

distinct and accurate information. Such a manual as this is greatly needed. We hope for a second edition with more American names in it.

....In the light of the good-natured optimism which prescribes that nothing sharp be said of the dead, we shall have to accept with gratitude Mr. Edward T. Mason's two volumes, 16mo, on the *Personal Traits of British Authors*. They contain a series of detached glimpses and anecdotes, woven together in an interesting order, and genial in their spirit. As literary recreations they are good, though we shall have to add that as material for forming a biographic or literary judgment they are seductive, if not misleading, and tend to strengthen that fragmentary, partial and superficial method of arriving at a conclusion which is already too strong for the best public opinion on subjects of this nature. The sketches in the first volume apply to Wordsworth, Coleridge, Lamb, Hazlitt, Leigh Hunt, Procter; those of the second to Byron, Shelley, Moore, Rogers, Keats, Southey, and Landor.

....We have already noticed in full the proposed American reprint of the Ante-Nicene Library, edited by the Rev. Alexander Roberts, D.D., and James Donaldson, LL.D., revised and annotated by the Right Rev. Arthur Cleveland Coxe. Volume I is now at hand, containing the writings of the Apostolic Fathers and of Justin Martyr and Irenæus, and published in good form and in a substantial manner by the Christian Literature Publishing Co., Buffalo, N. Y., at the moderate price of \$3.00.

....A genuine literary sensation has occurred since our last number in the announcement that Charles Egbert Craddock, the brilliant Southern writer, is not a man. He is Miss M. N. Murfree, of Murfreesboro, Tenn. Miss Murfree was entertained by Mr. T. B. Aldrich at a dinner-party in Boston last week, at which Mr. W. D. Howells, Dr. Holmes and Mr. Lawrence Barrett were presented to her. She is described as a charming young lady.

....The manual of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union is published by the National Temperance Society, 59 Reade Street, in this city, under the designation of the *Pathfinder*. It is edited by Mrs. E. G. Greene, President of the Vermont Christian Woman's Temperance Union, and contains full statements of the work, organization and various departments of the society, together with lists of books for temperance libraries.

....The *Journal du Protestantisme* says that the citizens of Geneva propose to celebrate, next August, the 350th anniversary of the establishment of the Reformation in their canton.

....In the publishing Alphonso De Candolle's *Origin of Cultivated Plants*, the Messrs. Appleton have added to "The International Scientific Series" a number which is likely to be received with very general satisfaction. The origin of cultivated plants is a subject of general interest, and, apart from its connection with the dawnings of civilization, is a topic of general intelligent curiosity. The subject was treated by the same author in an early work, published thirty years ago, which has now become scarce and is much behind the present state of knowledge. Instead of publishing a second and revised edition, the author has wisely rewritten the whole and made a manual of the greatest value, including almost all cultivated plants, and treating of the origin of almost double the original number. The author's investigations have been laborious. He has had to correct mistakes that have come down from the Greeks and the Romans, and an unexpectedly large number which have crept in through Linnæus. Pains have been taken to ascertain how long each species has been under cultivation, and to give the number of centuries indicating the period, and at the same time to note how its culture spread in different directions at different epochs. Part I is a brief survey of the manner and the epochs in which cultivation began in different countries, and of the methods for ascertaining the origin of each species. Part II contains about three hundred pages devoted to the facts of the origin, early cultivation and diffusion of the species. Part III contains the summary and conclusion.

....From the Messrs. Franke & Schneider, Washington, D. C., we have an excellent sheet map of *Lower Egypt, the Sinaitic Peninsula and the Promised Land*. 24x26 inches in size, edited by the Rev. Louis H. Schneider, compiled and delineated by Max Franke. Lower Egypt has been compiled from the best German maps; the Suez Canal is done from the French Government Surveys of 1876; the Mediterranean Coast and the Sinaitic Peninsula are from English Ordinance surveys, and Kadesh is from the very recent sketches of the Rev. Henry Clay Trumbull, D.D. The route laid down for the march of the children of Israel into Canaan follows the theory that they were for about thirty-eight years in Kadesh, and that the so-called wanderings occurred in that vicinity. The geodetic indications of the conformation of the country are carried out with as much fullness as a map of the kind permits. The more important towns and localities only are printed in, and some annotations in different parts of the map are intended to summarize their history and to mark to the eye the connection of the events with the locality. The map is a better representation of recent researches than any of its class, or meant for popular use, that we have seen.

....A valuable book of reference for literary workers is *Women of the Day: A Biographical Dictionary of Notable Contemporaries*, by Francis Hays. (American Republication by the Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co.) The scope of this manual is not limited to inhabitants of the British Islands, though it is fuller in this than in the American department, which certainly requires very considerable *addenda* to bring it up to the highest point of usefulness. As it stands, it is better than anything we have, and especially full and good in the department of living English women. The manual includes celebrated women in various walks and departments of life, their celebrity and distinction being the ground of their appearance in the work. Living contemporaries are common; those about whom it is most difficult to obtain