

## Peacock.

There is a tendency nowadays toward the re-suscitation of by-gone fiction, and the novels of Thomas Love Peacock in their turn are experiencing the advantages of this renaissance, reappearing in modern dress, with illustrations and a preface by George Saintsbury. It was in 1816, we believe, that "Headlong Hall" first saw the light, "Nightmare Abbey" following four or five years later; now collected in a single volume. Sooth to say, we are not convinced by a re-perusal of the desirability of reviving these productions. They are satires of a somewhat cumbrous, old-fashioned sort, and stale satire has as little charm as stale beer—all the froth and effervescence blown away by the windy breath of time. The songs, convivial and otherwise, scattered through the volume do not seem to us to merit the panegyrics bestowed upon them by Mr. Saintsbury; the sentiment is out of date and the fun antiquated. We except the drinking song from "Nightmare Abbey," which, though it may not merit the adjective applied to it, "sublime," is certainly full of grace and swing. [Macmillan & Co. \$1.25.]

Mr. Saintsbury concludes his pious task to Mr. Peacock's memory with the reprint of "Gryll Grange," the latest novel published by that author. It has the characteristics of his other work, the satire, the learning, the whimsical likings and antipathies; but we can scarcely imagine the readers of our realistic age taking Mr. Peacock seriously, or imagining that his Miss Grylls and Miss Niphets, his Rev. Dr. Opeinains and Lord Cuerafins, are real people, or anything more than clothes-frames on which to hang his odd fancies and theories. The follies at which he aimed his shafts have mainly perished with their generation, so that the accuracy and success of his aim are of less interest now than then, and we scarcely agree with Mr. Saintsbury in the opinion that "the whole cannot be otherwise than delightful to any person of knowledge, sense, or taste." Curious, and interesting perhaps to a select few, but "delightful?" No! [Macmillan & Co. \$1.25.]