N. Hasluck, author of 'Lathe Work,' 'The Metal Turner's Handbook,' &c., has just prepared another useful book for mechanics, namely, 'Screw Threads and Methods of Producing Them.' The book contains numerous tables, also complete directions for using screw-cutting lathes.

From Messrs. Sampson Low & Co.—The Rev. George Bryce has given us in his 'Short History of the Canadian People' an extremely interesting and, so far as we have been able to detect, trustworthy little work. It has been the aim of the author to avoid expatiating at length on the wars and political controversies of the nation whose history he describes, but rather to go deeper into the matter, to depict their home life, the characteristics and manners that have led them to what they are, and the struggles and vicissitudes they have passed through before attaining their present position. In this laudable design he has well succeeded. This, as he well remarks, is no 'drum and trumpet history' or 'mere record of faction fights'; it is a faithful portrayal of the beginnings and progress of a great nation. Readers who remember Professor Bryce's former book on 'Manitoba' will not require to be told that he brings to his work thorough acquaintance with the country in which he lives, and an almost affectionate regard for his subject, which is manifest in the untiring energy and zeal with which he has gathered together and arranged his facts. His work is one that should be secure of wide attention, and should be productive of much usefulness. It is further distinguished by an excellent map.

From the same.—'Tchay and Chianti; or, Wanderings in Russia and Italy,' by W. St. Clair

Baddeley, is a pleasantly-written little volume, furnishing a description of some of the best-known towns in the countries named, and the sights most worthy of notice. As the author remarks, it would at first appear strange to group Russia and Italy together, for no two countries could apparently form a greater contrast, but the connection here is 'merely an aesthetic and naturalistic one.' To readers who have travelled in Russia and Italy, and are thus to some extent acquainted with the various places mentioned, Mr. Baddeley's work should undoubtedly prove of much interest.

From the same.—If Mr. Richard Jefferies, in his new novel, 'Amaryllis at the Fair,' occasionally breaks away from the main path of the narrative, and discursively treats, both *in propria persona* and through the lips of his characters, of such wide and varied subjects as doctors and their patients, the busy printing world of Fleet Street, the attractions of book sales and the enthusiasm of the book-buyer, the nature of swedes, the luxury of a good apple, and many more quaint and curious subjects, the reader is certainly more than likely to forgive him, seeing how quietly humorous and penetrating his remarks are. On the whole, however, we like Mr. Jefferies best when he speaks in his own person, for Mr. Iden is apt to become somewhat of a bore when he gets upon the subject of potatoes and such like agricultural produce, and we feel almost inclined to side with his termagant wife and metaphorically thump him—as she does literally—for not striving after a more elevated form of employment. But Amaryllis is charming, and we would gladly see more of her and admire, by still further acquaintance, the saucy independence of her character. Pacha Iden, the grandfather, whose wealth lies concealed in an iron chest under his bed, is also good. We have not attempted to give the plot of Mr. Jefferies' story, for practically plot there is none. The book in its nature somewhat resembles a country stream which idly ripples hither and thither, gaining its interest from the pastoral nature of the country through which it wanders rather than from any force or grandeur of current. We notice one little passage in the book which we can hardly refrain from quoting. Speaking of the importance of Mr. Bernard Quaritch in the book-buying world, Mr. Jefferies says: 'Did you ever see the Giant Quaritch in the auction-room bidding for books? It is one of the sights of London, let me tell you, to anyone who thinks or is alive to the present day. Most sights are reputations merely—the pale reflection of things that were real once. This sight is something of the living time—the day in which we live. Get an *Athenaeum* in the season, examine the advertisements of book auctions, and attend the next great sale of some famous library. You have a recollection of the giant who sat by the highway and devoured the pilgrims who passed? This giant sits in the middle of the ring, and devours the books let loose upon their travels after the repose of centuries.' And then the author quietly observes a few lines further on, 'I have read a good many books in my time—I would not give sixpence for the whole lot.' The *naïveté* of this last remark, after he has been speaking of the feverish anxiety of collectors for old and rare tomes, is delicious. But 'Amaryllis at the Fair' is delightful all through.

From Mr. William Mack.—The second edition of 'A Garland from the Parables' will be welcomed by many admirers. The author, the late Rev. W. Edensor Littlewood, was a writer of some

power and persuasiveness in the awakening of religious aspirations, and in strengthening their growth. His sorrowing family have done their duty well in giving to the public this increased collection of the poems of a worthy man.

From Messrs. Macmillan & Co.—Mr. William Black seems entirely to have deserted his old love the Highlands, and only towards the close of his recent novel, 'Sabina Zembra,' which now lies before us, do we get a brief glimpse of the purple heather and the misty moorland. The greater portion of the plot is laid in London and at Witstead in Surrey. Sir Anthony Zembra, a politician who is evidently intended as a satire, though faint, on men of the time, has a daughter Sabina—affectionately by her intimate friends styled Sabie—much given to visiting among the poor and the practice of nursing. Hers is a nature that glories in self-sacrifice, and the sure way to her heart, as her plain but thoroughly faithful little friend Janie Wygram is so fond of repeating, lies in an appeal to her pity. What you have to do, says Janie, in so many other words, is to enlist her sympathy, to show Sabie that from some cause or other you are suffering, and then she will be interested. Unfortunately, by a chain of events which we have not space to relate, her pity and consequent affection are bestowed on the wrong man, in every way an unsuitable match for her, and she only painfully finds out her mistake after the marriage is solemnised. Then follow many months of ever-increasing torture, as the unworthy character of her husband is gradually disclosed to her. Meanwhile we have another young man devotedly attached to her; and it would indeed be hard to say which is the most unselfish and sacrificing in nature, Sabina Zembra or Walter Lindsay the artist, though what in the woman seems right enough is apt in the man to savour of mawkishness and sentimentality. How the pair eventually come together when Walter is suffering under a serious affliction, and how in this way Sabina has the opportunity of showing the self-denying nature of her disposition, we must leave readers to learn for themselves. It would ill become us to spoil the interest of so charming a story by any premature disclosures. If Mr. Black's characters occasionally remind us of creations we have previously met in his novels, this is the only fault we have to find with his book; and in view of the earnest delight with which we welcome these old acquaintances, it may indeed almost be doubted whether it is a fault at all.

From the National Society, Westminster.—In 'Scapegrace Dick' Frances Mary Peard has written an interesting little story, told naturally and with good effect. The plot may not be exactly an original one—the account of the wayward impetuous youth, who, not being understood at home, runs away to sea, is one that is known to most of us; but in the present instance it is narrated with such simplicity and true feeling as to become most engrossing. Eventually, of course, after the many trials and experiences he has passed through, 'Scapegrace Dick' comes home again, an improved and much nobler man; and the story concludes with an allusion to his marriage with half-cousin Cicely, whose acquaintance as a charming little maiden of eleven we first made on the day Dick ran away from home.

From the same.—The title of 'The Heroine of a Basket Van,' by M. Bramston, should in itself stimulate curiosity, for at first sight it may seem

apparent what species of a van is meant, and next, when this is explained, it is somewhat difficult to conceive a romance interwoven with the prosaic employment of basket-selling. However, the story reveals the fact—which some otherwise very estimable people will go on doubting—that all beings, no matter in what employment engaged, have hearts and are susceptible to feeling like their better-dressed neighbours; and it is altogether a pleasant, interesting little narrative throughout. We can scarcely award equal commendation to the illustrations.

From Messrs. Nisbet & Co.—'Sunny Sundays,' by S. M. Holworthy, includes numerous hints for conversational Scripture classes. The book is simple, and the hints come from wise and familiar axioms of devotion.

From the same.—The professor of music at Edinburgh University is known to stand among the foremost of church composers, and his works are very familiar to congregations as well as choristers and organists. In 'The Prayer Book Psalter,' Sir Herbert Oakeley has pointed the Psalms with that care and appropriateness which his knowledge and experience directed. He has, moreover, adapted a selection of chants to the work; some entirely new compositions also appear. The collection is a welcome addition to the forms of praise.

From Messrs. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh.—In 'Vita Vinctis' certain authors well and favourably known on the northern side of the Tweed, and not altogether unrecognised within the sound of Bow Bells, have combined together to furnish a volume that, both in prose and verse, shall convey sound teaching and enforce the lesson in the motto they have chosen. These authors are Robina F. Hardy, Annie S. Swan, and Jessie M. E. Saxby. Each has contributed an excellent and appropriate story, and Mrs. Saxby in addition has supplied two poems, which are distinguished by much earnest thought and feeling. But surely it was hardly worth while to draw attention to the fact that 'Students to the rescue!' is the old 'war cry' of Edinburgh University; it is equally the 'war cry,' we should think, of ninety-nine other universities, and indeed illustrates a very natural way in which students would be likely to appeal to one another.

From Messrs. S. W. Partridge & Co.—'Jonathan Onslow, Pioneer; a history of his experiences and investigations.' In this neatly-bound volume there is undoubtedly much that should be of benefit to the thoughtful reader. The life of Jonathan Onslow, as depicted in these pages, can hardly fail to arouse sentiments of admiration and respect. The thoroughness of his character and noble disposition are effectively displayed. It is, in short, the record of an earnest man's life, and as such it is worthy of high commendation. The work is published in Melbourne by M. L. Hutchinson.

From Messrs. Isaac Pitman & Sons.—The first volume of James Butterworth's 'National Phonographic Library' has just appeared. It is the 'Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin.' The text followed is of 'Cassell's National Library,' a highly admirable model. Mr. Butterworth states that during the past four-and-twenty years he has written and printed about 140 volumes of phonography, so that he is well qualified to edit a series such as the 'National Phonographic Library.'

We wish the venture the success it deserves in these days when phonography has taken its place as one of the most requisite of educational studies.

From 'The Scientific Publishing Company Limited.'—'Our Daily Water Supply,' by C. E. Parker Rhodes. This is a little work which comes at a very opportune moment, seeing that there have been various complaints of late on the subject. It contains a full account of the water supplied to us, and the various conditions under which it becomes unwholesome and impure; the nature of hard water and its influence in the preparation of food, on the skin, and as a cause of blood poisoning; with much other interesting and useful information.

From Messrs. Vizetelly & Co.—The second volume of the 'Mermaid Series' of 'best plays of the old dramatists' consists of a selection from the works of Philip Massinger, probably best known to the present generation of playgoers by his drama of 'A New Way to Pay Old Debts.' This is still occasionally performed, but the remainder are rarely if ever produced on the

stage. The present edition is supplied with an interesting introduction, giving the leading particulars of Massinger's life, with an analysis of his character and ability, by Arthur Symonds under whose careful literary supervision the work has been produced. In addition to 'A New Way to Pay Old Debts,' already mentioned, the volume contains 'The Duke of Milan,' 'The Great Duke of Florence,' 'The Maid of Honour,' and 'The City Madam.' It is, according to the plan pursued in this series, an unexpurgated edition.

From Messrs. Ward, Lock & Co.—*The Industrial Self-Instructor and Technical Journal* Volume III. The work remains as heretofore—an admirable self-educator in all the various and important branches of technical science and we can imagine no volume that should be more eagerly welcome to the student of building engineering, printing or other employment, in their different aspects, than this. Much additional usefulness is conveyed to the work by the excellent diagrams and other illustrations which are given; and the entire volume forms a storehouse of information that is well-nigh marvellous.

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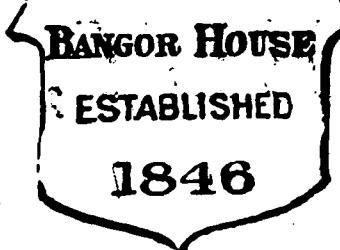
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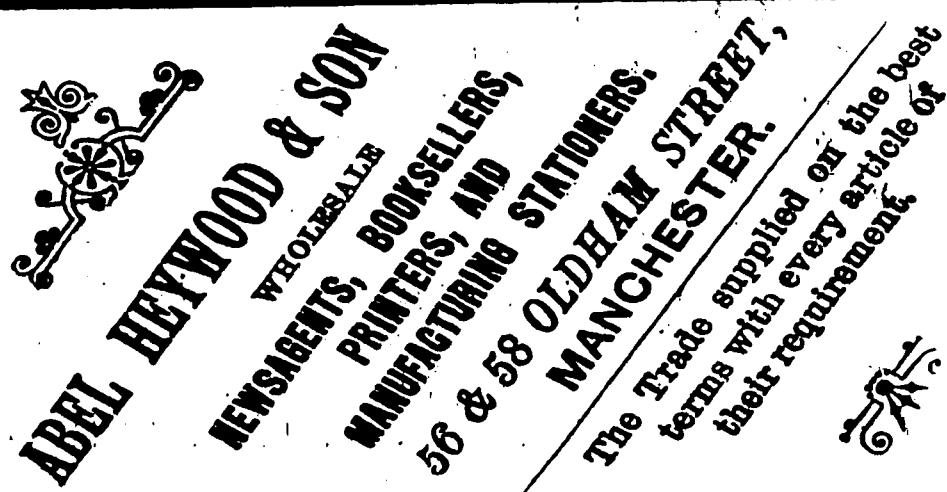
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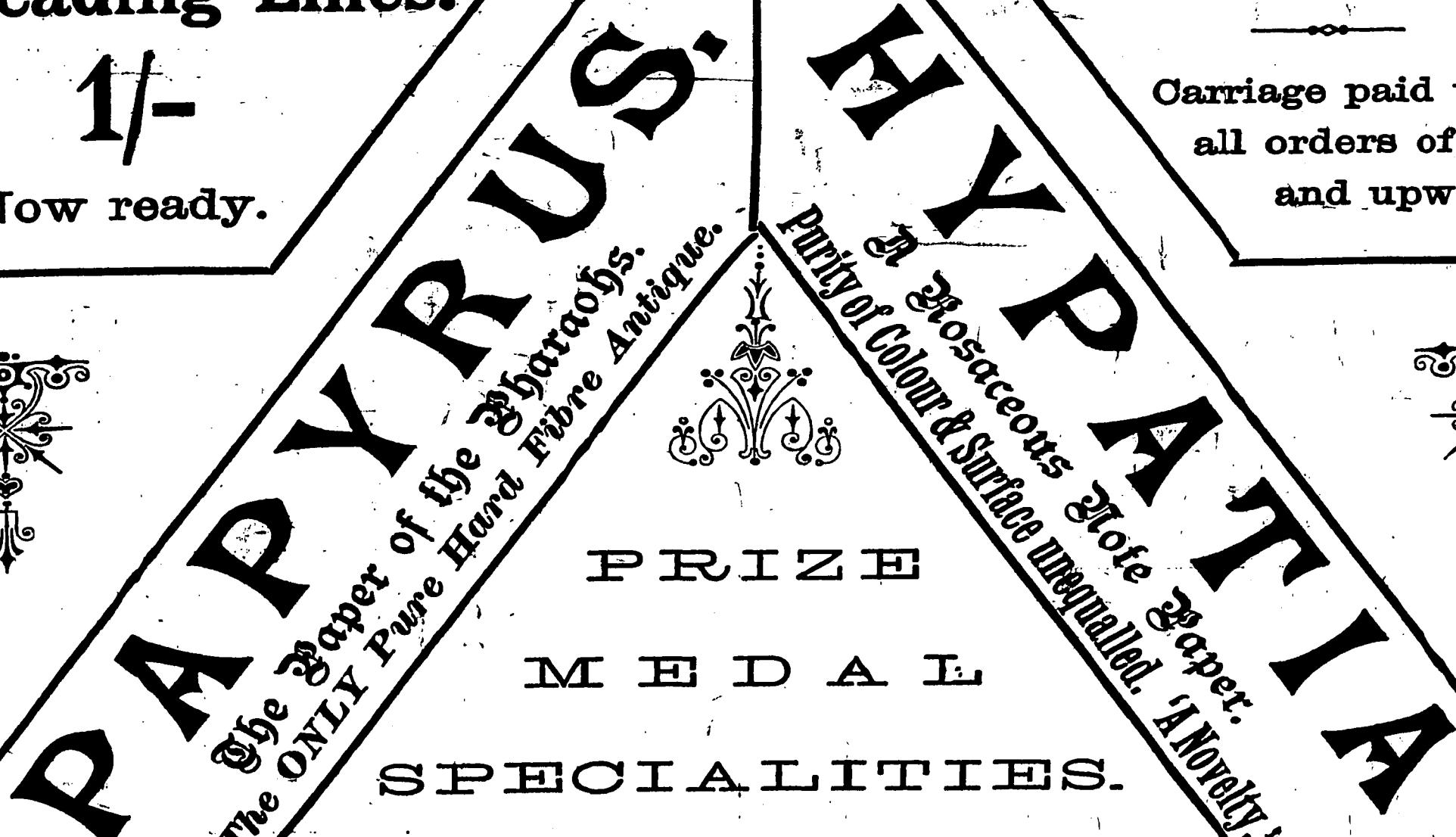
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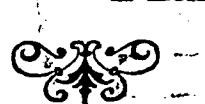
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