

## MINOR NOTICES.

### Stratford-on-Avon.

This reprint of the historical sketch of an unimportant town, made glorious by the birth and residence of Shakespeare, traces the slow progress of Stratford-on-Avon — "the street to the ford of the river" — from the earliest times to Shakespeare's death. In the introductory chapter, Mr. Sidney Lee gives an account of the town as worthy of study for its own sake, thinking this plan "more suggestive and in better harmony with the perspective of history" than the more usual treatment which makes Stratford a mere setting for one transcendent poet. But how should anything else be possible? When we think of Stratford as Shakespeare's birthplace and home, we are full of a passionate curiosity to get at something of the environment of the man. We are not anxious for more of local English history, but to reach something of the secret of a soul broader, more comprehensive, deeper, more tolerant, infinitely wiser, richer in joy, richer in sorrow, and withal freer from self than any other man has been. The ultimate question that he asks of nature is always, "What is man?" So of this o'ertopping man we wonder, as we study the quiet rural scenes, not how they grew, but how he grew. While this is inevitably the point of view of the reader, the coherent account of the growth of the municipality and of the early English institutions which had their place in the full development of Shakespeare is valuable. The wood engravings, which are mostly of places connected with Shakespeare's life, are numerous and satisfactory, though many of them are familiar. The volume, well printed, on good paper, forms a welcome addition to the shelf of reference volumes concerned with an achievement which can never be explained. — Macmillan & Co. \$2.00.

### Fanny Burney.

A very interesting book on *Fanny Burney and her Friends* has been written by L. B. Seeley, which supplies a real want in regard to that remarkable woman. She moved in the best society, was petted by all the men of genius of her time, wrote most interesting accounts of her experiences in her diary, and became famous as a novelist. Her extensive diary is a mine of rich materials from which the writer of this book has drawn with skill and discrimination. He introduces us into a society that has never been surpassed in its brilliancy, its wit, and its genius, in any period of English history; and he brings out its charm in a piquant and fascinating manner. The names of Dr. Johnson, Garrick, Reynolds, Warren Hastings, Burke, and Mrs. Siddons, show how varied and how rich were the individual connections of Fanny Burney with the

society of her time. A remarkably full and many-sided life is here described only too briefly, and yet with a right appreciation of its significance and its accomplishments. — Scribner & Welford. \$2.50.

### Count Konigsmark and "Tom of Ten Thousand."

Königsmark was for more than one century a notorious name in certain European courts. Many of the women bearing it were intriguers, as dangerous as beautiful. The men were "heroes, adventurers, or knaves." To the subject of Mr. Henry Vizetelly's book, Charles John (born in 1659), all three of these words will apply. "Handsome and brave," while but a boy he made his appearance at the court of Sweden, but soon went to London and thence to Paris. He next turned up at Malta and served as a volunteer against the Barbary Corsairs; then after valiant deeds and marvelous escapes, he was again in London, where he professed to fall in love with the famous Northumberland heiress, who later on married Mr. Thynne, known as "Tom of Ten Thousand." Vexed at his failure to secure the prize, young Königsmark went over to Tangiers and engaged in service against the Turks, but was soon back in England. Within a month of his arrival, Thynne was assassinated, and suspicion at once fastened on his rival. He managed, however, to escape "the clutch of the law," was in the employ of Louis XIV for a time, and finally, in the war of the Venetian republic against the Turks, perished miserably, at the age of twenty-seven. — Scribner & Welford. 50c.