

ing to the great Age of Discovery. Editions and translations of John Bunyan followed, and next all the editions of Milton. Shakespeariana had their share of his attention. In some subjects his collection is astonishingly rich, but the subjects and authors totally neglected are astonishingly numerous. In Mr. Stevens's words, "the result of all Mr. Lenox's enormous study and labor, to say nothing of his vast expenditure, it must be confessed, is a 'patchy library.'" And to render it a complete public library would require three or four more lives like his.

Accident often has much to do with a collector's success, though fortunate accidents only benefit those who are on the watch for them. Stevens gives some striking instances. One is the story of a child's plaything, a little copper globe picked up as an oddity in some foreign town, which, falling under the expert's notice, turns out to be as early in date as 1510, and second to hardly any other globe in historical and geographical interest. Another is a request made to him by Mr. Lenox that he would find him a copy of a certain woodcut map of the Holy Land, dated 1574. On a chance visit to a friend in New Hampshire two or three weeks later, he found the very map, fine and perfect, in a dilapidated copy of the folio Bible of that date, and has never since been able to procure a duplicate of it.

Of course the collector who buys to sell again becomes much better known among book-people than the Mæcenas who takes his wares. The story of the lucky finds of dealers, their rivalries, stratagems, exchanges, mistakes, and restorations is told by Mr. Stevens with amusing variety and fulness. The profession has its solid compensations, too, for the leaders of experience and authority. For instance, the 'Bay Psalm Book,' the first English book printed in America, in 1640, was bought in 1855, after a long and silent hunt of seven years, for twenty shillings, and sent to Mr. Lenox, under his order, for \$400. A second copy, sold to another American amateur in 1868 for \$600, passed, on the sale of his library in 1878, for just double the sum to its present owner, also an American.

From the nature of the case one might suppose that this field must at last be worked out, and all the great literary prizes discovered and permanently lodged. But this is far from being true. No one knows what may yet be revealed by palimpsests in unsearched nooks. The hope of a resurrection for Livy's lost books is encouraged by the late discovery of some of Sallust's. The Archives of Simancas of late years astonished historians; the records of the Council of Ten have teemed with surprises; and church collections both in Mexico and Asia have yet to say their last word. And besides the hidden things there is much that is known and placed, awaiting only the slow but certain process of distribution. Political troubles, such as have dispersed famous collections in Italy and France, are gathering for the disintegration of private fortunes and museums in England. Every now and then a gallery or a treasure of family plate comes to the hammer. America in its turn becomes a collector, as sudden fortunes ask the crowning touch of letters and refinement. Not immigrants only, but a steady flow of books, pictures, curios, streams across the sea, and, on a grander scale, *Græcia capta ferum victorem cepit, et artes Intulit agresti Latio*. This breaking up and reconstruction of special collections promises perpetuity to the book-hunter's pursuit, and the taste for it will never fail so long as human nature is curious. Nor is the contest a hopeless one even when a slender purse is pitted against the millions of a Hertford or a Rothschild, or, still more boldly, against the wealth of public institutions. How much knowledge and craft may win, aided by the parsimony which only a passion inspires, is told

in Balzac's wonderful story of the old collector, Cousin Pons.

It will not be very long before permanent national institutions must, by the law of attraction of the greater body, have drawn all minor collections to themselves. The Lenox Library, at least, is placed beyond this risk. Alongside the splendid charities which will make its founder's name forever fragrant among the poor and the unhappy, this museum will endure for the scholar's delight, as a monument to his taste and his liberality.

Mr. Stevens's book is prettily printed, and has portraits of the lamented author and of his patron.

Parliamentary Government in Canada. A Lecture read before the Law School of Bishop's College, Sherbrooke, by C. C. Colby, M. P. Montreal: Dawson Bros. 1886.

It would probably excite astonishment and even indignation in the Congressional statesmen who are managing the affairs of the nation with so much skill and discretion at Washington, to be told that the Dominion of Canada is in any way politically superior to the United States. Mr. Colby, however, does not hesitate to make this assertion in the most unqualified manner. The Canadian system is a simple duplicate of the British, with trifling necessary differences, such as an elected Senate instead of a House of Lords, and a Governor-General instead of the Queen. It is based, therefore, on the principle of ministerial responsibility, and we have here the testimony of a gentleman who is described in the preface by the late Mr. Alpheus Todd as "an experienced politician, as well as a close observer, and an earnest student in the region of political knowledge," that the working of that principle as transplanted is satisfactory in a high degree. Indeed, Mr. Colby is so absorbed by it that he omits to give any account of the constitution and procedure of the two houses of the Legislature, which would have been an interesting complement.

Since the civil war, foreigners, and especially Englishmen, perceiving that the United States, which they had always treated with contempt, have become a considerable item in the world's affairs, have given a good deal of study to our institutions; but as they generally do not get beyond the Constitution, and know little or nothing of the real working of the Government, their comments are practically worthless. Mr. Colby, whether from propinquity or some other cause, has penetrated deeper, and is not backward in expressing his opinion. After a review of our procedure, which is far from laudatory, he sums up:

"That one of the most intelligent and progressive nations on the earth should, in this nineteenth century, continue to adhere to a system of irresponsible government, fraught with so much inconvenience and peril, a system which has been outgrown by France, Austria, Italy, Belgium, and other nations and states, and which exists now only in Russia, Germany, Turkey, Brazil, China, and a few other countries, is a most glaring anomaly and anachronism."

One proposition we are tempted to quote, because the writer of this review has always maintained the same thing in substance ever since the outbreak of the war, though he has never seen it stated by any other writer:

"James Buchanan was a Democratic President. During the last two years of his term the majority in Congress was Republican. Had our system of responsible government existed there, whatever might have been the personal opinions or preferences of the President, he would have been obliged to act under the advice of a Republican Cabinet. The great offices of state would have been filled by Republicans responsible to Congress. The policy of the Administration would have been Republican. Every act of the Government would have been a subject for in-

quiry, criticism, and constitutional censure, and the great peril which was then impending over the nation might have been averted. But, under the system of irresponsibility, the President was surrounded by advisers who were inimical to the majority in Congress and in the nation. History tells the result. The Cabinet of Buchanan was the hot-bed in which the seeds of rebellion first germinated. Secretly, traitorously, the men who had sworn to uphold the Union and the Constitution plotted their overthrow. Had Republican counsels prevailed in the Cabinet as in Congress, the great rebellion might have been indefinitely postponed, perhaps rendered impossible."

But if we are prepared to make large concessions to Mr. Colby, we are not disposed to surrender the whole ground, nor shall we seek our revenge in writing of the Queen with a small *q*. The practice of requiring the Cabinet to resign upon a defeat in the House of Representatives, and of giving it the corresponding means of self-defence in a dissolution of that house, would be quite impossible without serious changes in our Constitution; and we set far too high a value on the restraining influence of that instrument (an influence which English statesmen are beginning to regard with envy), and on the difficulty of altering it, to advocate or even wish for any such revolutionary action. But we do not think it is proved to be necessary, and have a suspicion that responsible government has not yet reached its highest form. As the Queen does not and cannot appoint the Ministry in Great Britain, that function devolves upon the Parliamentary majority, the people having no direct voice in the matter. The whole power of Parliament is, therefore, directed to making and unmaking ministries. Again, the ministry being a purely voluntary association, the premier can only find colleagues by promising to stand or fall with them, which may well be an artificial reason for the tradition of "solidarity." Ours, on the other hand, is the only great constitutional nation which has a chief magistrate elected, to all intents and purposes, directly by the people. A Cabinet appointed by him would have to be handled by Congress in a much more gingerly manner than the Ministry is by Parliament, and both sides might wait for general approval in the biennial elections of Congress or the quadrennial of President. A defeat in the House of Lords does not involve a resignation of the Ministry, nor does a defeat in the Senate, according to Mr. Colby, in Canada. Why, more than they do now, should our Cabinet resign because they cannot get what they want? Single unsuccessful officials, moreover, could be much more easily changed than now. However this may be, if the measure which is occasionally spoken of, of admitting the Cabinet officers to the floor of Congress, should ever be adopted, some political developments of exceeding interest could not fail to follow.

Praise-Songs of Israel: A New Rendering of the Book of Psalms. (New and Revised Edition.) By John De Witt, D.D., of the Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, N. J.; a Member of the American Old Testament Revision Company. Funk & Wagnalls. 1886.

WE have already incidentally, in reviewing the Revised Old Testament (No. 1042 of the *Nation*), expressed our appreciation of the excellence of Prof. De Witt's rendering of the Psalms. We are now very glad to find that the unstinted favor bestowed on it both by the Bible-loving public in general and by competent critics, in this country as well as in England, has encouraged the translator to bring out a second edition within less than two years from the first issue. In preparing for and executing this new edition, Prof. De Witt subjected the whole work to a severe scrutiny, in which, he assures us, "every

word has been challenged anew, and the structure of every sentence and phrase carefully pondered." The leading idea, from the start, was to have "the thought of the original put forth in the clearest, strongest, and best English expression," and thus "render the original more faithfully, and yet more poetically" than either the Authorized Version or the Revised was able to do, owing to reasons partly ecclesiastical and partly inherent in collective work. To make it clear to our readers how far the 'Praise-Songs' here and there deviate from the accepted versions, we pick out a few verses of probably the most obscure—as in form, the most archaic—song of the Psalter, the sixty-eighth, which affords ample room for exegetical divergences and diversity of diction in rendering.

In the Authorized Version we read:

4 Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him. . . . [Revised: *Cast up a high way for him that rideth through the deserts. His name is Jah, and exult ye before him.*]

11 The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it. [The women that publish the tidings are a great host.]

12 Kings of armies did fee afraid, and she that tarried at home divided the spoil.

13 Though ye have lien among the pots [Will ye lie among the sheepfolds?], yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold.

14 When the Almighty scattered kings in it, it was white as snow in Zalmon [it was as when it snoweth in Zalmon].

24 They have seen thy goings, O God; even the goings of my God, my King, in the sanctuary.

25 The singers went before, the players on instruments followed after; among them were the damsels playing with timbrels.

27 There is little Benjamin with their ruler [Benjamin their ruler]; the princes of Judah and their council, the princes of Zebulun and the princes of Naphtali.

29 Because of thy temple at Jerusalem shall kings bring presents unto thee.

30 Rebuke the company of spearmen [the wild beast of the reeds], the multitude of the bulls, with the calves of the people, till every one submit himself with pieces of silver [till every one submit himself with pieces of silver]; scatter thou the people that delight in war.

The corresponding lines in the 'Praise Songs' run thus:

4 Sing ye to God, strike the harp to his Name!

Make a highway for the rider through deserts!
I AM IS HIS NAME; oh exult ye before him.

11 The Lord giveth the word;
The women heralding gladness are a great host.

12 Kings of armies—they flee! they flee!
She that lieth at home divideth the spoil.

13 When ye are in your camps among the sheepfolds,
They are as a dove's wings, covered with silver,
And her pinions with yellow gold.

14 When the Almighty scattereth Kings there,
They are like the driving snow on Zalmon.

24 They saw thy triumphal entrance, O God!
The triumphal entrance of my Mighty God—
Of my King, into the sanctuary.

25. The singers went foremost, behind them the harpers,
In the midst of the damsels, beating their timbrels.

27 Benjamin, the youngest, is their leader,
Princes of Judah are their throng—
Princes of Zebulun—princes of Naphtali!

29 To thy palace above Jerusalem,
Unto thee, the Kings bring their gifts.

30 Rebuke the wild beasts of the reeds,
The herds of strong cattle, with the steers of the nations,
That come crouching with bars of silver;
He hath scattered the nations that have pleasure in war.

It will be seen at a glance that Prof. De Witt's rendering is immeasurably superior to the old in vigor, rhythm, and intelligibility, and that his most striking deviations from King James's Bible are such as have been already adopted by more modern exegesis, as represented by the collective scholarship of the British and American Revisers. A closer examination will show that, where the requirement of intelligibility was imperative, he allowed himself insertions of words not contained in the original text and not distinctively marked (such as "in your camps," in verse 13, and "driving," in verse 14). Of more questionable propriety are the substitution of "I AM" for "JAH," in verse 4, and of "To thy palace," for words faithfully, though more or less conjecturally, answering to the Hebrew expression. Whether these latter changes are founded on hypothetical emendations of the Hebrew text—substituting *ehyeh* for *b'yah*, and *lh'e* . . . for *meh'e* . . .—or on other grounds, will be seen when the promised annotated edition appears. Such changes are, however, rare in the new translation, which, when closely weighed in critical scales for which literalness is not the strict-

est criterion of fidelity, will be found to justify, on the whole, the claim of reflecting the original both "more faithfully and more poetically."

Socialism and Christianity. By A. J. F. Behrends, D.D. Baker & Taylor. 1886.

THE contents of this volume, originally a course of lectures to theological students, represents the attempt of a clergyman to understand the industrial and social situation, and to determine the claims of the reformers to Christian sympathy and support. The author has perused the books of authority upon both sides of the questions at issue, and his criticisms of the facts and the economic doctrines of the hour, though not distinguished by any striking originality, display intelligence and humanity, and are of especial interest to those who are close observers of the course of church sympathy. No one need expect any revolutionary vigor in these pages, any insistence on the communal and unworlly elements in Gospel teaching, or any suggestion that the wisdom of this world is not entirely competent to render judgment. Socialism is soon found to be atheistic, materialistic, and inimical to the institution of monogamic marriage; its economic principles are readily discredited; and, of course, it meets with its due of denunciation. The present economy of society is, in its turn, sustained, and its various elements passed in favorable review. The law that one must live by the sweat of his brow is frequently reiterated; the blessed effects of the "fear of want," the responsibility of each man for his own happiness, the right of the individual to all he can appropriate by labor of hand or brain, and, in general, all the commonplaces of conservatism, are rephrased, with the single restriction, in criticism of the laissez-faire school, that these elementary truths are to be held in a humane spirit, and the workman to be treated as having a moral value plus his worth as a producer of wealth.

It would be useless to follow the author through his discussion; he accepts the organization of society as it is, and asks only for some carefulness in running the machine, or, at most, for the insertion of a bolt or the tightening of a screw. High license, local option, indefinite penal sentences, legislation against overcrowding, in tenements, and especially a stringent Scriptural divorce law, are his nostrums. He declares that the suggestion that a graduated income tax should be used to make five million dollars the maximum limit of private fortunes "involves the right of the state to prescribe to the Almighty how much brains a man shall be permitted to have"; that the Vanderbilt fortune was "as legitimately earned as the wealth of any great inventor," and "to denounce it as theft is to invite the contempt of business men and to advertise one's ignorance of modern progress"; and that the national debts of Europe are justly liable to repudiation by the generation that inherits them. These opinions illustrate the capitalist sympathy of the author, with his occasional lurch to windward; but perhaps the "common-sense" strain in his thought is most vividly shown in his revised version of a famous text which he reads, "Bear ye one another's burdens; yet in such a way that every man shall bear his own." It would be a pleasure to hear Count Tolstoi comment, from the standpoint of a primitive Gospel Christian, on the words which we have italicized.

Norsk Forfatter-Lexikon 1814-1880. Paa Grundlag af J. E. Krafts og Chr. Langes 'Norsk Forfatter-Lexikon, 1814-1856,' af J. B. Halvorsen. Christiania, 1885-86. 8vo.

SOME forty years ago Jens Edvard Kraft, who had been Rasmus Nyerup's assistant in the prepa-

ration of the useful 'Almindeligt Litteraturlæxikon for Danmark, Norge og Island,' undertook the preparation of a 'Dictionary of Norwegian Authors,' to embrace the years 1814 to 1856. But it was not until after his death, which occurred July 21, 1853, that his materials were arranged by the archivist Christian Lange, who, adding to and continuing the work, published it, in parts, from 1857 to 1863. The period of twenty years since that time shows a vigorous growth in Norwegian literature; that short term having sufficed for the birth and development of the entire school of modern writers founded by Henrik Ibsen and Björnstjerne Björnson, the former having but four titles recorded in Kraft's book, and the latter none. Mr. Halvorsen has adopted the same title for his work, and, with noticeable modesty, announces upon his title-page that it is founded upon that of Kraft and Langi, but a comparison of the two shows that every line of the old work has been subject to a careful scrutiny and painstaking revision, and that, as a result, scarcely a half-dozen entries are retained *verbatim*, and in reality his is a new and independent labor. This fact is best shown, perhaps, by a comparison of the extent of the two works. Kraft's book contains 1,550 names and filled 719 octavo pages, while Mr. Halvorsen's work will include the names of about 4,000 persons, and his first volume, containing the first two letters of the alphabet, 156 names in A, and 365 in B, has 569 pages, these being about one-tenth larger than the pages of the earlier book; whereas the letters A (81 names) and B (198 names) occupied but 128 pages in the old work.

The biographical notices are concise in statement, though proportioned in length to accord with the importance of the subject, but are almost stereotyped in form, giving in an invariable order the parentage of the author; date and place of birth; education, with college degrees; official positions held; a notice of such travels as may have been undertaken in connection with literary labors; honors conferred; and, finally, if married, a brief record, giving the date of the event, and the name, parentage, and date of birth of the person married. Each detail is carefully considered; for example, when an author is living the form of record of birth is "born —," but if at the time of printing the author was dead the form is changed to "was born —." Following the biographical notice is given a list of references to biographies and to articles in periodicals which give fuller information concerning the author, or which contain critical summaries of his literary work, while following the titles of his own works are references to reviews of the particular books. These references show an extraordinarily wide range of search among books and the leading periodicals of nearly every country in Europe, England, and the United States. Among the American periodicals referred to are the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *Century*, the *Christian Union*, *Harper's Weekly*, the *Nation*, the *National Review*, and the *North American Review*. The article upon each author includes a list, giving in chronological order the titles of all books which he has written, edited, or translated. The various editions of his own works are given, and translations of them are mentioned. The titles are not printed at great length, but are abbreviated with care, and in all cases the place of publication, date, size, and number of pages are stated; and further bibliographical value is given to the work by the care taken to indicate anonymous and pseudonymous books, and by supplying the names of a great number of authors, editors, and translators, when these do not appear in the titles. In addition to the list of books, whatever of importance each author has contributed to newspapers, periodicals, or the publications of societies is enumerated, often at great