

plan embraces such a wide range as does that of Col. Knox. We cannot but remark in his pages a certain want of the ease and vigor with which a man describes a story with whose every feature he is familiar, and whose every incident possesses for him a personal interest. Yet this, or something like this, is well-nigh necessary if one is attempting to write of military events in a popular way.

At the same time, looked at as a series of accounts of the most important military events of the world since 1815, this book of Mr. Knox's possesses a decided value. It is not free from mistakes, but it is, we think, substantially accurate. It is evidently the result of much labor; the authorities have been judiciously selected, and the narrative of each battle is accompanied with a useful historical sketch serving to put it in its proper relation to the events of the times. It is a book which cannot fail to be of use to young people, or in fact to people of any age, who desire to know something of the history of the century in which they are living.

We are obliged to point out some errors which should be corrected in future editions. The plan opposite page 93 is not a "Plan of the Gates, Vera Cruz," as stated on page ix., but a sketch of the neighborhood of the City of Mexico. The account of Pickett's charge at Gettysburg is curiously inaccurate. Why Garnett should be singled out as the one "who led his brigade," is not apparent. Why the fire of Stannard's brigade should be spoken of as directed upon Armistead's right, instead of upon the right of the whole division, is not plain, especially as we have just been told that Kemper's brigade was on the right of the division, and Armistead's on the left. We are told, too, that "Armistead's right" recoiled, and Armistead "threw it upon the brigades of Hall and Harrou." (This last officer's name was Harrow.) The fact was, that, the whole division inclining to its left under the effect of Stannard's fire and the artillery fire from Little Round Top, the brunt of the attack fell on the brigade of Webb, while Hall and Harrow, not being attacked themselves in front, moved up to their right and joined Webb, whose line had been forced. Nor is it the fact that our troops on that part of our line were "intrenched behind rocks and fences, where bullets could not reach them"; still less that they were driven back "upon their second line of earthworks." There was a low stone wall covering part of our line here, but nothing that could be called an earthwork in any part of it. Mr. Knox must also have forgotten his Italian when he wrote, as he did on page 209, of the events of 1866 and 1870, completing the work of unification and producing "the Italia Irredenta (*sic*) which was the dream of Cavour and for centuries the ardent hope of millions of his countrymen." We had supposed—we may be wrong—that the comparatively recent cry of "Italia Irredenta" referred to Trieste and other outlying regions claimed to be Italian in sentiment and largely in population, but not yet freed from the Austrian domination.

Key to North American Birds, etc. By Elliott Coues, A. M., M. D., Ph. D., etc. Profusely illustrated. Boston: Estes & Lauriat. 1887. Imperial 8vo, pp. xxx, 895, colored frontispiece, 561 wood-cuts in text.

IN 1872—fifteen years ago—Dr. Coues published a 'Key to North American Birds' which was a manual of the subject on an entirely new plan, and which has proved to be the most useful, and until recently the only, "text-book" of the subject. It became an invaluable help to the younger ornithologists of the country,

and a handy work of reference even for advanced students. After being for several years out of print, a second edition of the 'Key' appeared in 1884, greatly increased in size, practically rewritten, in many ways greatly improved, and again abreast of the subject. In two years the 'Key' was again "out of print," and a new or third edition is now before the public. So far as the main body of the work is concerned, it is a reprint of the second edition, being reproduced from the same plates. There is of course a new preface, reviewing the progress of the subject during the last three years—unusually eventful in the history of American ornithology—and much new matter is added in the form of an Appendix.

Since the publication of the second edition, the nomenclature of North American birds has been greatly changed, through the publication of 'The Code of Nomenclature and Check-List of North American Birds, adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union, etc.,' which, as soon as it appeared, "became the standard and indeed the only recognized Nomenclator in American Ornithology." To adjust the 'Key' to the new nomenclature, the names used in the 'Key' and the Union Check-List are arranged in parallel columns in the Appendix, thus rendering comparison easy between the earlier and the later nomenclature. The author has thus had opportunity to record his individual opinion respecting the status of a number of forms; rejecting about twenty admitted into the Union Check-List, and retaining about ten not recognized in the latter. The subject is further brought down to date by the addition, with descriptions, of some sixty species and sub-species described as new, or discovered to be North American, since 1884. Here, again, the author exercises his selective taste, with, in some cases, we fear, not the happiest results. It serves, however, to give formal emphasis to his conservative protest "against the fatal facility with which the system of trinomial nomenclature lends itself to sad consequences in the hands of immature or inexperienced specialists," expressed in his preface (p. iii).

In some minor details the 'Key' is not above criticism, and occasional changes in the text, even if relegated to the Appendix, might have been introduced with advantage to the student. Yet the excellences of the work far overshadow its slight defects, which latter detract very little from its general usefulness, and are obviously the fault of too rapid composition rather than lack of knowledge. For many years to come the work must continue to be what it has been in the past, a boon to those interested in the study of North American birds.

Wild Animals in Captivity. Illustrated by Pen and Camera. By J. Fortuné Nott. Dodd, Mead & Co. 4to, pp. 155.

MR. NOTT's preface breathes a very humane spirit, and alleges as his motive for publishing his 'Wild Animals in Captivity' a desire "to assist in extending the field of human sympathy towards some of the most attractive creatures which were created to be our fellow-occupiers of this world." This sympathy does not appear to have any connection in his mind with the origin of species. He is rather a devout "lover" of dumb nature." His forty-one full-page plates of animals whose captivity is shown by the undisguised surroundings, are accompanied by entertaining letter-press, in which personal study and observation are mingled with pertinent quotations from the works of naturalists and travellers. Great freshness characterizes what is thus borrowed, and scrappiness has been happily avoided. No one can

read the two dozen chapters without pleasure, and few without instruction. The style of treatment is thoroughly popular, and the literary form unpretentious yet skillful. As for the selection of types, the number of rare and unfamiliar ones is very striking. No fewer than six antelopes are pictured, besides an eland and a gazelle. The cat tribe is also well represented. There are three rhinoceroses, three elephants, three of the seal tribe, etc. The original photographs have been reproduced with only moderate success by a mechanical process, but the plates answer all practical purposes. A handsome binding makes the volume fit for the parlor table. We heartily commend it.

Fresh Woods and Pastures New. By the author of 'An Amateur Angler's Days in Dove Dale,' etc. London: Sampson, Low & Co. 1887.

THIS is a small collection of essays, in the form of letters, on incidents and scenes of pastoral English life. Since the author of 'Wild Life in a Southern County' and 'The Gamekeeper at Home' began his charming books, there has been a decided increase in the number of works of kindred character among English writers, many of whom are peculiarly fitted by taste and education to describe graphically the smaller details of rural England, and to give practical and accurate information regarding the animal life there found, from the standpoint of the sportsman and the naturalist. Several chapters of the book under notice are devoted to angling, and No. XI., "A Day with the May Fly Fishers," is the best of these; Letter X., on "Wood Pigeons, Magpies, and Rooks," gives many interesting facts about the habits of these birds. There is nothing tame or commonplace in the little volume, though it treats entirely of common scenes and incidents. Taken as a whole, it gives a pleasant picture of the natural side of English country life in its minor forms, drawn by a close observer who is in love with his subject. There is a large-paper edition handsomely published.

A Short History of England, from the earliest times to the present day. By Cyril Ransome, M. A., Merton College, Oxford. With maps and plans. E. P. Dutton & Co. 1887. 8vo, pp. 476.

OF making histories of England there is no end, and each new candidate is reasonably challenged to furnish reason for its existence, in a field already occupied by so many excellent works. That it should contain any new information is not to be expected; but there is such a large range in the selection of materials, and so great variety in the way of handling, that a book must have positive excellence in one of these ways if it is to deserve a place upon our crowded book-shelves. These qualities Mr. Ransome's book has in a high degree. The reader is struck with a certain freshness in the presentation of the matter, by which in many cases an old story is made to be seen in a new light. The selection of the material, too, is done with excellent judgment, and the book fairly deserves the credit of emphasizing what needs emphasis, and passing over unimportant matter—perhaps the most uncommon merit in histories of this size. We are inclined to regard it as on the whole the best history of England of a grade between the school histories and Green's 'Short History.'

The point of view is moderate and impartial—quite colorless in the politics of the present day, and perfectly fair in the great controverted points of English history. The book is un-

usually well provided with maps, plans of battles, and genealogical tables; but the maps are small and poor, unworthy of so excellent a text.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Alcott, Louisa M. A Garland for Girls. Boston: Roberts Brothers. \$1.25.
 Allen, F. M. Andy American's Great Discovery. Illustrated. D. Appleton & Co. 50 cents.
 Barr, Amelia E. Paul and Christina. Dodd, Mead & Co.
 Bates, Fanny B. Between the Lights. Thoughts for the Quiet Hour. A. D. F. Randolph & Co. \$1.75.
 Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. No. 7. The Century Co. 50 cents.
 Blake, H. G. O. Winter: From the Journal of Henry D. Thoreau. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.50.
 Crocker, U. H. Over the Net and Commercial Districts. Boston: Clarke & Carruth.
 Elegy in a Country Churchyard; The Breaking Waves Dashed High; Ring Out, Wild Bells; That Glorious Song of Old; It was the Calm and Silent Night; Why Should the Spirit of Mortal be Proud? 6 vols. Illustrated. Boston: Lee & Shepard.
 Gibson, J. Chips from the Earth's Crust; or, Short Stories of Natural Science. Illustrated. Thomas Nelson & Sons.
 Giles, Rev. C. The True and the False Theory of Evolution. Philadelphia: William H. Alden.
 Goldsmith, O. The Deserted Village. Illustrated. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.
 Goulding, E. B. The Young Marooners on the Florida Coast; or, Robert and Harold. New ed. Dodd, Mead & Co.
 Guntton, G. Wealth and Progress: A Critical Examination of the Labor Problem. D. Appleton & Co.
 Howells, W. D. A Woman's Reason. Boston: Ticknor & Co. 50 cents.
 Jacobson, A. Higher Ground: Hints towards Settling the Labor Troubles. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.
 Jordan, D. S. Science Sketches. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.50.
 Kendall, May. From a Garret. Longmans, Green & Co. \$2.
 Kluge, Prof. F. Von Luther bis Lessing. Strassburg: K. J. Trübner.
 Krupp und sein Werk. Berlin: Rosenbaum & Hart.
 Lang, A. Myth, Ritual, and Religion. In 2 vols. Longmans, Green & Co.
 Lossing, B. J. History of New York City. Embracing an Outline Sketch of Events from 1609 to 1830; and a Full Account of its Development from 1830 to 1884. Illustrated. A. S. Barnes & Co. \$10.
 Macquoid, Katharine S. Mère Suzanne, and Other Stories. Harper's Franklin Square Library. 20 cents.
 Marble, C. C. Addresses of the Dead. G. W. Dillingham.

May, H. W. A Treatise on the Statutes of Elizabeth against Fraudulent Conveyances. 2d ed. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
 McMaster, J. B. Benjamin Franklin as a Man of Letters. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.
 Miss Varian of New York; A Newport and New York Society Novel. G. W. Dillingham. 50 cents.
 Mitchell, S. W. Prince Little Boy and Other Tales Out of Fairy-Land. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.50.
 Morris, G. S. Hegel's Philosophy of the State and of History: An Exposition. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. \$1.25.
 Murray, W. H. H. How Deacon Tubman and Parson Whitney Kept New Year's, and Other Stories. Boston: Cupples & Hurd. \$1.25.
 Notes for Boys (and their Fathers) on Morals, Mind, and Manners. By an Old Boy. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.
 Nott, J. F. Wild Animals in Captivity. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$7.50.
 Parkman, F. Pioneers of France in the New World. 28th ed. Revised with additions. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
 Paton, W. A. Down the Islands: A Voyage to the Canaries. Illustrated. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$4.
 Platt, W. H. Judith Carson; or, Which Was the Heir? Rochester: E. R. Andrews.
 Roemer, Prof. J. Origins of the English People and of the English Language. Compiled from the Best and Latest Authorities. D. Appleton & Co.
 Sawyer, W. C. Complete German Manual for High Schools and Colleges. Chicago: J. C. Buckbee & Co. \$1.
 Schiller, F. The Song of the Bell. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. \$2.
 Scott, Sir W. The Bridal of Triermain. Illustrated. Boston: Lee & Shepard. \$3.50.
 Sleight, Mary B. The Flag on the Mill. Funk & Wagnalls. \$1.50.
 Social Register, New York, 1888. Social Register Association.
 Spofford, Harriet Prescott. Ballads about Authors. Illustrated. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. \$3.
 Spyrri, Johanna. Gritti's Children: A Story for Children and those who Love Them. Boston: Cupples & Hurd. \$1.50.
 Stanley, Dean. Sermons for Children, Preached in Westminster Abbey. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.
 Stapleton, E. J. Some Correspondence of George Canning. With Notes. In 2 vols. Longmans, Green & Co. \$10.
 Stickney, A. Primer. [Classes for Children.] Boston: Ginn & Co. 25 cents.
 Stillman, W. J. On the Track of Ulysses, together with An Excursion in Quest of the So-called Venus of Melos. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$4.
 Stinde, J. Frau Wilhelmine: The Concluding Part of the Buchholz Family. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.25.
 St. Nicholas. Illustrated Magazine for Young Folks. Vol. xiv. In 2 parts. The Century Co.
 Taylor, U. A. The City of Sarra. Henry Holt & Co. \$1.00.
 The Diary of Samuel Pepps. Cassell & Co. 10 cents.

The Holy Bible. Containing the Old and New Testaments, Translated out of the Original Tongues; being the Version set forth A. D. 1611, Compared with the most Ancient Authorities and Revised. Oxford: University Press. New York: Macmillan.
 The "How I was Educated" Papers. From the Forum Magazine. D. Appleton & Co. 30 cents.
 The Land of Sleepy Hollow. Illustrated. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$15.
 The New Antigone: A Romance. Macmillan & Co. \$1.50.
 Thackeray, W. M. Roundabout Papers, and Little Travels and Roadside Sketches. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.
 The Century. Illustrated Monthly Magazine. May, 1887, to October, 1887. The Century Co.
 Thomas, Edith M. Lyrics and Sonnets. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.
 Thompson, P. The Politics of Labor. Belford, Clark & Co.
 Thompson, Prof. M. J. "Evolution of Sound" Evolved. Cincinnati: Standard Publishing Co.
 Thompson, Sir H. Diet in Relation to Age and Activity. Boston: Cupples & Hurd. 50 cents.
 Townsend, Virginia F. Life of Washington. Illustrated. Worthington Co. \$1.25.
 Treat, Mary. My Garden Pets. Illustrated. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. 60 cents.
 Trotter, Ada M. Bledisloe; or, Aunt Pen's American Nieces: An International Story. Boston: Cupples & Hurd. \$1.50.
 Upcott, E. A. Cicero's Speeches against Catiline. With Introduction and Notes. Macmillan & Co. 60 cents.
 Upton, G. P. The Standard Cantatas: Their Stories, their Music, and their Composers. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.50.
 Valentine, Dr. F. C. Six Hundred Medical Don'ts. G. W. Dillingham.
 Van Franquois, Louise. The Last Von Reckenburg. Boston: Cupples & Hurd. \$1.50.
 Verne, J. Texar's Revenge; or, North Against South. A Tale of the American Civil War. Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co. \$1.25.
 Vincent, Dr. M. R. The Covenant of Peace. A. D. F. Randolph. \$1.75.
 Vincent, G. E. Some Italian Authors and their Works. Boston: D. Lothrop Co.
 Von Schiller, F. Wallenstein: A Dramatic Poem. Edinburgh: William Blackwood & Sons.
 Waite, A. E. The Real History of the Rosicrucians. Illustrated. J. W. Bouton.
 Waugh, Ida. Alphabet Books for Little Ones. Verses by any E. Blanchard. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.
 Walling, G. W. Recollections of a New York Chief of Police. Caxton Book Concern.
 Walsh, W. S. Faust: the Legend and the Poem. Etchings by Hermann Faber. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$3.
 Warfield, E. D. The Kentucky Resolutions of 1798. An Historical Study. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.
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