

LITERARY NOTES.

DURUY's "History of France," recently published by T. Y. Crowell & Co., has passed into its second edition.

....The *Jewish Messenger*, November 22d, contained a description of Russian prison life which fully corroborates the description of cruelties in Mr. Kennan's *Century* articles. The article was written by an escaped prisoner.

....An odd mistake is made in the November number of the Presbyterian *The Church at Home and Abroad*, p. 46. Under the heading, in the department of the Board of Publication, of "The Board's Authors," is given the name of Dr. Newman Hall, of London, with the statement "of his many valuable works the Board republishes" six, the titles of which are then given; but all are the writings of Dr. Hall, of Trenton, N. J.

....Charles Ledyard Norton has written a guide-book to Florida which will soon be published by Longmans, Green & Co. It is said to be modelled after the Baedeker guide-books. The increasing winter emigration from the Northern States to Florida makes such books indispensable. The readers go to the guide-books for the facts concerning hotels and railroads, and to such books as Mrs. Deland's "Florida Days" for the poetry of description.

....The largest collection of books in the world is doubtless the National Library in Paris. According to a recent report of the general management, it now numbers no fewer than 2,078,000 volumes. The British Museum contains about one million volumes; the Munich Library, 800,000; the Berlin, 700,000; the Dresden, 600,000; and the Vienna, 800,000. The famous Vatican Library contains only about 80,000 printed volumes; but it has about 25,000 manuscripts, and in this regard leads all the rest, surpassing even the British Museum.

....Ex-Minister Edward J. Phelps, in his "end paper" on the "Age of Words," in Scribner's for December, says of contemporary fiction:

"The everlasting repetition, through countless thousands of volumes, of the story of the imaginary courtship and marriage of fictitious and impossible young men and women; and when all conceivable incidents that could attend this happy narrative are used up, and the exhausted imagination of the narrator refuses any further supply, then in their place an endless flow of commonplace and vapid conversation, tending to the same matrimonial result, until it is clear that the parties, if they were real, would talk themselves to death—this is the staple of what is now well called fiction, because it never could exist in fact. What a food for an immortal mind to live on, year in and year out, as its principal literary nourishment! And what sort of mental fiber is it likely to produce?"

....It is extremely difficult to classify the various schools of Protestant theological thought in Germany. From the extreme right or Confessionalism to the extreme left or Radicalism and Rationalism the shades and variety of standpoints are even more kaleidoscopic than they are in the endless "isms" of American churchdom. For practical purposes, however, four groups can be separated, namely—the Confessional, the Mediating, the Ritschl and the Older radical school. Each of these has its own Church paper in which the character and aim of the school are clearly reflected. The orthodox and confessional branch, has in Luthardt's *Allgem. Kirchenzeitung*, published in Leipzig, a magnificent exponent, the paper in its solidity and variety of contents comparing favorably even with the best of American religious journals. No other German paper furnishes such a wealth of Church news from all over Christendom as does this one, which on the whole is the best for an American who desires to get a clear insight into the ecclesiastical ups and downs in the land of Luther. The Mediating theology in its more positive tendencies now controls the famous *Ev. Luth. Kirchenzeitung* of Heugstenburg, under the editorship of Zöckler. The organ of the Older radical school, whose best representative is the theological faculties at Jena and Heidelberg, is still the *Protest. Kirchenzeitung* of Berlin. The Ritschl school, teaching the new theology in Germany, has recently created its organ in the *Christliche Welt*, of Leipzig, which promises to be one of the best Church journals in Germany.