

Gleanings from a Literary Life, 1838-1880.
By Francis Bowen. [Charles Scribner's Sons.
\$3.00]. The title of this handsome octavo directs
the eye to the life of the author. At the age of
sixty-nine Prof. Bowen is now one of the solid
bodies of Harvard College, where he graduated
in 1833, and with which he has been connected
as an instructor, in all, for more than thirty years.
From 1843 to 1854 he conducted the *North
American Review* as both editor and proprietor.
He has lectured largely, and his published writ-
ings comprise several volumes. The "glean-
ings from this literary life" now offered consist
of some eighteen essays, reviews, and other
papers, wholly disconnected, but invested with at
least an artificial unity by being grouped under
the three general heads of Education, Political
Economy, and Philosophy. Most of them have
been printed before in the quarterlies. Their
dates range from 1838 to the present year.
There are few men in the learned professions
who could not make up a volume of "gleanings"
out of the miscellaneous products of thirty years.
Whether such "gleanings" would be valuable or
not would of course depend upon the man. A
part of Prof. Bowen's matter has historical uses;
as, for example, his "Minority Report on the
Silver Question," presented to Congress in 1877
as an "expert" member of a Senate Commission,
and his Lowell Institute Lecture of 1865 on
"The Financial Conduct of the War." The
present pertinency of a communication on "The
Latest Form of the Development Theory," dated
1860, is less evident, except as viewed in the
light of a scientific water-mark. Prof. Bow-
en's, however, is an acute and independent
mind, and its thinking on any subject will always
have weight. A firm friend of scholastic train-
ing, a sound economist, a good and fearless
hater (though unreasonably so) of Spencer,
Mill, Darwin, *et hoc genus omne*, a reverent
Christian theist, and all this with a range of
learning and a vigor of intellect which give him
a foremost place among the philosophical schol-
ars of his time—such is Prof. Francis Bowen;
and if "gleanings" of his life do not deserve an
octavo volume, we do not know whose do.