

Literature.

[The prompt mention in our list of "Books of the Week" will be considered by us an equivalent to their publishers for all volumes received. The interests of our readers will guide us in the selection of works for further notice.]

ANOTHER STANDARD DICTIONARY IN VIEW.

THE American genius seems to run in an extraordinary way to dictionary making. The great dictionaries of the century of the English language have been American, and have been the basis of dictionaries compiled in England. In the early part of the century Noah Webster prepared a dictionary which by far surpassed anything that had preceded it, leaving Johnson's and Walker's as far behind as they had left Bailey. Webster's Dictionary has been good property, and has received revision after revision until its first author would not recognize it. Worcester's Dictionary was for a while a rival, but the late magnificent enlargement of Webster's and the more colossal Century Dictionary are likely to leave it stranded. Meanwhile England is taking its turn in a deliberate way with Murray's Dictionary, a goodly share of the workers on which are of this country. Under the circumstances it was a great, if not hazardous venture for Messrs. Funk & Wagnalls to undertake at the same time a great rival dictionary. Their *Standard Dictionary*, of which specimen pages have been received, it is announced is now well along, and may be expected to appear next year. We have already made some mention of it. It will be a large quarto in one volume, and proposes to have more words in it than any other dictionary: to take greater pains with the spelling and the pronunciation, both of which are to be up to the very latest standards. The pronunciation will be indicated by the scientific alphabet of the American Reform Association and be under the care of Professor March. The derivations will have the supervision of his son and of Dr. Balg. We are sure they will be well considered. There is a magnificent list of names of consulting editors, including such men as Doremus, in chemistry; Newcomb, in astronomy and mathematics; Gill, in zoology; Shaler, in geology; Cooley, in constitutional law; Phelps, in international law; Harper, in Biblical terms; Wright, in statistics; Seidl, in music, and Stanley, on Anglo-African words. Besides these are advisory committees on new words, on disputed spelling and pronunciations, etc. The specimen pages received are profusely illustrated. The definitions, it is announced, are not to be arranged in historical order, but rather in the order of their use, so that the most common meaning will come first. The plan has been warmly approved by Dr. Murray and Professor Skeat, of England, and by many scholars here. We do not question that it will be a very useful and important work.