

pose, and the scientific details abridged; and more prominence is sought for the picturesque element of adventure. An uninteresting story could hardly be made out of such materials; and Lieut. Hovgaard's is not by any means uninteresting; nevertheless the volume is the inferior of the one noticed in our last issue at several points. In only one respect has it decidedly the advantage, namely in its map number one, which shows the circumnavigation of Asia and Europe at a glance. The pictures are poorer than is excusable. But the subject is fascinating in almost any light. [London. Sampson Low & Co.]

A new volume of Cassell's Popular Library, entitled *The Huguenots*; a sketch of their history from the beginning of the Reformation to the death of Louis XIV, is by Gustave Masson, B.A. Mr. Masson gives us, however, more than he promises; for in a concluding chapter the history is brought down to the year 1880. Here is, therefore, within the compass of 192 pages, 18mo, a complete, if not a very full record of French Protestantism written by a scholar evidently at home in the subject and able to express himself clearly and pleasantly upon it. He has done his work well, making use, in particular, of some recently published French works. In a somewhat cursory examination of the book we have detected no error worthy of note except the application of the designation of "lame or insecure peace (*paix boiteuse et mal assise*)" to the Peace of Longjumeau, 1568. It has been shown by Soldan and by Baird (*Rise of the Huguenots*, ii. 366) that this is a mistake, and that the witty nickname was really given to the Peace of St. Germain (1570), in consequence of the fact that, of the plenipotentiaries on the royal side, one (Biron) was lame and the other was lord of Malassise. [25c.]

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

Two contributions have been made recently to what may be called the popular history of Spain, one of them American, the other English. The first, by Professor James A. Harrison of Washington and Lee University, Virginia, belongs in D. Lothrop & Co.'s "Library of Entertaining History." As such it is "entertaining" and it is "history." The author has traveled in Spain; what is more to the purpose he has explored the literature of the subject as few scholars have, and writes out of a full and critical knowledge as well as with a ready hand. For a short history, —and it is not so very short either, stretching out as it does to 700 pages—it is worthy of praise. The mass of material must be something of a burden to any writer, but Prof. Harrison handles it with comparative lightness and ease; and the passages of excellent writing are more than occasional. The second work, by Wentworth Webster, a well-known Spanish scholar, belongs to Sampson Low & Co.'s series of "Foreign Countries and British Colonies," and is of smaller scope, with a corresponding increase of difficulties in treatment.

Lieutenant Hovgaard, a member of the Nordenskiöld Expedition, has written *A Popular Account* of it to meet the wants of those who do not care to go so deeply into the historic and scientific aspects of the subject as Nordenskiöld's own work requires one to do. The historic accompaniments are greatly reduced for the pur-

Under the general title of *Some Private Views* Mr. James Payn, the clever English novelist, has reprinted a number of his recent articles in the *Nineteenth Century* and the *Times*. They are on various topics, chiefly literary, show wisdom and good spirits, and are excellent light reading of a useful sort. One relates the author's technical experiences as a story teller, and another deservedly rebukes "Sham Admiration in Literature." [Chatto & Windus.]

The second volume of the new Riverside Edition of the Collected Works of Bret Harte is made up of prose entirely—"Earlier Papers," "Other Papers," "Bohemian Sketches," "Spanish and American Legends," and "Tales of the Argonauts"; and takes its title from what is probably the chiefest, certainly the most famous, of them all, *The Luck of Roaring Camp*. [Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$2.00.]—The same publishers have brought out a new ninth edition of the Rev. Wm. Mountford's *Euthanasia*, a volume of "happy talk towards the end of life," a sunny book of good sense and pleasant sentiment first published more than thirty years ago, a sort of nineteenth century Plato, which we are happy to commend to all who have not yet known it. [\$2.00.]—The first two issues in Macmillan's new dollar series of popular novels are Kingsley's *Hyperborea* and *Westward Ho!* and very good-looking books they are at that low price, excellently printed and well bound. *John Inglesant*, a shapely column rising from the monotonous level of modern fiction, comes next.—Novel readers desirous of making or renewing acquaintance with Frances Burney's famous *Evelina*, that delightful old "his-

tory of a young lady's entrance into the world," can do so conveniently in a new edition in the well-known dress of Bohn's Library. [Scribner & Welford. \$1.40.]—Mr. George Augustus Sala's *Paris Herself Again* has reached a 6th edition and compression into a single volume of 539 pages. These pen-and-pencil sketches of Parisian life are clever enough, no doubt, but they are not so edifying to the public taste and conscience that we can rejoice at their being cheapened and so still more widely circulated. Such books are to be kept on the high shelf, out of reach. [New York: Scribner & Welford. \$2.25.]—The new dress of Dr. J. G. Holland's novel, *Sevenoaks*, is a great improvement on the old, the cover especially. [Scribner. \$1.25.]