

them at the custom-house to be fraudulent, confiscated the first cargo, paying therefor, in accordance with the custom-house regulations, the importer's valuation with 10 per cent. addition. Mr. Jerome, well pleased to sell his clocks by the cargo, sent another load, which was seized on the same terms. A third cargo was allowed to pass, and, after much trouble, was sold in small quantities."

The axes made in the town of Collins, to the number of 15,000,000, "are known and used all over the world." In Manchester are made the best American silks.

In the insurance business Hartford leads the country, and has been the seat of many extraordinary experiments. There was the American Temperance Life Insurance Co., which virtually involved taking the pledge. There was the Live Stock Insurance Co., which came to a disastrous end by reason of the opportunities for fraud, and of which nothing remains but "experience." A pattern for the engraved seal, in the possession of a director who sunk \$10,000, "is proudly pointed to by its owner as the second costliest picture ever in Hartford." There was, even as late as 1855, a business of slave and coolie insurance, which suffered from causes like those which wrecked the Live Stock Co. It shows the mutability of earthly things that, being told of the reorganization of the damaged Charter Oak Life Insurance Co., with Geo. M. Bartholomew president and C. E. Willard secretary, we are assured that "under their able and upright management several millions have been returned to policyholders, and the final dissolution retarded far longer than was once thought possible." The subscription-book business, in which Hartford is preëminent, also invites a few words here, but we must conclude.

Memorials of Washington and of Mary, his Mother, and Martha, his Wife. From Letters and Papers of Robert Cary and James Sharples. By James Walter, Retired Major 4th Lanc. Art., etc., etc. Charles Scribner's Sons. Pp. 362.

This book, valuable in itself, but aggravating on account of its lack of order, is issued doubtless to call attention to a most interesting collection of portraits now making the tour of the United States for exhibition and possible purchase. It seems that James Sharples, whose pastel portraits of distinguished Americans about the years 1795-1798 are treasured for their evident faithfulness, was sent over to America by Robert Cary, who was the English agent, friend, and admirer of Washington. The artist was commissioned to paint a portrait of the President, and he performed his task well, by securing two portraits of Washington from life, as well as one of Mrs. Washington. Incidentally he made a few sketches of other American ladies and brought these back to England, unfinished. He was also probably intrusted with a torn and disfigured canvas—being the portrait of Washington's mother, painted by an English officer named Middleton—to see what could be done by the restorers in London.

Sharples's widow seems to have retained all of these pictures after his death, and to have sold them to Robert Cary or his brother. Mary Washington's portrait was restored by Edward Bird, R. A., and Maclise renovated and finished the female heads. How much the present pictures owe to the later brushes cannot be told, probably; and yet, if the original sketches reached such a stage as would have allowed Sharples to finish them from memory in England, it may be conceded that Bird or Maclise had ground enough for faithful work.

We may, then, cheerfully acknowledge the real value of the Washington pictures, the more readi-

ly because the autotypes bear out the story. The portraits are not only good, but they are satisfying to the imagination—more so, perhaps, than Stuart's or any other likeness of Washington. For example, contrast this portrait of Mary Washington with the one in Mr. Lossing's recent book. It is dimly shadowed forth in this book that these pictures can be bought. If so, Congress ought to attend to this affair promptly, recognizing that they are invaluable and that their possession is a national enrichment. The pedigree of the pictures seems to be well established, since they have always remained in some branch of the Cary family. They have been known as existent by many Americans, they have been seen in their English custody by many eminent connoisseurs, and they have twice been exhibited in this country.

We regret exceedingly that the labor of preparing this history has not fallen into better hands. Evidently the letters of Sharples, printed consecutively and in their integrity, would be a precious chapter in the memoirs of the period. The story of the Carys and their relation with Washington would be readable. The testimonies here copied to the value of the portraits are appropriate and worthy of preservation. But all is obscured and almost lost in the hands of the present editor. We hope some one who can tell a straightforward story will yet have access to these treasures.

The name of Sharples or Sharpless recalls the fact that many of his pastel drawings—the artist's originals, so to speak, from which he worked—were preserved "down South." A large number of them were cut from their frames, and the prized bundle buried, owing to the fear of an inroad of troops during the Rebellion. When recovered it was found that there were the frames inscribed with names, but no one had thought to mark the pictures. Identification was thus only conjectural, and though many were so recovered, a very considerable number were not. For some years the portrait of the wife of Judge Cushing figured as Martha Washington, the critics accepting a youthful matron of thirty in place of one of nearly seventy years.

We can only add that the autotypes are charming, and fully justify every would-be purchaser of the book in disregarding the text, and in finding the value of his money in the illustrations and in such facts as he can dig out for himself.

Skat: the German Game of Cards. B. Westermann & Co.

At Coblenz, where the Moselle River empties into the Rhine, the yellow floods of the tributary are for miles distinguishable from the blue-green waters of the "coupe des nations," as Lamartine calls the German river. Similarly, German social life, with its pastimes and characteristics, remains a distinct feature in this cosmopolitan city of New York, into which the stream of immigration empties its floods of Germans year after year. They become Americans soon enough, politically, commercially, industrially; and Karl, Heinrich, and Hans are Charley, Harry, and John before they have mastered the language into which they are so eager to translate their names. But the best of them, the well educated and gentlemanly, with no anarchist bent or other disqualification, do not socially enter into the American life, as a rule, for a generation. Neither do Americans take cognizance of the real social characteristics of their new brethren in politics. Of course, the well-to-do of both nationalities meet on a footing of social equality at receptions, parties, and balls; but who finds social pleasure where there is as little occasion for asserting one's individuality as there is elbow-room? A large number of Americans attend the Liederkrantz

balls and can be met at the homes of wealthy Germans. But these, in a great measure, have long ago divested themselves of the really characteristic home *agrément*s of the Fatherland, and care little to do missionary work in opening up to Americans a vista of the hearth-pleasures and the intimate social life of the German household. Indubitably the German *Gemüth* does lend a charm to the enjoyment of life in the home circle, for there can be nothing more thoroughly enjoyable than a German *Polterabend*, Sylvester-night amusements, and the *Julklapp* at the Christmas tree—which latter, as well as Moltke, has conquered even the hereditary enemy. We do not, of course, refer to the loud-mouthed *Gemüthlichkeit* of the ordinary and extraordinary *Kneipgenie*, which the average American is too apt to consider the characteristic of the German.

The late Friedrich Kapp, indeed, was inclined to advise his countrymen to shuffle off as soon as possible the German coil, and become Americans on landing here. One may be allowed to think, however, that the flavor of foreignness which an educated German diffuses in American homes is far from disagreeable to equally well-bred Americans, and that, meeting as social peers, either should assimilate what is best in the other—that the yellow Moselle should merge in the blue Rhine and vice versa—because nobody is so perfect, individual or nation, as not to find something worth learning from another. If, as Goethe maintained, mastering a foreign language doubles one's individuality, how much more valuable would be the full knowledge of another *Volksseele*, as it manifests itself in its most intimate social life.

To come to our point, the card game of Skat is a feature of great magnitude in German social life, at the fireside, and in the *Stammkneipe*, in whose dingy circumference his Excellency, the Privy Councillor, the Professor of Pehlevi, the General of the Army, and the merchant prince, as well as the *di minorum gentium*, meet at their *Stammtisch* for a game of Skat. While this country is given up to lawn-tennis and other English sports, the great German community have so far not exerted themselves to bring their favorite pastime before the Americans, and the little pamphlet whose title we give above, is, we believe, the first attempt in this direction, and consequently possesses greater importance and significance than its slender size would betoken. Skat is a power in German life. Even Wilhelmine Buchholz became one of its devotees at the first sitting, albeit in the uncongenial company of her son-in-law and his doctor friend, who explained its principles to her, withholding, however, as she asserts, the best tricks and slyest devices for their own advantage. But winning a Grand without four Matadors sweetens for her the dire confession that the card devil had secured a new victim.

A Budget of Letters from Japan. By A. C. MacLay. A. C. Armstrong & Son.

WHETHER to take the advice of one's friends or enemies as to the publication of a book, is a question to be pondered. A true friend in such a time of need is hard to find, for the flattering relative or acquaintance is likely to be more of an enemy than a heartless critic. Judicial impartiality, most needed by a new author, is a commodity difficult to obtain, and is not usually wanted by those who need it. The truthful critic, though following a noble calling, is rarely appreciated by the public or by those criticised.

Mr. MacLay went out to Japan in 1873, at the age of twenty, and became a teacher in the schools of Japan at Hirosaki, Tokio, and Kioto, and returned home when but twenty-four. He

had opportunities to see much of Japanese life and scenery. He wrote many letters while abroad, and from his accumulated epistolary matter compiled the staple of his book. He submitted his manuscript to "impartial readers," who advised him to print. He says he threw out "all matter that had been dwelt upon to any extent by other writers upon Japan," and seems to believe that he offers us "fresh material upon this subject." Readers of the scores of books on Japan, published during the last two decades, will hardly agree with the author. He has threshed out old straw, and the good grain set forth is slight in quantity and unattractive in quality. His grammar is defective on many pages; his slang is abundant; he does not know how to spell, and apparently how to pronounce, Japanese names. His geography is sometimes topsy-turvy; he locates the chief orange-producing province of the empire several hundred miles away, and confounds it with one of the four great islands. His slovenliness, for a teacher, is unpardonable. He assaults voluminously "Mills and other infidel authors." He luxuriates in the vice of callow authors, in their first appearance in a book, of impaling his enemies, and of ventilating pretty much all the subjects upon which he holds opinions. Nearly one-half of this book, which purports to treat of Japan, is taken up with discussions on cosmogony, woman suffrage, British manners and customs, and the theology and expediency of missions. This is hardly fair to the purchaser, who asks for fact and gets sermons.

Apart from these defects, the reader who wishes an easily written account of life inside Japan will enjoy the pictures of school ways and works, of the peculiarities of native schoolboys, of the old feudalism, now extinct, of the popular drinking and smoking customs, and narratives of pleasant journeys. The conversational or epistolary style puts one at comfort immediately, and the whole budget can be read during an evening. Good print, binding, and index are noticeable. The illustrations number over two dozen, and among the hackneyed subjects are a few of fresh interest.

The Names of Those Persons who Subscribed towards the Defence of this Country at the Time of the Spanish Armada, 1588, and the Amounts Each Contributed. With Historical Introduction by T. C. Noble, and Index. London: Alfred Russell Smith, 1886. 8vo, pp. xxxv and 92.

THE list of names here printed is from a "scarce quarto tract of 1798, issued by Leigh & Sotheby, York Street, Covent Garden." It contains 2,416 names, belonging to 36 counties, and gives an aggregate of nearly £75,000. Its authenticity appears to be well established. One of the proofs is given here in full, in the shape of a requisition by the Queen for a loan upon Thomas Lawley, a part of which reads: "Wherefore, we require you to pay to our use the sum of Twenty-five Pounds to such person, as by our Lieutenant of that county shall be named to you by his hand writing." On this document is a receipt of Apr. 19, 1589, signed by E. Leighton, and a further endorsement, "Salopp, Quinto Maii. 1590. Repayed unto his assignes by Killigrew," while the printed list contains the name of Thomas Lawley for £25, paid April 19. It will be seen that this contribution was not a free gift, as one would suppose from the title-page, but what the historians call a "forced loan," levied the year after the invasion, to defray the extraordinary expenses of the defence; and that, being a loan, it was promptly repaid the next year. We find, on looking over the list, that the largest number paid twenty-five pounds; there were some thirties, forties, and fifties, and a few of a hundred pounds, which is, we believe, the largest sum contributed. The city of London, by the way, is not contained in this list, having made a special loan of £54,000.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Axon, W. E. A. *The Annals of Manchester: A Chronological Record from the Earliest Times to the End of 1885.* Manchester, Eng.: John Heywood.
- Barr, Amelia E. *The Bow of Orange Ribbon: A Romance of New York.* Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.00.
- Bell, A. M. *Essays and Postscripts on Elocution.* Edgar S. Werner. \$1.25.
- Brooks, H. M. *Literary Curiosities.* [The Olden Time Series.] Boston: Ticknor & Co. 50 cents.
- Clement, Clara Erika. *Stories of Art and Artists.* Illustrated. Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$4.00.
- Collar-Daniell. *The Beginner's Latin Book.* Boston: Ginn & Co. \$1.50.
- Cousin, J. *The Book of Fortune. Two Hundred Unpublished Drawings With Introduction and Notes by Ludovic Lalanne.* London: Remington & Co.
- Doble, C. E. *Remarks and Collections of Thomas Hearne.* Vol. II. (March 20, 1707—May 23, 1710.) Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Fallows, Bishop S. *Past Noon; or, Life's Golden Sunset.* Cincinnati: Cranston & Stowe.
- Habberton, J. *Just One Day.* Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers. 50 cents.
- Hanus, Prof. P. H. *Elementary Treatise on the Theory of Determinants.* Boston: Ginn & Co. \$1.90.
- Macaulay, Lord. *Warren Hastings.* Chautauqua Press. 40 cents.
- Norris, W. E. *A Bachelor's Blunder.* Henry Holt & Co. 50 cents.
- Phelps, Elizabeth Stuart. *The Madonna of the Tubs.* Illustrated. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.50.
- Pollard, Josephine. *Vagrant Verses.* Phillips & Hunt. \$1.00.
- Roche, J. J. *Songs and Satires.* Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$1.00.
- Russell, W. C. *A Voyage to the Cape.* Harper's Handy Series. 25 cents.
- Scott, Sir W. Ivanhoe. Boston: Ginn & Co. 70 cents.
- Stephens, Ann S. *Fashion and Famine.* Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers. 75 cents.
- Thackeray, W. M. *The Newcomes.* In 2 vols. [Handy Edition.] Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.
- The Great Debate: A Verbatim Report of the Discussion at the Meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, Oct. 7, 1886.* Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
- Walter, J. *Memorials of Washington, and of Mary his Mother and Martha his Wife, from Letters and Papers of Robert Cary and James Sharples.* Illustrated. Charles Scribner's Sons.
- Weatherby-Dealy. *The Land of Little People.* Scribner & Welford.
- Wells, Emma A. *Intermediate Problems in Arithmetic for Junior Classes.* Syracuse: C. W. Bardeen.
- Wells, J. W. *Three Thousand Miles through Brazil.* Illustrated. In 2 vols. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$4.
- Wells, S.; Treat, Mary; and Sargent, F. L. *Through a Microscope.* Chicago and Boston: Interstate Publishing Company. 60 cents.
- Wenckebach, C. and H. *Die schönsten deutschen Lieder.* 24 ed. F. W. Christern.
- Wendell, B. *Rankell's Remains: An American Novel.* Boston: Ticknor & Co.
- Westall, W. *The Phantom City: A Volcanic Romance.* Harper's Handy Series. 25 cents.
- Wheeler, Prof. A. M. *Sketches of English History. From the Roman Conquest to the Revolution of 1688.* Chautauqua Press.
- Whist Primer for the Use of Beginners.* Excelsior Publishing House. 10 cents.
- White, A. *The Problems of a Great City.* Scribner & Welford.
- White, E. E. *The Elements of Pedagogy.* Van Antwerp, Bragg & Co. \$1.75.
- Whitman, Sarah. *The Making of Pictures.* Chicago and Boston: Interstate Publishing Company. 60 cents.
- Wilford, Prof. T. F. *Book of Recitations and Dialogues.* Excelsior Publishing House.
- Wilkinson, W. C. *Classic French Course in English.* Chautauqua Press. 60 cents.
- Williams, G. A. *Topics and References in American History.* Syracuse: C. W. Bardeen.
- Williams, Prof. S. W. *Queenly Women, Crowned and Uncrowned.* Illustrated. Cincinnati: Cranston & Stowe.
- Willard, Frances E. *How to Win: A Book for Girls.* Funk & Wagnalls. \$1.00.
- Willoughby, H. *Australian Pictures, Drawn with Pen and Pencil.* Illustrated. T. Nelson & Son. \$3.50.
- Wright, Prof. A. *Walks and Talks in the Geological Field.* Chautauqua Press. \$1.
- Winchell, S. R. *Elementary Lessons in Greek Syntax.* D. Appleton & Co.

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