

## BIOGRAPHIES, NEW AND OLD.



ABOUT six years ago there died in Vichy, at the age of seventy-six, an Englishman, the keynote of whose character was admirably struck by Mr. W. E. Forster, when on one occasion he remarked to Lord

Dalhousie, "I have many friends who would be kind to me in distress, but only one who would be equally kind to me in disgrace, and he has just left the room." The reference was to the man the story of whose career has been told by T. Wemyss Reid in *The Life, Letters, and Friendships of Richard Moncton Milnes, First Lord Houghton*. Although the name of Lord Houghton is associated with no really great achievement either in letters or in politics, most of the English-speaking men who won literary or political fame in his time were proud of his friendship. Educated at Cambridge, his literary tastes developed early, bearing fruit in some volumes of verse of tender feeling and graceful fancy and in occasional reviews of the lives and works of several of his contemporaries. His social career in London, however, was of unique distinction; and it is this phase of his life, rather than his contributions to literature, the value of which the future will have to determine, that is of the most interest. He became the successor of Rogers as the literary host, so to speak, of the time.

For this post he was admirably fitted by temperament, family ties, and intellectual training. He was cosmopolitan in his tastes—a man of the world, in the best sense. A long residence abroad soon after he left the university had broadened his outlook on life and had emphasized the universality of his curiosity in the affairs, social, political, and literary, of his fellow-men. His social gifts were remarkable, and made his companionship enjoyable to the finest intellects of his day—men of the highest prominence in various spheres of life—Carlyle, Tennyson, Gladstone, Browning, Sydney Smith, Thackeray, and a host of their fellows; while he numbered among his friends on this side Lowell, Sumner, Emerson, whom he first brought to the attention of English readers by an article in the *Westminster Review*, Longfellow, and others equally distinguished. His kindness of heart and his buoyancy of spirits bound his friends to him with hooks of steel; while his wealth and his social position gave him the power, which he exercised lavishly though unostentatiously, to relieve the distress of not a few fellow-men of letters on whom fortune pressed heavily. The story of his life has been told by Mr. Reid in two stout volumes which are among the most entertaining books that have reached the reviewer's table in a long time. Nearly every page bears testimony of some sort to the singularly sweet and lovable

character of Lord Houghton, as well as to the esteem and affection in which he was held by his friends. His correspondence was wide and was carefully preserved, so that Mr. Reid has had an abundance of the richest material upon which to draw. The anecdotes about the celebrated people whom he knew are only

of the Union cause during the Civil War endeared him greatly to his American friends, who made his visit to this country in 1875 a triumphal progress. [Cassell, 8vo, 2 vols., \$5.00.]

Napoleon's French campaign of 1814 has always been considered by military critics one



From "Marie Louise and the Invasion of 1814."

Charles Scribner's Sons.

*Maria Luigia*

less interesting than the letters from them. All are in the highest degree readable, but those from Carlyle and Mrs. Carlyle and from Sumner, particularly the one in which the latter gives a sketch and pen-portrait of Emerson, are especially noteworthy. Lord Houghton's faith in the righteousness and ultimate success

of the ablest if not absolutely the ablest that he ever conducted. Disastrous as its result was, the energy, the fertility of resource, the tactical combinations, the quick marches, sudden attacks and skilful retreats of this series of battles and manœuvres in the face of overwhelming odds make it even more remarkable



strategically than any of its remarkable predecessors. M. de Saint-Amand tells the story of it in extremely artistic fashion in his *Marie Louise and the Invasion of 1814*. The book is, indeed, perhaps the most interesting of the series, as well as an admirable account of the military operations it chronicles, because it

usually taken to be Napoleon's insane obstinacy in indulging illusions of victory against overwhelming odds. The *morale* of Paris, the exhaustion of France, the vacillation of the Regent's court, the treachery in high official places betraying a fundamental disintegration of the imperial government, are vividly portrayed and form a strong background to the dramatic story of the combats in the field. The defection of Marmont with its fateful consequences has never been more graphically and understandingly described. The narrative is brought down to the leave-taking at Fontainebleau, the departure for Elba, and records the last days which Marie Louise, unequal to the tragic opportunities of her fortune, passed on French soil. [Scribners, 12mo, \$1.25.]

Sir Francis Drake was the embodiment of the daring, adventurous, buccaneering spirit of the Elizabethan age, when every Protestant hand was turned against the mighty power of Spain, and when in the thought of the valiant Puritans it was doing God's service to sack and pillage and destroy His enemies and the enemies of the Virgin Queen. Hot and imperious in temper, impatient, in his colossal self-reliance, of suggestion or advice, fertile in expedients and bold and venturesome to the point of rashness in carrying out his designs, Drake made his name a terror to the Spaniard on the high seas by his semi-piratical exploits in the waters of New Spain. His circumnavigation of the globe, the story of which is one of the most thrilling in the maritime history of England, opened the way for the restless, adventurous commercial spirit of England to extend its operations to India, and was the forerunner of the founding of the East India Company and of the British Empire in India. But Drake's greatest service to his country was his demonstration that the naval power of Philip was not invincible. His tactics and strategy were new, and he infused into his men so much of his own courage and boldness of spirit that the sense of fear which the Spanish name had inspired gave way to a consciousness of superiority which marks the beginning of England's naval supremacy. In the last volume in the English Men of Action, *Sir Francis Drake*, Julian Corbett has described, in a narrative marked by great spirit, the career of this leader of men and typical sailor of Elizabeth's day. [Macmillan, 12mo, 60 cents.]



From Boswell's "Life of Johnson."—Harper & Brothers.

SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D.

From the original painting in the possession of Mr. Archdeacon, Cambridge.

contrives to keep the reader in almost as much suspense as to the final result as if it were a work of fiction. We all know in advance, of course, that Napoleon was hopelessly beaten, but nowhere else that we recall, in the many records of the memorable invasion, is it made so clear that the Emperor must have seemed to himself and to his advisers constantly on the point of substantial success. The author thus makes a genuine contribution to history in credibly and rationally explaining what is

Although Cherubini exercised no lasting influence upon the musical art of France, where he passed most of his life, Germany or Italy, yet his career is interesting in that, born in 1760 and dying in 1842, he served as the bond, so to speak, between classic idealism and modern romanticism. His mastery of the



just published, one, too, that would adorn any library. The type is beautifully clear, the paper good and the binding substantial. The illustrations, several of which we give herewith, are a valuable and interesting feature of the work. [Harper, 6 vols., 8vo, \$10.00.]

A valuable addition has just been made to the series of "American Religious Leaders" in the life of *Dr. Francis Wayland*, by Professor James O. Murray, of Princeton College. The work was intrusted to Professor Murray as a pupil of Dr. Wayland, and it has been done appreciatively, reverently, and as thoroughly as the necessary limitations of the series to which it belongs would allow. It is some-



From Boswell's "Life of Johnson."—Harper & Brothers.

DR. JOHNSON'S HOUSE, JOHNSON COURT, FLEET ST.

classic forms in harmony and in counterpoint was based on his study of Palestrina, and yet his operas and masses were characterized by an individuality and an originality which showed how thoroughly he had assimilated the principles of the classical school and how successful he was in applying them to the modern spirit. His career, which is sketched by F. J. Crowest under the title of *Cherubini* in *The Great Musicians*, covered a momentous period in the world's history, and brought him in association with some of the great masters of the art—Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Berlioz, Boildieu, Halévy, etc. The numerous anecdotes told about him give interest to the narrative of his achievements as a composer. [Scribners Importers, 12mo, \$1.00.]

When G. Birbeck Hill's *édition de luxe* of *Boswell's Life of Johnson* appeared two years ago, it was accepted as the best yet published, being particularly rich in scholarly notes and having an invaluable index of several hundred pages, besides other praiseworthy features. A cheaper edition of the work is



From Boswell's "Life of Johnson."—Harper & Brothers.

JAMES BOSWELL, ESQ.

From an original sketch by George Langton, Esq.

thing more than a mere biographical sketch. It is a genuine portrait of the man, faithfully representing the varied aspects of his character, indicating his numerous distinguished qualities as a teacher and leader of religious thought, and tracing the influences which he exerted upon his time and generation. The strictly biographical matter ends with the fifth chapter; then follow four chapters in which the author pays just tribute to Dr. Wayland in his capacities as educator, author, preacher, philanthropist and citizen. The book is well written and will undoubtedly serve, as the author hopes, to bring the strong and noble personality of Dr. Wayland, with its high Christian character and high Christian attainment in the service of his fellow men, freshly before a new generation. [Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 12mo, \$1.25.]

In a second series entitled *Captains of Industry* James Parton has compiled an interesting volume of brief sketches of fifty or so men and women who have won fame and oftentimes fortune in some pursuit. Many of these men's names, as James Nasmyth, inventor, Michel Brézin, cannon-founder, Philip Hone, auctioneer, Alvan Clark, telescope-maker, and John Metcalf, road-maker, will be unfamiliar to some of the young readers for whom the book is intended. The author has emphasized the salient characteristics of the subjects of his sketches with broad strokes, and the example of their careers is full of stimulating encouragement. [Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 12mo, \$1.25.]

In a handsome volume of nearly six hundred pages, entitled *American Christian Rulers; or, Religion and Men of Government*, the Rev. Edward J. Giddings has sketched the lives and public services of about two hundred Americans who have distinguished themselves by Christian walk and demeanor as well as by eminence in connection with politics and government. The record begins with the Colonial period, and it includes a number of distinguished characters well known to the present generation. There are a number of portraits, including one of the author himself. [Bromfield & Co., 8vo, \$3.00.]

*A Life of Peter Cooper*, by William F. Beller, of the Class of '82, has been published by the Alumni Association of Cooper Institute. It is illustrated, the wood-cuts having been engraved by students of the Women's Art School. The sketch appears in several forms, as a pamphlet (fifteen cents), on large paper, with uncut edges and with a photogravure portrait of Mr. Cooper (fifty cents), and in a limited, large paper subscription edition, in cloth (\$2.00).