

# BOOK REVIEWS.

MACAULAY'S ESSAY ON LORD CLIVE. EDITED BY VIDA D. SCUDDER.

WEBSTER'S FIRST BUNKER HILL ORATION. EDITED BY LOUISE MANNING HODGKINS.

THE STUDENT'S CLASSICS SERIES. (BOSTON AND NEW YORK: LEACH, SHEWELL & SANBORN.)

Short text-books have been the pressing necessity of the modern school-room. And if there is one kind that is especially valuable to the student who wishes to cultivate a good style at the same time that he acquires a knowledge of the masterpiece of English literature, it is small books, containing standard essays, orations or poems, with "hints as to the study" of the special style which they represent. Two such works have been received of the "Student's Series of English Classics." The one is a study of the first of Webster's Bunker Hill Orations, and the other of Macaulay's brilliant Essay on Lord Clive. They each have the same general plan, embracing biographical sketches, lists of the most prominent efforts of the authors, hints as to the study of style, and full and excellent notes upon the work treated. In the latter a map of India is added, to assist in understanding the operations of him "who gave England India."

CYNEWULF'S ELENE. BY CHAS. W. KENT. (BOSTON AND LONDON: GINN & Co.)

The friends and students of Anglo-Saxon, and those who are interested in the revival of the study Old English, will welcome the appearance of this third volume to the "Library of Anglo-Saxon Poetry." The book has been edited for a text-book, and contains the Anglo-Saxon text, carefully compiled from the standard editions; an introduction and excellent notes, as helps for the student; a very complete glossary and the Latin original. *Elene*, as a poem, is one of the simplest in Anglo-Saxon literature, and especially recommends itself in that some of the most interesting portions are of the author's own conception.

CYNEWULF'S ELENE. BY JAMES M. GARNETT. (BOSTON: GINN & Co.)

This is a line-for-line translation of the above poem from Zupitza's second edition. It will prove highly serviceable to the student and interesting to the casual reader, in that it gives a correct idea of Anglo-

Saxon composition. It contains, besides the *Elene*, translations of *Judith*; *Athelstan*, or the *Fight at Brunanbush*; and *Byrhtnoth*, or the *Fight at Maldon*.

**THE LIFE OF LIVINGSTONE.** BY THOS. HUGHES. (NEW YORK: JNO. B. ALDEN.)

Thomas Hughes seems not yet to have finished the beneficent work which he seems destined to perform for the world, nor does Mr. Alden lower the high quality of his handy publications. In shape convenient, in print clear, in quality of matter the reputation of the author of "*Tom Brown at Rugby*" is a voucher that the book will meet with the approval of all. The biography has been made short, and filled with incidents and experiences and pleasant reminiscences of a life that has been peculiarly interesting.

**RELIGION AND SCIENCE AS ALLIES.** BY JAS. T. BIXBY. (CHICAGO: CHAS. H. KERR & Co. \$0.30.)

The nineteenth century has been the age of scientific inquiry; and as it advances, science invades the territory of the established faith. Even now it has become an absorbing question which will succumb and, if neither, how they will be reconciled. Mr. Bixby's excellent work—excellent because neither abstruse nor tedious nor filled with scientific terminology—deals not with the bare facts of either sense or religion, and questions not whether the biblical creation is the same as that of geology nor whether evolution is consistent with the idea of a parental Adam. But he sweeps a broader field. He defines both, confident that when rightly understood all antagonism will be eliminated. He discusses the common foundation of the two, the similarities of their methods, objects and results. The work is a philosophical treatment throughout, and gives an admirable statement of the question in a clear and accurate light.

**LA SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE AU DIX-SEPTIÈME SIÈCLE.** EDITED BY THOMAS FREDERICK CRANE, A. M. (NEW YORK AND LONDON: G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS. \$1.50.)

Mr. Crane's book consists of a selection of extracts from the contemporary French writers of the seventeenth century; not chosen for their literary excellence, but for the light they will throw upon the social development and social influence which arose in that century. It was then that society, as society, began to be cultivated; it was then that woman took her position beside man as an intellectual companion; then that the modern salon began its development and conversation became a fine art. It is of the social character of the period that the book treats. It is a study which serves as a commentary to such writers as Corneille

and Molière, and by which the Femmes Savantes and the Précieuses Ridicules are invigorated with a new life. The text is in French, accompanied with very full historical and explanatory notes, accompanied with a prefatory introduction critically describing the period and its prominent personages.

**IS RELIGION DYING? A SYMPOSIUM BY W. H. PLATT, D. D.**  
(WASHINGTON, D. C.: W. H. MORRISON.)

This timely book records the conversation of all the well known thinkers of the day upon this most important subject, at an imaginary breakfast in the library of a literary gentleman, who directs the conversation of his guests along the line of the development and growth of the religious idea from Polytheism to "the religion of both worship and morality—Christ." In the questions and responses of the supposed guests (which are taken *verbatim* from their published works), the strength and superior merit of the religion of Christ is conclusively proved, and the question which gives the name to the book is answered in the negative. As giving in compact form the opinions of all the greatest thinkers in this most vital of all subjects, its value will never grow less.

**KNICKERBOCKER NUGGETS. WIT AND WISDOM OF SIDNEY SMITH.**  
**ZSCHÖKKES TALES.** (NEW YORK AND LONDON: G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS.  
\$1.00 PER VOLUME.)

The first of these volumes contains a selection of the most memorable passages in Sidney Smith's writings and conversation, which are a continual change of sentiment, and prove a most spicy and agreeable feast. The four tales selected from Heinrich Zschöcke's many excellent stories are representative of the best German talent in this direction, and, indeed, rank as equals with the standard works of authors of other nations. They have been translated especially for the Messrs. Putnam, and the last, "Walpurgis Night," has never been in print in the English language before. These same publishers have recently issued in different form from the "Nugget" series, **GREAT WORDS FROM GREAT AMERICANS**, which is the same as the "Ideals of the Republic" (issued as a nugget and which we have noticed before), except that they have added to this book Washington's circular letter of congratulation and advice to the governors of the Thirteen States. This book is of slightly larger size and less elaborateness of binding than in the former edition.

**SEVEN THOUSAND WORDS OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED. BY WM.**  
**H. PHYFE.** (NEW YORK AND LONDON: G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS.)

This is a complete hand-book of difficulties in English pronunciation, and finishes the series of pronouncing hand-books by the same author. The two leading books in the series are intended especially as school

text-books. This, the final volume, may be used as an educator to "children of a large growth," or as a reference book in the library of the gentleman. It includes an unusually large number of proper names and words and phrases of foreign origin. Its treatment of mooted questions is firm and authoritative, and the author does not shrink from the difficult, as do so many, but his book is the dispenser of true enlightenment in this line. It has true worth and meets with the approval of all the greatest authorities on the English language.

**THE WEST INDIAN HURRICANES AND THE MARCH BLIZZARD, 1888.** BY EVERETT HAYDEN. (NEW YORK: FOREST AND STREAM PUBLISHING CO. \$1.50.)

Since so many private gentlemen own and manage yachts during the summer season, it is becoming to them to understand the principles governing storms at sea. The present treatise is an abstract of a lecture delivered before the Seawanhaka Yacht Club of New York. It is a practical treatment of the subject and is furnished, in connection with the text, with twenty-three plates, giving important information requisite to the safe navigation of a vessel in West Indian waters.

**THE PROBLEM OF THE NORTHMEN.** BY EBEN N. HORSFORD. (THE AUTHOR, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.)

This is in the form of a letter to Judge Daly, President of the American Geographical Society, on the opinion of Justin Winsor that, "though Scandinavians may have reached the shore of Labrador, the soil of the United States has not one vestige of their presence."

The author proves in a logical way that "Massachusetts is still open to students of its geography and early history;" and on account of the interesting information regarding the explorations and settlements of the Norsemen in the New World, it will be read with avidity by students of history. The text is embellished by many maps and by a few heliotypes representing ruins and other evidences of Norse occupation.

**TWO GREAT RETREATS OF HISTORY.** GROTE AND SEGUR. (BOSTON: GINN & Co.)

Messrs. Ginn & Co. have issued another volume in their "Classics for Children" series, which contains Grote's account of the Retreat of the Ten Thousand, and Count Segur's narrative of Napoleon's Retreat from Russia. Notes and maps are given, illustrating the two routes, and each selection is prefaced with an introduction, which gives all the information necessary to the proper understanding of the accounts which follow. These selections form one of the most valuable of this series and make the book fit, not only for the nursery, but also for the family reading room. It is a book which every family should possess.

**A HOLIDAY TOUR IN EUROPE.** BY JOEL COOK. (PHILADELPHIA: DAVID MCKAY.)

This is a new edition of Mr. Cook's "Holiday Tour," which was so well received ten years ago. The new and beautiful binding, and the engravings which have been added to the subject-matter, increase the pleasure with which we read the book and make its contents more intelligible to one who has not seen for himself the scenery therein portrayed. The style and contents of these letters are too well known to need description, and we can only say that the next best thing to going to Europe oneself is to read these letters descriptive of Mr. Cook's tour.

**ELEMENTARY LESSONS IN HEAT.** BY PROF. S. E. TILLMAN. (PHILADELPHIA: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co. \$1.80.)

These lessons have been prepared by Prof. Tillman to meet the requirements of a seventy-hour course in the U. S. Military Academy. The material is that which will be of most practical use to the student, and is set forth in a clear, concise manner and in a logical arrangement which makes it most easy of acquirement and retention. It is a valuable text-book for those who wish to acquire, in a short time, a comprehensive view of the subject of heat, but is not at all exhaustive.

**THE A B C OF ELECTRICITY.** BY W. H. MEADOWCROFT. (NEW YORK: F. F. LOVELL & Co.)

While there is no lack of advanced text books on this subject, we have noticed that there is need of an elementary book, which has been filled by this volume. The book is intended especially to give the discoveries and advances in this science of the last ten or twelve years in a more condensed and compact form than is to be found in the advanced text books on this subject. Mr. Thomas A. Edison approves of the treatment and says that the facts given therein can be relied upon.

**THE ACADEMIC ALGEBRA.** BY BRADBURY & EMERY. (BOSTON: THOMPSON, BROWN & Co.)

This is an excellent text book and calculated to prepare thoroughly a man for college. It is especially designed to meet the demand for a fuller treatment of factoring and for a higher treatment now required in our high schools. We especially commend the treatment of positive and negative numbers, and of the interpretation of negative results, and of the forms  $\frac{0}{A}$ ,  $\frac{A}{0}$  and  $\frac{0}{0}$ .

**THE WATER-SPIRIT'S BRIDE.** BY CHAS. J. BAYNE. (NEW YORK: JOHN B. ALDEN.)

Mr. Bayne is a Georgian of eighteen summers. His poems show that his poetic genius has not matured but in many places gives evidence of

natural ability. These children of his brain are, he informs us in a very happy preface, "The Autobiography of his Soul," which has, he leads us to believe, been harassed by "joy and grief, love and hatred, hope and fear." Perhaps a few lines will serve the purpose of showing one phase of his style:

"Fair faces, too, are blushing there,  
Kissed by the fragrant summer air;  
While, like so many Graces, all  
Linked hand in hand, pursue the ball.  
O, vision of transcendent mirth,  
Can such delight belong to earth?"

**AN HONEST HYPOCRITE.** BY EDWARD DE GROTE TOMPKINS. (NEW YORK: CASSELL & Co. 50 CENTS.)

Among many of the younger novelists of to-day there is a tendency to write their novels and then select as striking a name for the title as possible. They seem to be free from any conception of the higher motives of the novelist, and care even less about the more artistic aim of portraying a fine character in a picture of real life. Only in the name of his book does Mr. Tompkins come under this censure. That certainly is striking, almost a paradox, but he has not lost sight of the duty of a novelist, nor lacked ambition or ability to paint a fine picture.

**KING'S HANDBOOK OF NEWTON.** BY M. F. SWEETZER. (BOSTON: MOSES KING CORPORATION.)

Contains the most notable and interesting facts pertaining to the fifteen villages which together form "The Newtons," the garden city of Massachusetts. It is written in a simple, entertaining and trustworthy manner, and made attractive by many illustrations.

**CLEOPATRA.** BY H. RIDER HAGGARD. (NEW YORK AND CHICAGO: RAND, McNALLY & Co.)

Mr. Haggard appears before us in this, his latest production, in his best form. We note the same wealth of imagination, power of description, fine command of the English language and flavor of the marvelous which characterize his world-renowned "She." Added to this, he takes for his heroine an historical beauty, round whose name have always clustered tales of love and treachery. There is certainly nothing highly instructive in this novel, but one cannot read its pages without absorbing interest, and feels that the author is a master of his art.

**THE TENTS OF SHEM.** BY GRANT ALLEN. (CHICAGO AND NEW YORK: RAND, McNALLY & Co.)

In this age, when cheap and flashy novels flood the country, we soon learn to appreciate true merit wherever seen. This work is one of the

best ever published by this company, both in spirit and in letter. The scene is laid in the Kabyle Hills, and the heroine is a half-English, half-Kabyle maiden, who wins our hearts at first introduction. The tone is high, and the book will repay reading.

**FIRST STEPS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE.** BY ARTHUR GILLMAN.  
(A. S. BARNES & Co.)

Mr. Arthur Gillman's "First Steps in English Literature," which was first published about twenty years ago, has just been revised by the author and put on the market. He purposely excludes extracts, but supplies a list of editions. Mr. Gillman gives a philosophic outline, with brief accounts of writers both in England and America, and does not dole out admiration and literary criticism with a spoon. The scheme at once met approval from the most capable instructors, and the book has held its place in many schools since its first appearance.

The same publishers also announce "The Three Germany's," by Mr. Theo. S. Fay, a book of much merit and calculated to become a standard work.

**A NAMELESS WRESTLER.** BY JOSEPHINE W. BALIS. (PHILADELPHIA: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co., \$0.50.)

A book especially attractive to those interested in the great Northwest. The plot is laid in the State of Washington, and in its development brings out some of the most attractive features of the Pacific Coast. The story, while it embraces of a love element, yet contains some graphic descriptions of the rough and readiness of frontier life. The heroine, Juan Fennimore, after bearing her many crosses, in the end shines out in the full beauty of womanhood. The story is one of interest throughout.

**THE ELIXIR OF LIFE.** (BOSTON: J. G. CUPPLES Co. \$0.50.)

All reading classes have at the present time been interested, either by the medical or secular press, or both, in the results, method and promise of Dr. Brown-Sequard's recent striking experiments with an agent popularly known as the "Elixir of Life." This little book has been compiled to give the opinions of all classes, placing within reach of all, in a handy and condensed form, all facts of interest connected with the subject. It contains "Dr. Brown-Sequard's own account of his famous alleged remedy for debility and old age, Dr. Variot's experiments, and contemporaneous comments of the profession and the press."

**WHAT IS TRUTH?** BY THE DUKE OF ARGYLL. [NEW YORK: ANSON D. F. RANDOLPH & Co.]

This is one more contribution to the discussion of a subject upon which so much has been written and so much thought expended. It is

a subject which will ever deserve investigation and which each generation will of necessity ask itself. This treatise is in the form of a lecture delivered by request to the students of the University of Edinburgh. After treating of Truth in the abstract and defining it, starting with the definition offered by George H. Lewes, the author proceeds to apply analysis, which he, with much elaboration, argues is the best method in seeking truth, to three departments, namely, that of Politics, that of Physical Science, and that of Religion. He closes by showing how perfectly his conception harmonizes with the definition with which he began.

THE MORGESONS. BY ELIZABETH STODDARD. (NEW YORK: CASSELL AND COMPANY, LIMITED.)

This little story comprises a detailed account of the various changes in the fortunes of "The Morgesons," a very peculiar family, whose members could never understand each other.

Cassandra Morgeson, who tells the story, relates some quite pleasant incidents in connection with her boarding-school life. The story is decidedly New England in its coloring, and brings out some peculiar customs of a quarter of a century ago in that interesting section of our country.

The style is pleasing, and, as a whole, the book is capable of affording considerable amusement to its readers.