

*Colin Clout's Calendar.* By GRANT ALLEN. London : Chatto & Windus : 1883.

UNDER this quaint title, we find another volume of sketches by Mr Grant Allen, similar in nature to the light, breezy papers by which he has made his name familiar to magazine readers. The *Calendar* is "the record of a summer, from April to October," as the title has it; and although our author certainly, by his own showing, trenches deeply on the autumn time, no one will grudge him the extension of his season. The papers included in this volume originally appeared in the *St James's Gazette*. Mr Allen chats pleasantly about "Wild Hyacinths," "Catkins and Almond Blossom," "Spring Flowers," "The Mole at Home," and other kindred subjects. He is always lively, and for the most part clear and entertaining. If there is any fault to be found with this, as with his other works, it is that they are somewhat sketchy, and leave the reader, often unqualified as he is, to fill in the pictures whose outlines Mr Allen draws. But if they stimulate a love of nature and of inquiry, as we think they do, such works show yeoman service in the cause of knowledge and its diffusion. For a leisure hour, there cannot be a better companion than *Colin Clout's Calendar*.

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*The Great Pyramid.* By RICHARD A. PROCTOR. London : Chatto and Windus : 1882.

THE perennial mystery and interest which attach to the pyramids form, perhaps, more than a sufficient excuse for the publication of Mr Proctor's latest volume; and there exist very few persons who are not sufficiently animated by curiosity, and who will not care to dip into Mr Proctor's pages. In three chapters the author discusses the history, religion, and problem of these stupendous erections. Added to the pyramid part of the work proper, we find essays on the "Origin of the Week," the "History of Sunday," "Astrology," and other topics. A broad but reverential tone characterizes the author's treatment of these latter essays; and the chapters on the pyramids themselves will be found both lucid and entertaining. Mr Proctor's book is exactly that which should find a niche in a bookshelf devoted to the reception of works of handy reference as well as of information. It should also be added that it is a work worthy the attention of scholars and scientists who feel interested in one of the most perplexing problems of man's past history.