

stucco and canvas, portions of which remained till 1841. In 1661 another, also on canvas, was executed. That of 1688, being of masonry covered with intonaco (plaster) and painted according to designs by Ercole Graziani, remained, more or less damaged, until the commencement of the present work. New projects for the restoration were being brought forward from 1823 until 1859. The present design is the result of competitions which continued until 1867, when the final decision of the commission accorded it to De Fabris.

The work as uncovered May 12 must be pronounced on the whole a splendid success, and worthy of the church which it completes. Its radical fault, that it is neither basilical nor tricuspidal, is due to the fact that De Fabris designed it as tricuspidal, but was compelled by the general force of public opinion to leave out the minor cusps after the façade had been carried up to the point of preparation for them, leaving a central gable with square shoulders, corresponding neither with the pitch of the roof nor with the vault of the aisle. To my own taste it is better than if the cusps had been added, but it remains a compromise. There is a slight crudity in the general color effect, and most critics complain of the violence of the contrast between the white and deep green, almost black; but time will remedy this by toning the white and graying the green. The general effect of the sculpture is admirable, hardly surpassed by anything in Gothic architecture. The central door, especially, is pronounced by Prof. Babcock, a competent critic, certainly one of the most perfect things of its kind in the range of Gothic architecture. The general plan of decoration of the façade is in accordance with similar works of Tuscan Gothic. Over the great door in the tympanum is seated the Madonna, and all the figures in the façade form part of one general design, in which all the personages of the Old and New Testament, and figures symbolical of letters, fine arts, useful arts, science, works of beneficence, figures illustrative of the Commune of Florence and of the church, render honor to the Madonna. An upper line of half-figures represent historical personages of the epoch in which the church was constructed; and across the entire façade, immediately under the cornice, the twelve Apostles stand in niches—six for the nave and three for each aisle—while in niches on the four piers, on a level with the tympanums of the smaller doorways, are four seated Bishops. These statues are all executed by the leading Italian sculptors of the day, larger than life, being awarded in competitions, and paid only for the cost of the marble and workmanship. As single statues, they represent the best qualities of modern Italian sculpture, but they agree in one notable defect as members of an architectural whole, viz., not being calculated for the position they are seen in, so that they seem squat in the fore-shortening.

Decorative details are borrowed from the old work to a great extent, and the chromatic and sculpturesque ornamentation throughout as closely as possible follows that in the body of the church. The tympanums and spaces over the doorway are filled with mosaics designed by leading Italian painters and executed by the Murano company. Not the least noteworthy fact, and illustrative of the present condition of art in Italy, is the cost of the work, which, extending over a period of fifteen years, involved the expense of only one million francs—two hundred thousand francs less than the original estimate. There are over thirty full-length statues, and nearly as many bas-reliefs and half figures.

W. J. STILLMAN.

Correspondence.

THE GOETHE SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Referring to the note in No. 1145 of the *Nation*, permit me to remind your readers that by the Weimar Committee I was appointed agent of the Goethe Society for the United States, and that, on payment of \$3.25, I can issue members' certificates and supply the publications of the Society, duty paid and free of all forwarding charges to members in this country, as I do now to some thirty members here. If this accommodation stands in the way of keeping alive the public sentiment against the barbarous tariff on books, it saves members the trouble of direct application and remittance and the possible loss of mailed matter, and is a means of delivering the valuable books issued by the Society in a fitter condition than mail transportation allows of.

Respectfully,
ERNST LEMCKE
(B. Westermann & Co.).

NEW YORK, June 9, 1887.

THE BEVERLY INCIDENT ONCE MORE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: For the statements of my note of last week (save as to the tax estimate) I can only refer your Beverly correspondent to the official reports of the two committees of the Legislature, and the testimony before them as printed and published.

As to the tax estimate, I have not yet met a summer resident who expected a lower tax rate. If a fair adjustment of the existing debt was not provided by this year's bill, it should be in next year's.

If it is true, as your correspondent alleges, that this year's vote was due to the power of money alone, the bill this year certainly met a deserved fate.

OBSERVER.

HOW TO KEEP AN INN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I am a woman, and I have grievances that I appeal to you to make known as the first step towards redress.

I have had occasion this last week to be, for several days in some of the smaller towns, and my soul has been stirred within me by the utter discomfort of the hotels. As a practical woman, accustomed to keep house on a moderate income, I have been considering in what ways the hotels and the hotel service may be changed so as to give more comfort with no greater outlay. Why are the ceilings of the rooms so high? No room can seem comfortable when its length, breadth, and height are equal. If the ceilings were lower, it would be possible to reach the gas burners to regulate the supply of gas, and the light would also fall better on the book or sewing when it is needed. The windows, also, would be more manageable; it would be possible to lower the upper sash at night when ventilation is needed. The windows need sash-curtains across the lower half to secure privacy from over-looking windows, but they should never have thick draperies that will hold the odor of the possible cigar of the previous occupant.

Do statistics show that most travellers in America take private parlors? and if they do, why are there so many parlors that have been turned into bedrooms? I object to sleeping on a pine cot in one corner of a large salon furnished in damask or plush. I object still more to sleeping in a bed that has been turned up into a book-case during the day. Hotel beds at the best are not aired enough. I protest against their being

hermetically sealed except when I am in them. Nor do I like to wash at what looks like a writing-desk, and arrange my hair at an *étagère*. I am not a sham, but I feel like one when I emerge from such a pretentious, comfortless room; and the two or three mirrors that reflect my mortification and disgust are an aggravation instead of a consolation.

Why is not the table linen better, and better looked after? It is disgusting to have a cloth badly ironed, and covered with spots of iron mould. You view your coffee and eggs with a prejudiced mind when you have been obliged to reject two napkins that have been brought to you as clean, but that are stained and torn and only half dried. Why is there no competent house-keeper to see that things are taken care of? No gorgeousness of frieze and cornice in paper reconciles one to a grate that is red with rust; nor does a carpet made more expensive by a border blind your eyes to the fact that it is not swept often enough.

If a town is small, let it have a small, plainly-furnished, comfortable inn, but let it be well looked after. Such inns are to be found in small towns in England—why not here? I am American to the core, and I have enough respect for American men and women, whether they work in shops, travel for commercial houses, or live on the incomes coming from the labors of their ancestors, to think that they would choose comfort instead of show, and neatness instead of tawdriness.

What I therefore demand, and shall continue to demand, is, that the inn or hotel shall be proportionate to the size of the village or town. If the landlord's income is small, don't force on him a house too large. Spend less for furnishing the house, and more for keeping it clean. Leave off the mirrors unless you are sure the proprietor and servants intend to live up to them. Make the ceilings lower. Build more chimneys and put open grates in them. Have halls wider and better lighted. Provide a closet of good size for each room; and the carpenter should be made to understand that women are not six feet tall, and that it tires them to reach far above their heads for a shelf or a peg. Provide some place for women to write letters; and when it is sufficiently cool for an open fire in the smoking-room, I assert it is cool enough for such a fire in the writing-room. Have simpler curtains and carpets, but see that they are kept clean. Have simpler furniture, and, let it be cane-seated, instead of something that will hold dust and make rooms stuffy. Call a bed a bed and make it look like one. Go back to washstands instead of set-bowls in dark closets; but if there is a set-bowl, provide a receptacle for the water one uses for one's teeth. Have a table in each room large enough to write at and to hold a few books. Have a housekeeper to see that the maids attend to their work, and that the towels, tablecloths, and napkins are of better quality and kept in better condition. See that there is less show and more comfort. Make it possible, in short, to "take one's ease in one's inn."—Very sincerely,

M. N. S.

NEW BEDFORD, June 13, 1887.

Notes.

J. B. LIPPINCOTT Co. have nearly ready 'Nineteenth Century Sense: The Paradox of Spiritualism,' by "John Darby" (Dr. James E. Garretson); and 'Thekla,' a story of Viennese musical life, by William Armstrong.

A 'New High-School Music Reader,' by Charles E. Whiting of Boston, is in the press of D. C. Heath & Co.

Ginn & Co. announce 'The Eastern Nations and Greece,' by P. V. N. Myers, President of Belmont College, being Part i. of an Ancient History for Colleges and High Schools. Part ii., 'Rome,' will be from the pen of an equally competent scholar, Prof. W. F. Allen of the University of Wisconsin. Both parts will be illustrated and furnished with colored maps, and be bound together or sold separately. The same firm will publish during the summer a thoroughly revised edition of Dr. Albert S. Cook's translation of Sievers's 'Grammar of Old English,' and, later, Zupitza's 'Old and Middle-English Reader,' translated by Prof. G. E. MacLean of the University of Minnesota.

The Scribners will at once put their imprint on Marion Harland's 'Judith: a Chronicle of Old Virginia,' which they have lately acquired.

The Anti-Rent Riots of New York will be the theme of the second number of the series of monographs on Political Economy and Public Law, edited by Prof. E. J. James of the University of Pennsylvania. The subject has been investigated by Mr. E. P. Cheyney, Instructor of History in the institution just named.

A German publisher in Cologne announces a translation of the 'Life of Leo XIII.,' by Dr. B. O'Reilly of this city, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Pope's admission to the priesthood. There are also in the press French, Dutch, Italian, and Spanish translations of this work.

On condition of taking the second volume of I. G. Icazbalceta's 'Bibliografía Mexicana del siglo xvi.,' or a complete bibliography of books printed in Mexico in the sixteenth century, the first is now to be had through B. Westermann & Co. The edition is limited. Numerous titles, etc., are reproduced in facsimile.

We should think that Del Mar's 'Classified Business Directory of Mexico, Central and South America, Cuba and Porto Rico' (New York: Spanish-American Commercial Company), would be of great use to those engaged in or contemplating trade with Spanish America. Certainly it has been compiled with industry and thoroughness, and, with the exception of a few misspelled names, is highly accurate, so far as we are able to test it. Its English, too, is on the whole excellent, though an occasional turn of phrase, such as "all the American mercantile enterprises which have advented in those countries" (p. 365), betrays the writer's foreign birth. The book is not without instruction for the general reader, also, since it shows conclusively (all the more conclusively for doing it indirectly) that the fatal barrier to trade with South America is our tariff. After all the reasons given for the astonishing smallness of the commerce of the United States in its natural market—lack of knowledge on the part of American exporters, lack of enterprise, failure to cater to the native taste, want of direct steamship lines—the author has to acknowledge, believer in the policy of protection that he professes to be, that, if they were all absent, our system of duties would suffice to make a South American trade next to impossible.

The Oxford Historical Society is exhibiting a remarkable degree of enlightened zeal and industry in its publications. It is only three years old, and we have its sixth volume before us, and one not inferior to any of its predecessors in value and interest ('Magdalen College and King James II., 1686-1688. A series of documents collected and edited by the Rev. J. R. Bloxam, D.D.' Oxford: The Clarendon Press). It is a bi-centenary, devoted to the famous Magdalen College case, exactly two hundred years ago. A well-written introduction, of thirty pages, by Rev. H. R. Bramley, gives a brief and clear history of the case, and the rest of the volume is filled with

the three hundred and eleven documents, together with index and such other explanatory matter as is found desirable. It is a model of serviceable historical work, and will be indispensable to all students of the English Revolution, and especially of the interesting episode of which it treats.

Of the miscellaneous papers that make up the sixth volume of the Virginia Historical Collections—a handsome product of the Richmond press—the most curious is the charter of the Royal African Company, 1672, whose traffic was in slaves, and among whose incorporators were the Duke of York, Prince Rupert; Anthony, Earl of Shaftesbury, Sir George Carteret, Ferdinando Gorges, and several ladies—Mrs. Dorcas Birkhead, Dame Priscilla Ryder, etc. This document is introduced by a disappointing note by Mr. R. A. Brock, who endeavors to relieve Virginia of the odium of establishing slavery on her own soil, but ends by praising her manufacture of African savages into (Liberian) Christians. This is as antiquated as the colonization authority on which he relies for the growth of the anti-slavery sentiment at the North. The Gilmer papers, military and political, belong to the Revolutionary period, and have much local and some general interest. The orderly-book of Capt. George Stubblefield's company during four months of 1776; the history of the *Merrimac* (alias *Virginia*) in the civil war; and a memorial of the Federal prison on Johnson's Island, Lake Erie, 1862-64, fill out the volume, and give it a decided value.

Mrs. Charles D. Deshler of New Brunswick, one of the leading historians of New Jersey, has made public for the first time an interesting series of letters, parts of correspondence between four Newark lads, John Croes, Ashbel Green, Alexander C. Macwhorter, and Zadoek Squier. The correspondence is between three of them who went to Princeton College, then known as Nassau Hall, in 1782, and Croes, who remained in Newark. They are interesting not only for their graphic picture of college life one hundred years ago, but because of the prominence three of the young men afterward reached. Ashbel Green, the grandfather of Governor Green, became President of Princeton College; John Croes was the first Episcopal Bishop of New Jersey; and Alex. C. Macwhorter became one of the most prominent New Jersey lawyers, and, as one of the founders of the *Institutio Legalis*, exerted a wholesome influence on his successors.

Dr. Marvin R. Vincent, in his 'Word Studies in the New Testament' (Charles Scribner's Sons), has attempted to combine in one a sort of enlarged Trench, a reduced lexicon, a condensed concordance, and snatches of a commentary. His success in producing a readable compound has been considerable, and his patient use of the best authorities, and high degree of accuracy, is pleasant to note. If he sometimes errs in pressing classic usage as interpretative of New Testament Greek, he does it in good company. Trench set that fashion too brilliantly to be superseded speedily, though the best scholarship has shown, we think, the Septuagint to be the true dictionary of the New Testament. We must doubt if Dr. Vincent will succeed in his declared aim of giving to readers ignorant of Greek a sense of the force of Greek idioms, tenses, word-metaphors, etc. Many such, at least, he will bewilder and mislead as much as he will enlighten; in fact, we very much fear that his book will cause to reappear in certain pulpits those allusions to "the exact force of the original" which the Revision bade fair to exterminate.

Dr. F. H. A. Scrivener has just issued from the Cambridge (England) press a beautiful third edition of his well-known 'Novum Testamentum Textus Stephanici, A. D. 1550,' in which, in ad-

dition to the various readings of the second edition (1876), are inserted those of Westcott and Hort, and of the Revisers of 1881, prepared by Mr. W. F. Shilleto, A.M. While making this further concession to the progress of textual criticism, Dr. Scrivener characterizes the text of the Revisers as "Westcott-Hortii placitis forsanimis arte consanguineum," and that of Westcott and Hort as "splendidum peccatum, non κτήμα εις δει"; and he thinks that, while following Lachmann's rules, they have erred from the truth even further than Lachmann himself. One who has devoted himself for fifty years to the study of the text of the New Testament, has earned the right to express his opinion, but the world moves and revolutions never go backwards. Dr. Scrivener has also added to the inner margin of this edition the numbers of the Ammonian sections and Eusebian canons, a table of which is prefixed, and to the outer margin a copious list of parallel passages. In other respects the pages correspond exactly to those of the second edition, which is a convenience to the student.

The attention of those interested in coöperative schemes may be called to 'Social Solutions' (Lovell Co.), a translation of the work of M. Godin, the founder of the celebrated Familistère at Guise. The mixture of wild theory with practical sense is not unprecedented, and it is to be found in this volume. Those who have the patience to rake off the chaff will be rewarded by the discovery of a good deal that is valuable regarding the construction and management of a "Palace of Industry."

The book of an invalid is possibly not the best reading for invalids, but in Fannie Nichols Benjamin's 'Sunny Side of Shadow' (Boston: Ticknor & Co.), there is an attempt to brighten the hours of convalescence by telling the reveries of the author in that state. It deals much in excellent quotation, and there is a mild purity in its spirit which wins the consideration of the reader.

An Index to the Works of Shakspeare, Giving references, by topics, to notable passages and significant expressions; brief histories of the plays; geographical names, and historical incidents; mention of all characters, and sketches of important ones; together with explanations of allusions and obscure and obsolete words and phrases, by Evangeline M. O'Connor (D. Appleton & Co.), is a volume completely described by its title. It is a compilation, from obvious sources, of much information in regard to the plays and cognate subjects, and contains mention of most things for which any ordinary reader would have occasion to consult a book of reference about Shakspeare. But its treatment of these topics is inadequate. It is a very incomplete concordance and dictionary; it contains a few quotations from Coleridge, Dowden, Gervinus, etc., in respect to the leading characters; and altogether is a scattering compendium. Its notes, it must be added, are slight and touch only the surface of Shakspeare literature; greater fulness would have swelled the volume indefinitely. Scholars and special students have no need of it; but school libraries and others which cannot afford the more expensive works that cover the ground scientifically and thoroughly, will find this convenient, well-printed, and useful.

The 'Shakespeare-Bibliographie, 1885 und 1886,' by Albert Cohen, just issued, is a separately printed portion of the twenty-second volume of the *Shakespeare-Jahrbuch*, the organ of the German Shakspeare Society. Its compiler shows the same extraordinary diligence and skill in collecting the materials for his work from the most varied sources as in his former issues. The larger part of the fifty pages is, of course, taken up with English and American titles. The