

Minor Notices

ELEVEN books of verse lie before us, of which little more can be said than that it has eased the hearts of the writers to publish them. One would not be too severe upon these frail 'children of love and fancy,' the creations, no doubt, of truly poetic moods, which however can scarcely bear the tests and measure of criticism; and one can only hope that here and there, perchance, among the hosts of readers they may find welcome and sympathetic response. 'In the Woods and Elsewhere,' by Thomas Hill (\$1.25, Cupples & Hurd), is one of them; 'Wanderers,' by William Winter (50 cts., Ticknor & Co.), another; and the others are 'Figures and Flowers,' by Laura H. Fisher (\$1, Buffalo: Moulton, Wenborne & Co.); 'The Legend of Psyche, and Other Verses,' by Carrie Warner Morehouse (St. Johnsbury, Vt.: C. L. Walter); 'The Witch in the Glass,' etc., by Sarah M. B. Piatt (\$1, Houghton, Mifflin & Co.); 'Andiatorocté,' by the Rev. C. A. Walworth (\$1.50, G. P. Putnam's Sons); 'Our Glorified,' by Elizabeth Howard Foxcroft (\$1, Lee & Shepard); 'Madeleine,' by Daniel Chauncey Brewer (\$1.25, G. P. Putnam's Sons); 'Rebecca, the Witch,' by David Skaats Foster (\$1.25, G. P. Putnam's Sons); 'Monadnock, and Other Sketches in Verse,' by J. E. Nesmith, Houghton, Mifflin & Co.), and 'Margaret, and The Singer's Story,' by Effie Douglass Putnam (\$1.25, Cupples & Hurd).

DR. E. E. HALE, in a neat and handy volume, gives us twenty-six of the proposed fifty-two 'Sunday-School Stories on the Golden Texts of the International Lessons of 1889.' As head of the literary guild which consists chiefly of his own family, he has edited them all, though himself writing but eight stories, the other eighteen coming from his children, his sisters and Mrs. Bernard Whitman; no names being assigned in the body of the book to any. About twelve pages are given to each story. The scenes are laid in different parts of our country and in Europe, and various times and places are thus illustrated. In general, the point is well held to, and the stories really illustrate the lesson and text, the characters being varied, and the dialogues, quotations, snatches of poetry, and other palatable ingredients being mixed into this literary mince-pie. We wonder if there is any danger of mothers with children, and lazy teachers, and stay-at-homes reading one of these stories weekly instead of studying for themselves, and making interesting for the little ones, the lesson-text itself. In any event, Dr. Hale will do good if he can kill off or dry up some of the sloppy 'lesson papers.' As a rule, these stories will suit all sects. The only fault we find with them is the general idea of the writers that New England is the principal, if not the only home of pure Christianity. The narrow view of the average dweller on the soil 'down East' is that of several of the (let us hope juvenile) writers of the group. A book illustrating Christ's religion should be free from any such provincialism, as the next series doubtless will be. (\$1. Roberts Bros.)

WE HARDLY KNOW what to say, from an ethical point of view, of the republication of a book thirty years old, with not a word to indicate that it is not a new composition, especially as the title-page would give the unwary reader reason to suppose that he would find in it the most recent results of scholarship. The first thing that strikes one, on turning over the pages of the late Martha Walker Freer's 'Henry III., King of France and Poland: His Court and Times,' is the entire absence, except for a good table of contents, of guides to the appreciation and use of the book—no preface, no introduction, no index, no indication whether the book was printed in New York or London. The book itself deserves much praise. It is not a scholarly work, but a popular, entertaining account of an interesting period. Probably few sovereigns less deserve such a

monument than Henry III. of France, for there are few characters so despicable, even in the annals of royalty. Neither can it be said that his reign was a period which warranted a treatment by itself; for it was only one portion, with no distinctive character of its own, of the period of the Huguenot wars. Whoever really wishes to understand the period of these wars will go to Motley and Baird; but there will be found in the volumes before us a considerable amount of information which Motley and Baird do not give. The story is told, moreover, in an easy, graphic style, which must make it very acceptable to the general reader. The book is well printed, and handsomely bound. (\$7.50, Dodd, Mead & Co.)—'FREDERICK, Crown Prince and Emperor,' by Rennell Rodd, with an introduction by Her Majesty the Empress Frederick, comes to us with the authority of the approval of the widow of Frederick III. It is a personal sketch, aiming to place before its readers an adequate conception of the noble and heroic character of the late Emperor, with just enough of the detail of contemporaneous history to make his life well understood. It contains, says the author, 'nothing controversial, nothing which could lead to dispute or discussion, and it has been especially attempted to eliminate, as far as possible, all matter of a political nature.' For general readers this is no doubt the best biography of the late Emperor. The Empress's introduction is simple and touching. (\$1.25, Macmillan & Co.)

IT IS REFRESHING to pick up from the heaps of hastily written books, which suggest contract-work done to order under a time-penalty, a work of elegant leisure and calm philosophy like 'Stray Leaves of Literature.' Its atmosphere is restful, and one feels at once in an after-dinner mood, with slippers and evening gown on, to enjoy without hasting. In among the sunny portions of the Astor Library, with the centuries and pyramids of literature around him, Mr. Frederick Saunders pens his genial 'Pastime Papers' and mixes with skill his 'Salad for the Solitary and the Social,' and now sends afloat on time's breezes a few 'Stray Leaves of Literature.' He talks of old books; that is, the books written when the world was fresh, the books of its youth and verve, before copying and decanting, and plagiarizing, and commercial contracts were in fashion. We roam with him along the flowery lanes of ballad- and song-land. Physiognomy and 'our social salutations' he has studied as well from practical observation and experience, as from ancient volumes; and in 'The Symbolism of Flowers,' we read poetry which is but the mirror of man's own imagination. 'The Mystery of Music' stirs the secret chambers of our souls. Of exquisite English in a mellow style, the book is full; but along with the gems of thought chipped from the quarries of great thinkers, are the author's own shining witticisms, clear ideas and many-hued fancies; all making richest mosaic. In appropriate setting of print, paper, and book-jeweller's art, this literary Florentine will hold its place to charm all who are not in too much of a hurry to enjoy it. (\$1.25, Thomas Whittaker.)

'FRANCIS BACON: His Life and Philosophy,' by Prof. Nichol of the University of Glasgow, is an admirable and much needed little book which presents the great Chancellor to us clearly and fairly. Since the publication of Prof. S. R. Gardiner's great work upon the times of James I. and Charles I., the general estimate of Bacon has assumed a greater degree of fairness than ever before. The brilliant and bitter essay of Macaulay and the singularly venomous verse of the most venomous of English rhymers have perhaps done more to damn Bacon to the world than any bribe, however great or however trifling, which he may have taken with corrupt or innocent intent. In the main, the judgment of Prof. Gardiner is here reiterated, and there can be little doubt that it is the most just judgment which has been passed upon the unfortunate Lord Chancellor. Prof. Nichol deserves thanks for the compact and convenient form in which he has arranged the principal events in the life of one of the greatest men who ever drew breath in England. (\$1.25, J. B. Lippincott Co.)—'THE VIKING,' by Elwyn A. Barron, comes recommended by an introductory letter from Lawrence Barrett warmly eulogizing it and urging its production upon the stage. No higher testimonial is needed as to its dramatic merit, and for its literary excellence it has no less a claim. The story has the breath and color of the North; the characters are well set, and the action is varied and picturesque. The writer has thrown himself into the times and scenes of which he sings—'the weird and mystical region,' says Mr. Barrett, 'whence sprang "Hamlet" and "Macbeth." But there is a difference to note. Shakespeare fairly startles us by his "modernness." What we miss in 'The Viking' is just the master-touch, the subtle link of identity and universality binding the present to the past and making them one and eternal. (\$1, A. C. McClurg & Co.)

A GERMAN BOOK having the title of 'Tradition : its Origin and Development' ('Die Neberlieferung : ihre Entstehung und Entwicklung,' von Ernst von Bunsen), would be expected, as a matter of course, to be a learned work. In the present instance, unfortunately, it is learning run mad. The author has studied the works of the most eminent archaeologists, and has constructed from them some extraordinary theories, which will astonish his authorities. He explains, for example, the Edenic tradition by suggesting that Eve represented the exalted white race of primitive times, and Adam the debased black race. The place in Central Asia where the two races came together was the mythical Garden of Eden ; and their union constituted the legendary Fall of Man ! Any reader who has a taste for speculations of this sort will find himself abundantly satisfied by this work. (Leipzig : F. A. Brockhaus.)—
'THE HANDBOOK OF CANADIAN DATES,' by Fred. A. McCord, Assistant Law Clerk of the Dominion House of Commons, is a little volume of a commendable cast. It presents the main facts of Canadian history, from Cartier to the present day, in the most succinct form possible, and yet with sufficient clearness, and occasionally with original notes of much interest. Students and travellers will find the book useful for reference. (75 cts. Montreal : Dawson Bros.)