

The Poets and Poetry of America. A Satire. By Lavante. With an Introductory Argument to Prove that "Lavante" was Edgar Allan Poe. [Benjamin & Bell.] This satire, written in heroic couplets, was published at Philadelphia in 1847. It bore no author's name upon the title-page, but at the end was signed "Lavante." Some anonymous investigator has now revived it with an introductory argument aiming to prove that the thing was the work of Poe. The argument is ingenious, but not convincing; some of it is merely fanciful. The satire itself is not a remarkable production. It agrees with Poe's known views on the subject of American poetry; it attacks the enemies of Poe and glorifies his friends; and Poe's name or work is not mentioned. The satire is, however, strained, and we must confess that we have found the production exceedingly dull reading. If it was written by Poe, it is not strange that he neglected to claim the authorship.

The Sunny Side of Shadow: Reveries of a Convalescent. By Fannie Nichols Benjamin. [Ticknor & Co. \$1.00.] The world would be a brighter place and better worth living in, if it numbered among its human freightage more convalescents who take the same hopeful, truth-and-beauty-seeing views of life that have animated the author of this gracious little book. The thoughts she has written down are of a loving and womanly order, dealing with commonplace themes, but treating them in a way that preserves a very attractive element of personality. The "Convalescent" has considered the problems arising out of diversities of character, the attributes of love and friendship, the necessity of faith in noble ideals, the requirements of imaginative natures, the religion whose attitude is a divine submission, and on all these themes she has something to say not profound and inspiring, but full of sympathy and comprehension and therefore to be welcomed by those who appreciate such qualities. We are of the opinion that most women will like this book, particularly those of thoughtful, questioning natures, and that they will derive benefit from its perusal.