

In his "Myths and Fables of To-Day" (Lee & Shepard) Mr. Samuel Adams Drake treats entertainingly of various quaint survivals of old-time superstitions that still color our speech and even unconsciously influence or modify the actions of the most practical. Weather Lore, Charms to Good Luck, Evil Omens, Haunted Houses, Presentiments, the Divining-Rod, Fortune-telling, etc., are amusingly and learnedly discussed, and a wealth of queer sayings and odds-and-ends of curious popular beliefs is presented. The pretty book is suitably illustrated by Mr. Frank T. Merrill, and should find friends.

Mr. Frank Horridge's unpretentious volume of "Lives of Great Italians" (L. C. Page & Co.) contains ten biographical sketches, the subjects being Dante, Petrarch, Carmagnola, Machiavelli, M. Angelo, Galileo, Goldoni, Alfieri, Cavour, and Victor Emanuel. The book must be pronounced a useful one for the general reader who wishes to get at the essential facts about these great Italians, and to learn briefly in what sort and degree they left the world and their country in their debt. Mr. Horridge writes sensibly and entertainingly, and primarily for the instruction of his readers. There are eight portraits, which are acceptably executed, and there ought to be an index.

That gallant sailor, Stephen Decatur, is the subject of a recently issued volume, by Mr. Cyrus Townsend Brady, in the pretty "Beacon Biographies" series (Small, Maynard & Co.). Even a dull pen could hardly make a dull book of a life of Decatur, and Mr. Brady's is by no means a dull pen. He has drawn upon the best available sources for his facts, and furnishes some new information as to the early history and the genealogy of the Decatur. The handsome frontispiece portrait of the dashing Commodore and the ornamental title-page crown the attractive make-up of this neat and pocketable booklet.