THE SHAYBACKS IN CAMP.*

R. AND MRS. SHAYBACK (née Barrows) were once the united minister of a Unitarian society near Boston. They are now, we believe, the joint editor of a Unitarian journal in Boston. They are likewise -to divide into two what God hath made one - periodical excursionists to a point on the eastern shore of the Canadian half of Lake Memphremagog, where for ten years past, with a troop of young Shaybacks, and now and then a friend for guest, they have camped out in August or thereabouts, and made merry under several tents to the sound of much tin ware, with plenty to eat, a fleet of boats, and a steam launch. Mr. Shayback has also camped upon the martial field of a Massachusetts militia muster, and Mrs. Shayback in the valley of the Godavery, India. Thus bravery and experience have been added to their outfit for the Canadian wilderness; and out of all this varied conversance with nature in two hemispheres is this book written. India and the muster field, however, it is but fair to say, get only a single chapter each; Memphremagog monopolizes the other fifteen, and these fifteen in their way leave little to desire.

To two classes of people this book can safely be commended: first, to those who prefer to take their camp life in books, while

remaining comfortably at home, or exiling themselves to partial comforts in the summer hotels; second, to those who desire to try camp life for themselves, and want to know where to go and how to do it. From the frontispiece map of the Memphremagog region on through the lists of camp equipment and the chapters of directive description, the book is as good as a manual of arms for the raw recruit; while in its lively relation of haps and mishaps, its jolly anecdote, and the mock pathos with which it softens the colors of risk and hardship, it furnishes amusement of good quality for any more wary reader who prefers to laugh over the predicaments of others rather than to put his foot in it himself.

The Shayback requisites for a good time camping out are a suitable place, an ample equipment, an abundant larder, equable tempers, obliging dispositions, readiness all round "to take hold and help," and plenty of children in the party. With the Shaybacks, certainly, one could be happy. With them to troll for "lunge" in the deep waters of Lake Memphremagog, or to bathe on one of its sunny beaches, or to cruise in the saucy "Nymph" along its indented shores, or to climb the rugged slopes of Owl's Head, or to picnic at Brome Lake; to build a log cabin, indeed, or even to wash dishes, would make up enjoyment enough for one summer. May the lines of the Literary World some day fall in some such pleasant places!

^{*}The Shaybacks in Camp. By Samuel J. Barrows and Isabel C. Barrows. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.00.