

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

We have received a copy of Scott's *Peveril of the Peak*, bearing the joint imprint of Baker & Taylor, New York, and Adam & Charles Black, Edinburgh; which is probably the pioneer of a new member in the countless series of editions of Scott's novels. The size is a crown 8vo; the plates appear to be new, for the type is clear and good; inserted are eight or ten steel engravings; and appended are notes and an index. The binding is bluish green diagonal muslin, with gilt tops. The book is fair and serviceable.

A company of Presbyterian divines, among whom most conspicuous are Dr. John Hall, Dr. Howard Crosby, Dr. Herrick Johnson, Dr. Cuyler, and Dr. Ludlow, have contributed a series of forty-eight sermons to make up a volume of *Half Hours on the Lessons*—the International S. S. Lesson for 1886. The object of the sermons seem to be two-fold; to open up the lessons in a way to help those who have to teach them to the young, and to make personal and practical application of them to mature readers. [Presbyterian Board.]

The editor of the *'Varsity Book* is mistaken in the supposition that his dainty volume is the first venture of the kind, for the *Advocate Verses*, a much larger volume, published by the oldest of the Harvard papers, takes precedence by several years. The prose and poetry of this little collection is fairly representative of college literature, but the sentimental element is more prominent than would be possible in New England colleges. Among the most noteworthy and interesting pieces must be placed the essay on Overtones and the verses upon Quebec, which are as graceful as they are patriotic. [Toronto: 'Varsity Publishing Co.]

A church history which covers all the centuries of historical time, and yet is confined within five hundred pages, can hardly be more than an epitome. An epitome, however, has its uses, and Professor Moffat has done his *Church History in Brief* with his accustomed learning, calmness, and candor, and has produced a book at once readable and serviceable as a manual. [Presbyterian Board of Publication. \$1.75.]

In her *Bricks from Babel*, Mrs. Julia McNair Wright has given a racy and popular account of the early migrations and colonizations of men as indicated in the records of Genesis, and confirmed by numerous and recent discoveries. Her references are vague, and her reliance upon certain authorities quite as implicit as a child's, and her conclusions have a positiveness that the data often fails to warrant, as, for instance, her assertion that man was doubtless "instructed in written characters" by God. As a rapid and not uninteresting survey of a wide and problematic field, her little book has its uses. [J. B. Alden. 60c.]

The Public Latin School in Boston is as old as it is celebrated. Its 250th anniversary was observed in April last with an oration by Phillips Brooks, a poem by Robert Grant, and other appropriate exercises, which have been incorporated in a small *Memorial Volume*. The story of this honorable and venerable school, distinguished as being the oldest now within the bounds of the United States, is an interesting leaf out of the history of Boston, and a contribution to the educational history of the country. [Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.00.]

Volume three of Mr. Lodge's *edition definitive* of *The Works of Alexander Hamilton* is concerned with taxation, the banking system, coinage, and industry and commerce, while the fourth volume is wholly taken up with foreign relations. Mr. Lodge keeps himself in the background and does not overburden the text with notes. Those he does give are not distinguished in any way from Hamilton's notes and are therefore liable sometimes to misinterpretation. The historical note on the national bank (III, 225-227) serves, however, as a medium for the opinions of the editor, who does not hesitate to express himself vigorously. In a note to Hamilton's report on manufactures (III, 416-420) he is even more outspoken. The document in question is declared to be,

with the exception of the first report on the public credit, the most important state paper written by Hamilton. . . . It laid the foundation of the protective policy in the United States; and was an integral part of that national system of measures which was the pole-star of Hamilton's statesmanship. . . . As an argument for the adoption of the protective principle as the true policy of the United States, without reference to other countries, it has never been successfully answered.

We cannot praise too highly the mechanical execution of this edition. It is among the best of recent productions of the American press. [G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$5.00 each volume.]

Typographically considered the fifth volume of this new edition of the *Works of Alexander Hamilton* is fully up to the high standard adopted. The contents continue at great length, and conclude, the "Camillus" papers on Foreign Relations; include ten papers on Foreign Policy, leading off with Hamilton's letter to Washington of September 4, 1795; and close with six papers on The Whiskey Rebellion, many of them short official letters. The notes of the editor, Mr. Lodge, are very few and scant. [G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$5.00.]

The hundred and forty pages of the *Summary of English Grammar*, compiled for the use of the Nottingham Hill High School, contain condensed a larger amount of the real science of grammar than most works of much greater pretensions. Some of the rules and spelling are English rather than American, now and then a definition will not bear close criticism, but on the whole, the book is excellent for those teachers who have to crowd much into a short time. The brief etymologies and the historical suggestions are valuable. [London: Rivingtons.]

The idea of Mr. Ferguson's *Questions for Classical Students on the First Books of Caesar's Gallic War and Xenophon's Anabasis* is to furnish the young classical student in preparing his lessons "a guide by which he may as speedily as possible lay hold of the facts which he most needs to know." The questions seem to be judicious, and each is followed by grammatical

references, for the Latin to Harkness, and Allen and Greenough, and for the Greek to Hadley and Goodwin. Two or three experienced teachers who have examined our copy, pronounce the book "excellent," "admirable," "a most valuable help to the student and even to the teachers"—opinions in which we are pleased heartily to concur. [Ginn & Co. \$1.25.]

The ability and clearness of Professor G. A. Wentworth's series of mathematical books have made them deservedly popular with teachers. His *Shorter Course in Algebra*, intended for schools which have not time for his larger treatise, seems to be well adapted to its purpose. Axioms 6, 7, p. 11, are, however, not axioms at all, but self-evident absurdities. [Ginn & Company. \$1.10.]

The *Elements of Inorganic Chemistry*, by James H. Shepard of Ypsilanti High School, is a very superior text-book. It is compact, rather than popular, science, and will be severe work except with a teacher who understands his business. Some of the new features of the book are excellent; as the analysis of drinking-waters (pp. 44-47), and especially the skillful and compact way in which the author through the book works up to, and finally (pp. 337-340) works out, elementary qualitative analysis. It would seem that even in an elementary treatise, so simple a matter as alcohol should have been explained. [D. C. Heath & Co. \$1.25.]

We have before us a colored print of the "Finish" in the Puritan-Genesta races of last fall, by L. Prang & Co., of Boston. The "Puritan," taking up the greater part of the plate, is crossing the line close-hauled on the starboard tack, under mainsail, fore-staysail, and jib, with topmast housed. Her mainsail, though, is out of proportion, and the great sheer and rounded stern which the artist, Mr. Halsall, has given her, is very unlike her as she is. Some distance astern the "Genesta" is seen under mainsail, fore-staysail, and jib, with her working top-sail set; and her hull is not as it should be. Although the picture from a nautical point of view is poor, yet on the whole it will make a very good souvenir of the international yacht race of 1885.

The Rev. S. Fulton's *Golden Promises* is a little collection of Bible Texts, prettily bound, and Helen R. Edson's *My Soul, Thou Hast Much Goods*, is a simple poem of religious feeling. [Presbyterian Board.]

Rev. J. H. Allen's *Outline of Christian History* is the barest sort of skeleton, and can best be used in connection with the same author's series of Religious Histories; but we could not always agree with Mr. Allen's filling in, and we do not think his way of putting things is always the clearest and best. [Roberts Bros. 50 cts.]

The Schaff-Gilman *Library of Religious Poetry* first appeared in 1881, under the imprint of Dodd, Mead & Co. What looks like simply a new edition of the work appears this fall, under the imprint of Funk & Wagnalls, with nothing to indicate that it is not a new book but an old one. There are some additions, however, bringing the work down to 1884. It would have been justice to the public, on the part of the editors and the publishers, to have stated the facts. The collection is large and valuable. [\$6.00.]

The fourth volume of the new [Bohn] edition *Goldsmith's Works* contains his biographies

of Voltaire, Dr. Parnell, and others, some thirty or forty critical papers, and some fifteen of his later essays. [Scribner & Welford.]

From a wide range of English and American poets the Rev. J. W. Chadwick has made a very pretty collection of the Poems of the Mountain and the Sea, taking for his title the words from Wordsworth's lines—*The Two Voices*. There are towards two hundred selections. The publishers have shown that the neatest sort of a book can now be made in the city of Troy. [H. B. Nims & Co. \$1.50]