

more which is novel and amusing in the way of reminiscence and anecdote than such books usually offer. We are glad to see that the author firmly believes in the substantial and even rapid progress of society toward a better condition. Signs of this progress he discerns in greater reverence for religion than was observable in his boyhood, in the gradual decline of many social practices which, if not absolutely wrong, were unwholesome, and in the general toning up of society to a nobler and more useful view and practice of human life. He is no optimist, in the sense of shutting his eyes to what is amiss, but he has lived long enough and has observed with sufficient closeness to perceive the solid gain in many worthy directions which has been made. It goes without saying that such a book abounds in interest, not only to the American who is more or less familiar with England, but to everybody, and the delineations of character which it contains are very keen and fair. Its portrayals of Lord Beaconsfield, for example, and of Mr. Gladstone are not likely to please entirely the warm admirers of either great man, but justify themselves nevertheless. We heartily commend the book as well adapted for summer reading, and also as a permanent addition to the library.

In *Glimpses of England, Social, Political, Literary* [G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25] Professor Moses Coit Tyler of Cornell has gathered together a number of letters written from England in 1863-1865. They recall for us the England of that day in the crisis of our own national history, and suggest the many changes which have come since then both in England and America. Disraeli and Gladstone were contending in the days when these letters were written, and Bright and Mill were in the prime of their strength. There is an amusing chapter on English hallucinations about America, in which the opinions that Americans are black and do not speak English, joined to a ludicrous ignorance of American geography, are shown to have been prevalent at that time. After this exhibition of so recent English ignorance and lack of interest one can hardly wonder at the density of Spanish ignorance today; but England has learned to know us better, and Spain is learning in a costly school. These chapters of English life, as observed by a resident American, are both entertaining and instructive.

GLIMPSES OF ENGLAND

Collections and Recollections [Harper & Brothers. \$2.50] is apparently the work of a member of the English Parliament (said to be Mr. G. W. E. Russell). He states that he has kept a diary for many years, and, out of it, as well as from his memories and observations, he has gathered the material for one of the most attractive books of the sort which we have seen. Its chapters appeared during last year in the *Manchester Guardian*. They discuss individuals, such as Lord Shaftesbury, Cardinal Manning, Lord Houghton and Lord Beaconsfield; and such subjects as Religion and Morality, Social Amelioration, Parliamentary Oratory, Conversation, Epitaphs, the Art of Putting Things, Letter Writing, etc. The author is not without the power of speaking sharply, but writes in a genial temper and with a judicious blending of the serious and the droll. Some of his anecdotes are "chestnuts," but most of them probably will seem fresh to American readers. A few relate to America or Americans, but most of them are English. On the whole, there is