

litical significance, almost disappearing between Gad and the powerful state of Moab, its constant enemy. Issachar, Zebulun, Naphtali, and Asher, in the north, formed a group of tribes living in small clans, closely surrounded by the Canaanitish natives, whom they were unable to assimilate or to conquer. At one time only (during the struggle with Sisera) Zebulun and Naphtali appear conspicuous in Israelitish history; Issachar and Asher never acted a noticeable part in it. That portion of Dan which remained between Judah and the Philistines was almost as powerless as Reuben between Gad and Moab. The extermination of the tribe of Benjamin is unhistorical. The chronology of the pre-monarchical times is a systematic creation of late redactors, and entirely valueless. The first attempt at founding a royalty more comprehensive than clan chiefship was made by the house of Jerubbaal in Manasseh. It proved a failure, though based on Gideon's deserts as deliverer from Midian. The greater merits of Saul as deliverer from a more general and more lasting oppression led to the establishment of the Benjamite throne, and to the union of the tribes. Samuel—who, like Eli, was a priest, and not a judge—promoted, instead of opposing, this transition from tribal anarchy to monarchical unity. With it real Israelitish history begins.

We have made no attempt to acquaint our readers with any of the critical processes which have led to the construction of the foregoing scheme of the earliest history of Israel. Those familiar to a degree with Biblical inquiry in its recent stages, even if as yet ignorant of the advances made on the basis of the Graf and Kuenen theory, which has completely changed the relative value of the main Old-Testament narratives, will neither be surprised by the results stated nor ask for explanations, which must needs transcend the bounds of a review in a journal like this. Readers who know only their Bible and apologetic commentaries, and perhaps an apologetic Bible dictionary, will, we have no doubt, be amazed at statements so often flagrantly at variance with the best-remembered texts of the Scriptures, and not a little inclined to attribute some of the assertions to defective knowledge, wrong judgment, or evil propensity on the part of the critical innovators. Such suspicions we are unable to disarm here by evidences to the contrary, but we owe our general public the assurance that the work itself completely refutes them. Never has the minute examination and dissection of historical tradition been carried out with more painstaking earnestness, sounder knowledge, and greater freedom from religious or anti-religious prepossessions, than in the histories of Wellhausen and Stade. In the work of the latter author, which in its analysis of the traditional accounts is firmly grounded on the writings of the former, the destructive analytical labor is so convincingly justified by intrinsic evidence from the respective texts—the Hebrew as well as the Greek of the Septuagint—that only he who shuts his eyes to all evidence conflicting with cherished notions can gainsay it. Of course, we are far from saying that no point of detail can be contested. The constructive labor of the author, in which more originality is evinced, is naturally based in part on conjecture, and his conjectural facts are, we confess, often propounded with too much positiveness. It is, perhaps, owing to the frequency of instances in which hypothesis must do duty for knowledge—a frequency demanding a reiteration of acknowledged doubt too tedious to carry out—that much appears presented with an assurance not warranted by the saved remnant of dissected tradition. The plausibility of the facts or conditions constructively elicited here from a mass of conflicting testimony is generally very strong, though a most plausible guess

but too often proves a mistaken guess when verification is possible.

Recollections of a Private Soldier in the Army of the Potomac. By Frank Wilkeson. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1887.

THE author of this book thinks that the generals have had too much to say in regard to the history of the war, and that it is high time the privates had their turn. His contribution will certainly be welcomed, for it is a vivid picture—perhaps a little too bloody and harrowing, but none the less realistic—of the life of the private soldier, upon whom fell, as in all wars they must fall, the greater portion of the hardships, suffering, fatigue, hunger, cold, and death, which are inseparable from war, and which, in the accounts of strategic movements and brilliant charges, are apt to be overlooked. As a contribution to history, books like this are only valuable in so far as they recall the intense savagery, the relapse into cold-blooded barbarism, which is the accompaniment of war, and again as they describe the morale of the rank and file of a particular army at a stated time. Further than this, of course, the recollections and opinions of a private soldier, with his necessarily circumscribed vision, have no historical value. But in the two respects above stated this book is valuable.

The writer enlisted in the winter of 1863-64, and went to the front in company with six hundred bounty-jumpers—escaped criminals all, or nearly all. His active service lasted just six weeks, from the crossing of the Rapidan to the first assault of Petersburg; but they were the bloodiest six weeks of the whole war, and a blood-curdling tale does he tell of them. Deaths of the most horrible character, sickening wounds described at length, rifling of dead bodies, stealing rations from comrades in the fierce struggle for existence, cowardice of the bounty-jumpers and "coffee boilers," cruelty from officers to men, heartlessness, dissatisfaction, discontent, insubordination—all make a picture which can hardly be characterized as other than revolting. Yet it would be rash to deny its accuracy in any particular. It is only half, or less than half, of the story of the Army of the Potomac during those terrible six weeks, but it is a half which it is well not to forget.

As to the morale of the army, what the author has to say is of great interest. When the first fight in the Wilderness was over, and the troops were withdrawn from their lines, the men said to each other, "When we get to the Chancellorsville House, if we turn to the left, we are whipped; if we turn to the right, . . . it will indicate the purpose of Grant to fight." When they reached that point, they turned to the right. "Instantly all of us heard a sigh of relief. Our spirits rose. We marched free. The men began to sing. The enlisted men understood the flanking movement. That night we were happy." Yet six weeks later—six weeks in which every day had seen an engagement and every week a battle—the same men said, "No, we are not going to charge. We are going to run toward the Confederate earthworks, and then we are going to run back. We have had enough of assaulting earthworks. We are hungry and tired, and we want to rest and eat." And the author brings a charge which we have never before seen in print, viz., it was not so much the men who shrank at that time, as the officers; for while the losses among the enlisted men during the two periods, May 4–May 31, and June 1–October 28, were approximately equal, yet the losses among general officers during the first period were four times as numerous as during the latter.

Of the criticisms and opinions of the enlisted

men on the course of the campaign, and of the system of "news-gatherers" who passed from camp to camp at night carrying the news of the day, much interesting information is given, and the following extract is worth quoting without abridgment:

"The enlisted men spent much time in comparing Grant with McClellan. The latter had many warm friends among the soldiers. He only, of all the men who had commanded the Army of the Potomac, was personally liked and admired by his troops. Soldiers' eyes would brighten when they talked of him. Their hard, lean, browned faces would soften and light up with affection when they spoke of him—and still it was affection only; they did not, as a rule, concede to him military talent. And the general opinion among them was—given Grant in command of the army in 1862, and the rebellion would have been crushed that year. Asked how McClellan would have done with the army of 1864 under his command, they shrugged their shoulders and said dryly, 'Well, he would have ended the war in the Wilderness—by establishing the Confederacy.'"

The Private is not content with telling his personal reminiscences and drawing a striking picture of the savage scenes through which he passed; in addition, he has his theory of the proper conduct of the war. It is only briefly stated, and is confined to the Preface, being neither proved nor disproved by anything in the text. His theory is, that the disasters of the war were due to two causes, (1) the calling for volunteers instead of enforcing the draft at the outset; (2) the placing of West Point graduates in command of troops. As to the first, it need only be said that a draft in 1861 was politically impossible; incidentally it may be noted that it would have put worse men in the ranks than the system of volunteers. As to the second, the Government acted largely on his theory in 1861 when it appointed Butler, Banks, Frémont, and Sigel among its first major-generals and assigned them to important commands. It was only disaster that caused the Government to look among trained soldiers for its generals, and from them produced Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas, Hancock, and the other great commanders—graduates of West Point with but very few exceptions—who finally put down the rebellion.

The New English. By T. L. Kington Oliphant of Balliol College. Macmillan & Co. 1886.

MR. OLIPHANT'S 'New English' is a record of the rise of new words in English literature. He takes the date of the first well-formed specimen of the new English to be 1303. He begins with Friar Michael of Kildare, his printed pieces dating shortly after 1300, and enumerates the new words and phrases which occur in them, pointing out that such and such are from the French, this and that from the Scandinavian, and many from the Anglo-Saxon. Then he takes up another book and deals with it in the same way, making good speed through scores of little-known authors to Chaucer, to Shakspeare, and at last to Morris and the last revised Bible of our own day. A verbal index is added, containing something like 20,000 words and many more than 20,000 references. 'New English' will serve as a compendious historical dictionary till the great work of the Philological Society shall be available.

One who reads Dr. F. Hall's handling of Bishop Coxe's English philology in the *Nation* of March 3 might be interested in the expression "is being built." Dr. Hall gives it a respectable age: he has found it as early as 1769. A look for it in Oliphant shows examples in 1447-48. "You was" comes up in 1699, in Bentley, king of scholars; great, too, in idiomatic English. It was current afterwards for a hundred years. The South English abuse of *h* is an interesting puzzle in its cause and age. Oliphant finds it first in Miss Hawkins's novel, 'The Countess and

Gertrude,' published in 1811; a rustic talks of a "ot loaf," and a lady's maid of a "himpeeral" (imperial). These examples favor the view that the dropping of *h* is the old natural weakening; the adding, an affectation in high life below stairs. Persons often wonder when and where our queer spellings started into use. A look at *could* in Oliphant refers to the records (1440-1450) of Coldingham Priory, vol. i. "There is a startling change in p. 160," he says; "the old *cude* (potuit) is written *culde*, from a false analogy with *shulde* and *wulde*." In Bishop Hall (1598) the old Teutonic *rime* is first "confused with the Greek *rhythm*, and becomes *rhyme*, p. 10; this absurd spelling ought never to be used in our time." Besides single words and forms, much care has been taken to note phrases, especially proverbs, and other expressions which embody the habits of thought or record the customs of each age, and everything which throws light on the pronunciation either of English or foreign words.

Thus much about the book considered as a sort of dictionary. Its distinctive feature and eminent merit is the exhibition of numbers of words and phrases together as they are found together in books. This presents us with the materials for the study of the language of any book, of any author, or of any age. About 250 writers are examined before Shakspeare's time, and 100 more to our day.

These writers have been selected on the ground of their importance in the history of the language; many of them are of small importance or none at all, as literature. Comic and colloquial authors are best for this purpose. Little notice is taken of Spenser and Milton, much notice of Udall and Still. But the most elaborate study is made of Shakspeare and Chaucer. Shakspeare's plays are taken up one by one, and each has as much space as a whole book usually gets. The whole is stuffed full of curious facts, and suggests still more curious questions. In "Love's Labour Lost," to begin with, the French *corporal* figures as a *corporal*; the law term *escheat* becomes *cheat*, the people's notion of a lawyer's function; *epithet* appears for *epitheton*; a new kind of time-piece, the *watch*, takes the place of the dial; the adjective *spruce* (from *Prussia*) testifies to the smart dress from Prussia which pleased the Londoners; and so on. Some eighty words and phrases are mentioned in this play, a great part being phrases or loose compounds. The order in which the plays are treated does not agree with that in which it is generally supposed that they were written—perhaps Mr. Oliphant has strong opinions in favor of the order he has adopted. But his discussions do not depend upon the order as much as one might suppose, for most of his examples occur but once in all of Shakspeare. At least, suspecting this, we turned up the words in "Romeo and Juliet," and found it to be so there. So that, in addition to the other matters, we have material for examining Shakspeare's *hapax legomena*.

Mr. Oliphant is an Oxford man; and well up in the latest scientific knowledge of English as it appears in the works of Prof. Skeat and Dr. Murray. This particular kind of work is all his own. In 1873 he published 'Standard English,' a sketch of the sources of English, traced in the same method which he uses here, but through fewer books. That must have cost him several years of labor. He has now spent a dozen more years in enlarging it. In 1878 'Old and Middle English' appeared, and now we have the completion in 'New English.' Such a work must be incomplete, from the nature of the case. One man cannot read everything. Dr. Murray's readers have gone over thousands of volumes to Mr. Oliphant's hundreds. But, such as it is, all students of English will be glad to get it and must have

it; for none of them will venture to decide questions of English etymology or historical grammar without consulting him.

Mr. Oliphant has a lively liking for pure English, and plenty of sharp thrusts for modern de-basers of it. The Johnsonese of the press hurts him worst. He is most courteous to American scholars, and bountiful in praise of them; but he cannot see how they can write *honor*, etc., instead of the old *honour*. It pares down history, robs us of all our Norman glories. The old word "should abide with us in the shape it has always hitherto worn." This looks as if Mr. Oliphant had not noticed that of all the old words of this sort, *honor* most frequently appears in the old books with *-or*. Picking a place in Shakspeare by the concordance where the word occurs frequently, "Coriolanus," ii, and turning to the First Folio, we find *honor* fifteen times, and no *honour*. Another trial, "Measure for Measure," ii, 1, gives *honor* nine times and *honour* eight, most of them being the address *Your Honour*, with one *honorable*. Looking to the analogy of the language, as our verb *honor* and the noun *honor* have the accent on the same syllable, they are naturally spelled alike, and like French *hon'orer*, rather than *honneur*.

The Practical Horse Keeper. By George Fleming, LL.D., F.R.C.V.S. Cassell & Co.

Mr. FLEMING says in his preface: "This little work is intended as a guide to those who have to do with horses, either as owners, purchasers, breeders, trainers, managers, or attendants, and whose experience has not been so extensive as those on whose knowledge it is based." As such and for Great Britain it is a desirable manual. Its value for this country is largely diminished by reason of the different uses to which horses are put here, necessitating, for general purposes, especially those outside of hauling heavy loads, animals of quite other types than any in common use in England. For instance, "the hunter" and "the hack," probably the best-known and commonest types of English horses, would not be recognized by these names in this country except in the localities where English manners, customs, and nomenclature are most affected, and really do not exist as a class. The "tradesman's horse," a variety treated of by Mr. Fleming, would also be a hard animal to find here, perhaps because there are either so few or so many "tradesmen." Again, the horse which in this country takes the place of the English hack, and we may almost say, hunter also, is the light driving horse for road or general utility purposes; and he, from his different conditions of use and treatment, is broken, bitted, harnessed, driven, and cared for in a manner radically different from any taught in Mr. Fleming's or any other English book, and infinitely better for the end desired.

Consequently, the parts of Mr. Fleming's work devoted to the hack, the hunter, "purchasing at fairs," breaking, training, and feeding, while undoubtedly excellent for the British Isles, are of but limited utility elsewhere, and much inferior for home application to several American treatises on the same subject. The latter portion of Mr. Fleming's book, however, has no such limitations of usefulness. It treats concisely and admirably of the common infirmities of horseflesh, and gives plain and sensible instructions for their relief. The chapter on "Nursing" is especially to be commended, and Mr. Fleming says, what can be proved by every humane man who has had horses in his charge, that "when a horse is sick, or ill from injury, recovery is much accelerated by careful and sympathetic nursing. However indifferent a horse may be to caressing or kind

attention during health, when ill he certainly appreciates them," etc.

The Fall of Maximilian's Empire, as seen from a United States Gunboat. By Seaton Schroeder, Lieutenant, U. S. N. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1887. Pp. 130.

LIEUT. SCHROEDER has written very pleasantly and intelligently, and withal modestly, of the doings of the United States steamer *Tacony* in Vera Cruz harbor during the spring and summer of 1867. His narrative is but lightly and incidentally connected with the important movements going on in the interior, and he makes no pretence of being able to see as far as Querétaro from the sea-board. It should be said, however, that nearly all his allusions to the course and causes of events in those closing struggles show a good acquaintance with the facts. The Orizaba conference, leading to Maximilian's fatal decision to return, is rather unsatisfactorily sketched, and the amount of revenue promised the Emperor considerably exaggerated. We are not pleased with the author's spelling of the name of Mexico's great hero-tyrant. It is true, we believe, that Santa Ana was the original form, but it has been entirely superseded by the common orthography in the writings of Mexicans themselves, and to return to it now seems almost affectation. The tombstone in the Gaudalupe "pantheon" has the two *n*'s. If any variation from the ordinary English spelling of Mexican names had to be attempted, we think a juster change might have been made in the case of Uloa, Uluva being decidedly preferable. The "Bird's-eye View of Vera Cruz" (p. 93) is correct for 1867, but not for 1887; the walls of the city having been demolished long since.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Adams, Sarah Flower. *Arise, My Soul, Arise.* Boston: Lee & Shepard. \$1.
 Burty, P. Bernard Palissy. Paris: J. Rouam
 Carroll, L. *The Game of Logic.* Macmillan & Co. \$1.
 Champfleury. *La Four.* Paris: J. Rouam.
 Courault, G. *Jean Lamoignon.* Paris: J. Rouam.
 Creighton, Prof. M. A. *History of the Papacy during the Period of the Reformation.* Vols. iii. and iv. The Italian Princes. 1484-1518. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$7.50.
 De Rougemont, A. *La France. Notes d'un Américain.* New ed. The Writer's Publishing Co.
 Du Boisgobey, F. *Cecile's Fortune.* Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co. 25 cents.
 Du Boisgobey, F. *The Detective's Eye.* Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co. 25 cents.
 Du Boisgobey, F. *The Steel Necklace.* Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co. 25 cents.
 Gillespie, Prof. W. M. *A Treatise on Surveying. Theory and Practice.* Revised and enlarged by Cady Staley, Ph.D. D. Appleton & Co.
 Gladness of Easter. From the Poets. Boston: Lee & Shepard. \$1.
 Gruyer, G. *Fra Bartolommeo della Porta et Mariotto Albertinelli.* Paris: J. Rouam.
 Hall-Stevens. *A Text-Book of Euclid's Elements for the Use of Schools.* Part I. Books I. and II. Macmillan & Co. 50 cents.
 Head, E. V. *Historia Numorum: A Manual of Greek Numismatics.* Macmillan & Co. \$10.50.
 Higginson, T. W. *Hints on Writing and Speech-Making.* Boston: Lee & Shepard. 50 cents.
 Hill, F. H. *George Canning.* [English Worthies Series.] London: Longmans, Green & Co.
 Jerome, Irene E. *The Message the Bluebird Told to Me to Tell to Others.* Boston: Lee & Shepard. \$1.
 Kingsley, C. *See the Land her Easter Keeping.* Boston: Lee & Shepard. \$1.
 Lemaître, J. *Les Contemporains.* 3e série. Paris: H. Lecène et H. Oudin.
 Millet, F. *Alfred Lebrun's Catalogue of his Etchings, Heliographs, Lithographs, and Woodcuts.* Frederick Koppel & Co.
 Von Holst, Dr. H. *The Constitutional Law of the United States of America.* Authorized edition. Translated by Alfred Bishop Mason. Chicago: Callaghan & Co.
 Weld, Martha Coles. *Illustrated Tableaux for Amateurs.* 1. II. Harold Roorbach.
 Werner, E. A. *Civil List and Constitutional History of the Colony and State of New York.* Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co.
 Whately, Archbishop. *English Synonyms Discriminated.* New ed. Boston: Lee & Shepard. 50 cents.
 Whedon, Rev. D. D. *Essays, Reviews, and Discourses.* With a Biographical Sketch. Phillips & Hunt. 2 vols. \$2.50.
 Wilkins, W. J. *Modern Hinduism; being an Account of the Religion and Life of the Hindus in Northern India.* Scribner, Welford & Co.
 Wilson, E. *Quiet Observations on the Ways of the World.* Illustrated. Cassell & Co. \$2.
 Winsor, J. *Narrative and Critical History of America.* Vol. iv. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
 Winter, J. S. *Mignon's Secret, and Wanted—a Wife.* Harper's Handy Series. 25 cents.
 Winter, J. S. *Regimental Legends.* Harper's Handy Series. 25 cents.
 Woodhouse, R. I. *What is the Church?* D. Appleton & Co. 40 cents.
 Yonge, Charlotte M. *The Victorian Half Century.* A Jubilee Book. Macmillan & Co. 35 cents.