

Literature.

—*The Renaissance: The Revival of Learning and Art in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries.* By Philip Schaff, D.D., LL.D. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.50. This is by no means an exhaustive treatise, but as an outline it is extremely good. Its value for the student is enhanced by the abundant reference to the most important authorities on the several topics considered. In point of literary style Dr. Schaff is always admirable. His emancipation from German clumsiness is wonderfully complete. He knows how to say his thoughts, even his deepest thoughts, in the simplest and most telling forms of speech. This volume, though not a large one, reveals the author's many-sided mastery of history; and one probably could not find a better survey of the period of history known as the Renaissance as preparation for more extended investigation and study. After indicating the literature of the period, and some general statements as to the origin, character, and influence of the Renaissance, the author goes on to speak in particular of Dante, Petrarca, Boccaccio, Cosimo de Medici, Pope Nicolas V., the Vatican Library, the Greek Humanists, Lorenzo the Magnificent, Raphael, Michael Angelo, the revival of paganism in Italy, the state of morals in Rome, printing, Erasmus and the Greek Testament, etc.

The classical literature of Greece and the law of Rome, as well as the Mosaic religion, prepared the way for the introduction and success of Christianity in the old Roman Empire. The same literature and law become educators of the Italian and Teutonic races for modern civilization. The Italians took the place of the ancient Greeks, and even surpassed them as poets and artists. Republican Florence rivaled and outshone Athens as a home of genius, and papal Rome excelled imperial Rome in the liberal patronage of letters and arts.

—*Forty Years Among the Zulus.* By Rev. Josiah Tyler. Boston and Chicago: Congregational Sunday-school and Publishing Society. \$1.25. From beginning to end a thoroughly and deeply interesting book. But what a difference between this man's account of what he has seen and experienced and done and witnessed in Africa, and that of some other explorers and exploiters in the Dark Continent! As Dr. Lamson in his note of introduction remarks: "It is good to observe a people through the eyes of one who has long lived among them and for them. The unselfish soul is the best observer. He sees truthfully who sees the good, that he may enlarge it; the evil, that he may cure it. For a study of races, the devotion of love is the light of wisdom. For this reason the observations and reflections of this book will have a just and permanent value. The heroes of the Dark Continent 'are not all named in the records of explorations and discoveries. The worth and courage of the missionary, who, by his fidelity in preaching and living the gospel, discovers the man in the savage are less conspicuous but no less real.'" "There is a fascination in reading the chapters describing Zulu life as they follow one after another, because it is always interesting to read of human nature, and more than interesting to read a book in which an earnest soul describes the consistent devotion of all his working years. He still calls the natives his people; and in his enforced absence, though with children and friends, really lives among the Zulus. 'I see them every Sunday,' he says, 'and find myself in imagination preaching to them in their own language the wonderful truths of God's love.'" Not only are the events recorded and the things described of absorbing interest, but the style in its artless, and yet really artful simplicity and vividness holds the reader. The reader finds it wonderfully easy to see with the eye of the writer himself. The illustrations, too, are strikingly good for their purpose, especially indicating that transformation, a new creature indeed, of character and life of which the Zulu is susceptible under the influence of the gospel and the Spirit of God. It is a book which young people will find specially readable; and so a capital book for the Sunday-school and for every "missionary library."

—Professor Henry Adams's history of the administrations of Jefferson and Madison has placed him in the front rank of American historians. His forte seems to be political rather than social history, and in this field nothing clearer or more vigorous than his volumes has been written by any of our historians. His volume of *Historical Essays*, just issued, is therefore sure of a wide and a warm welcome, and by those more interested in present than in past issues will be read even more eagerly than his longer work. Of the nine essays contained in this volume, the two which will to our mind command the greatest attention are those which relate to the civil war financiering, and deal especially with *The Legal-Tender Act* and *The New York Gold Conspiracy*. His former readers need not be told that Mr.

Adams is an unsparing critic, and this appears prominently in his treatment of Spaulding, the author of the first legal tender measure, of Thaddeus Stevens and of Secretary Chase. No one can question, however, the ability and lucidity with which the measure is discussed. Jay Gould and "Jim" Flisk are not spared in the second of these essays and the exposure of their measures and of the whole shameless conspiracy is complete. Breadth and thoroughness of information, vigor of thought and clearness and virility of expression characterize all of Mr. Adams's historical work. These essays are models of this form of historical writing. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.)

—*The Present State of the Methodist Church*, a pamphlet of about one hundred pages, contains a "symposium" first published in the *Northern Christian Advocate*. The idea of such a conference on the "state of the church" was good. The following are the special topics: The Obligations of a great Church, by Dr. H. A. Butt; The Unrest of the Pastors, by Dr. J. A. M. Chapman; The Patronage of the General Conference, by J. A. Wright; A Revival of Biblical Preaching the present need of Methodism, by Dr. G. R. Crooks; The Centennial of the Death of John Wesley and its Lessons, by William White; The Effect of Increased Wealth upon American Methodism, by Dr. Ensign McChesney; Some Defects in our Itinerancy, by Dr. C. J. Little; The Scantiness of Literary Production in our Church, by Dr. B. P. Raymond; The Structure of the Church as affording Facilities for Intrigue, by Dr. G. R. Crooks.

—The gospel of Luke and the first two chapters of John are treated in the seventh volume of the *Sermon Bible*. As we have before had occasion to say, this is one of the best of eclectic homiletical commentaries. It has its peculiar field in making its selections almost wholly from the sermons of eminent preachers containing the most valuable and fertile thought on the different texts, but not before accessible for reference. In this way a large amount of valuable material has been saved to the Bible student. Not less valuable than the sermon outlines are the lists of references to other important works on the different subjects. (New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. \$1.50.)

—The "Riverside Science Series" setting forth the applications of science to modern life, is one of the latest and most interesting series issued by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Volumes showing modern uses of electricity, of gases, and of heat have already appeared, and now Prof. J. H. Gore, of the Columbian University, Washington, contributes a sketch of *Geodesy*. To those interested in the subject of the determination of the form and size of the earth, the survey of coasts and rivers, the construction therefrom of accurate maps, and other work of the same nature, this volume cannot fail to be of absorbing interest. Prof. Gore has compressed a very complete and graphic outline of geodetic work into a few pages. His treatment naturally divides itself into two parts: first, a history of the origin and growth of the science and primitive theories regarding the shape and size of the earth; and, second, an account of the geodetic work in various countries where it is carried on to-day. The subject of these surveys, especially the coast surveys, carried on in this country, is of general interest, and Professor Gore has written his little book in a language that, save for a few unavoidable technical terms, the ordinary reader can understand and enjoy. (\$1.25.)

—*The Warwickshire Avon*. Notes by A. T. Quiller-Culch. Illustrated by Alfred Parsons. New York: Harper & Bros. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$2. The illustrations are numerous and some of them excellent, others only indifferently done. The descriptions of one of the most beautiful and historically interesting portions of England are blended with abundant historic allusion and explanation, making altogether a very attractive book.

—*The Natural History of Man* is a series of eloquent lectures delivered some fifty years ago in Cincinnati, by Alexander Kinmont, which were published soon after, and now appear in a second edition. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.)—In the series of Great French Writers, *Madame DeStael*, by Albert Sorel, translated by Fanny H. Gardener, full of discernment, terse and brilliant in style. (Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.)—*English Composition*, eight lectures given at the Lowell Institute, by Barrett Wendell, 1890, Harvard College, treating of the elements of style, words, sentences, paragraphs, compositions, clearness, force, and elegance, making not so much a text-book as a book for popular reading. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50.)—*Marie Antoinette at the Tuilleries*, 1789-1791, by Imbert de Saint-Amand, translated by Elizabeth Gilbert Martin, rather effusive in style, depicting the romance, the pathos and tragedy of this unhappy chapter in French

history. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.25.)—The Scribner's also bring out a fresh edition of Professor James K. Hosmer's well-known *Short History of German Literature*.

—*The Leaf-Collector's Handbook*, by Charles S. Newhall, contains illustrations and classification of the leaves of all the native trees and the most important introduced and naturalized trees in Northeastern America. It is designed to aid in the collection and classification of these leaves, forming a very complete and convenient handbook for this purpose. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$2.)

—No. IX in the Ninth Series of the Johns Hopkins University Studies is an admirable historical monograph on *The Constitutional Development of Japan, 1853-1881*, remarkably intelligent, clear, concise, by Toyokichi Jyenaga, Ph. D., Professor of Political Science in Tokio, Senmon-Gakko. One of the most notable chapters in modern history. pp. 56. 50 cents.

—*The Electrical Boy*, by Prof. John Trowbridge, of Harvard University, is in reality an electrical pill, a pill of curious and useful knowledge about different applications of electricity, sugar-coated with a story about a homeless waif picked up in New York who grew up to proficiency in this science. Both pill and coating are so good that they will doubtless be widely taken, and thus accomplish the wise professor's purpose of creating a lively interest in this strange agency which will lead to a further study of its properties. (Boston: Roberts Brothers. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.50.)