

allusion to certain aspects of the Council of Nicea would be pressed as if meant for a full description of that gathering. Our opinion remains unchanged that its contrast with the Springfield meeting, in the points we suggested, and in the general terms we used, can be successfully maintained.—ED. NATION.]

LIBERALIZING THE PENSION SYSTEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I enclose a cutting from a circular that has come into my hands in my character as an "old soldier" (which I am proud to be in the honorable sense of the phrase). I also clip out for you the display lines, intended, I suppose, to "whoop up" "the boys" against the meeting of Congress.

It seems to me that "general liberalization of the whole pension system" might be best effected by tacking on to the scheme of the National Pension Committee the plans of other classes of people who, while not having served in the army or navy, would like to reduce the surplus in the Treasury and secure an annuity to themselves at the same time. To that end, I hope you will find room for the clipping that summarizes the views of the Pension Committee.

A VETERAN.

WASHINGTON, November 3, 1887.

LET THE BUGLES BLOW!

SOUND THE "ASSEMBLY"!

COMRADES, RALLY ON THE COLORS!

The National Pension Committee of the G. A. R. has formulated a part of the wishes of the veterans for an immediate liberalization of the pension laws into the following recommendations:

- (1.) A pension of \$12 a month to all men who served three months, and who are now physically or mentally disabled.
- (2.) Continuance of pension of deceased soldier to widow or minor children; and if there be none, then to dependent parents.
- (3.) All of the recommendations for increase and equalization of pensions for special disabilities made in his recent report by Pension Commissioner Black.
- (4.) Increased pension for all the severer disabilities.
- (5.) Pensions for the survivors of rebel prisons, substantially as presented in the bill of the National Association of Prisoners of War.
- (6.) Increased Pensions for loss of hearing or eyesight.
- (7.) A reenactment of the arrears law.
- (8.) An equitable equalization of bounties, and a general liberalization of the whole pension system.

TEACHERS' AGENCIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: To judge from the newspapers, the number of persons who profess to find positions for teachers in this country is increasing. I should like to hear some discussion of the question how this increase of middlemen affects the parties immediately concerned, teachers and their employers. One very rarely sees advertisements of schools wanting teachers; the advertisements are generally those of teachers seeking positions. And I am inclined to believe that heads of schools often pay no attention to these advertisements, but apply at once to a teachers' agency when they have a vacancy to fill. The agency may then recommend the same man whom they might have heard of through his advertisement. This is a matter of no consequence to the head of the school, who pays nothing in either case. But it makes a good deal of difference to the poor teacher. If he gets a position through an advertisement, he pays but a small sum, the cost of the advertisement. If he obtains an appointment through a teachers' agency, he must pay, besides his registration

fee of two or three dollars, five per cent. of his first year's salary, or from forty dollars upward. This is a heavy tax on a class little able to pay it.

In many cases all the teachers' agency does is to furnish the addresses of candidates to the master of a school who is seeking a teacher. The whole business could be transacted just as well without this intervention. X.

NOVEMBER 4, 1887.

Notes.

It is proposed to establish a society for the study of Folk Lore, and in connection with it a scientific journal devoted chiefly to preserving the fast vanishing remains of Folk Lore in America, but also to the subject in general. Old English, Negro, Indian, Canadian, and Mexican Folk Lore is embraced in the scope of the first department. The membership fee, three dollars, will entitle one to the journal. Notice in regard to organization may be expected shortly. Subscribers will please send their names to the Temporary Secretary, Mr. William Wells Newell, 175 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Mass. At least one hundred more than those already obtained will be needed. Mr. Newell's name would of itself be a guarantee of the high conduct of this movement, but the circular of the projected Folk Lore Publication Society is signed also by Dr. D. G. Brinton, Prof. F. J. Child, Prof. T. F. Crane, and O. T. Mason.

From W. K. Morton, 27 High Street, Horn-castle, England, we have received the prospectus of *Lincolnshire Notes and Queries*, a quarterly journal devoted to the antiquities, parochial records, family history, folk-lore, quaint customs, etc., of the county, edited by Ernest L. Grange and the Rev. J. Clare Hudson. This publication ought to possess an interest for a large body of Americans, particularly those of New England descent, as Lincoln contributed freely to the stream of colonial emigration.

Blank G of the American Society for Psychological Research (Committee on Experimental Psychology) seeks to collect "accounts of cases where one person has had some remarkable experience, such as an exceptionally vivid and disturbing dream, or a strong waking impression amounting to a distinct hallucination," concerning some other person at a distance "passing through some crisis" at the time. It may be had of the Secretary, Richard Hodgson, 5 Boylston Place, Boston, Mass.

A 'Hand-Book of Volapük,' by Charles E. Sprague, will shortly be issued by the author at 1271 Broadway. Mr. Sprague will hereafter conduct the *Volapük Department of the Office*, a commercial periodical, published at 37 College Place, N. Y.

W. S. Gottsberger announces directly 'Richard Lepsius; a Biography,' from the German of Georg Ebers by Zoe Dana Underhill.

Prof. Max Müller's new volume, a collection of his articles from *Good Words*, and to be called 'Biographies of Words,' will be published here by Chas. Scribner's Sons. As new matter, it will contain a discussion of the original home of the Aryan race. The same firm announces 'Down the Islands,' a richly illustrated holiday book narrating a cruise among the Caribbee Islands, by Wm. Agnew Paton; 'The English in the West Indies; or, The Bow of Ulysses,' by J. A. Froude; 'Free Joe, and Other Georgian Sketches,' by Joel Chandler Harris; and Robert Louis Stevenson's 'Memoir of Fleeming Jenkin.'

Harper & Bros. publish directly the first volume (of three) of 'A History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages,' by Henry C. Lea; 'Big Wages and How to Earn Them'; and 'Old Homestead

Poems,' by Wallace Bruce, illustrated for the holidays.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co. promise 'Lyrics and Sonnets,' new poems by Miss Edith M. Thomas; 'Winter,' edited from the Thoreau journals by H. G. O. Blake; 'The Story of Keedon Bluffs,' by Charles Egbert Craddock; 'The Man Who Was Guilty,' by Mrs. Flora Haines Loughead; 'Bird Talk,' poems, with decorative illustrations, by Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney; and a new edition of Mr. Howells's 'Wedding Journey,' with an additional chapter.

Ticknor & Co. have now ready 'The Story of an Enthusiast Told by Himself,' a novel, by Mrs. C. V. Jamison; and 'Sobriquets and Nicknames,' by Albert R. Frey.

'A Descriptive Geometry,' by Prof. C. A. Waldo, is in the press of D. C. Heath & Co., Boston.

Worthington Co. publish immediately a 'Life of Washington,' by Miss Virginia F. Townsend, written principally for the young; and 'Twelve Times One,' an illustrated juvenile, by Miss M. A. Lathbury.

The next volume in the Eminent Women Series will be a sketch of Hannah More by Miss Charlotte M. Yonge.

Mr. Andrew Lang, having received all of the papers and letters of the late Lord Idlesleigh (better remembered in the United States as Sir Stafford Northcote), has undertaken to prepare a biography of the deceased statesman—a novel task even for this versatile man of letters.

M. Ernest Legouvé, the veteran French dramatist, is preparing for the press a complete edition of his plays, with a new preface prefixed to each. The first volume to appear will be 'Comédies en un acte.' The best and the best-known of M. Legouvé's plays is "Adrienne Lecouvreur," written in collaboration with Scribe.

The information is given by the *Journal des Débats* that the French Ministry of the Marine has authorized the *lieutenant de vaisseau*, Julian Viaud (Pierre Loti), to publish a book entitled 'Madame Chrysanthème.'

The first volume of M. Renan's 'Histoire du Peuple d'Israël' was announced to appear October 25 (Paris: Calman Lévy). The work will form, when complete, three large octavo volumes, and it is said to be already finished: The *Revue des Deux Mondes* for October 15 gives a long passage, "Saül et David," the history of the foundation of the royalty of Israel. This is written in M. Renan's most sober and most rapid style, with all the graces of which he can never divest his writings, but almost without adornment. It is a narrative of which the interest and novelty carry the reader along with the swiftness of a romance, but which will bring down upon itself the condemnation to which the author of the 'Vie de Jésus' is accustomed.

James Darmesteter, the successor of Silvestre de Sacy and of Mohl in the chair of Persian at the Collège de France, has recently returned from a visit to the Orient. Among the fruits of his studies is a paper in the *Contemporary* on "Afghan Life in Afghan Songs"—the earnest of a scholarly edition of the songs themselves, which are to follow in the original Pushtu, with translation, etc. The new number of the *Journal Asiatique* (viii. 10. 38-75) brings us to-day a most interesting article by the same savant, entitled "Points of Contact between the Mahābhārata and the Shāh-nāmah," in which he compares the beautiful story of King Yudhishtira in the seventeenth book of the Indian epos with the tale of the Renunciation of Kai Khosru in the Persian Book of the Kings. Darmesteter is convinced that the old view of the isolation of India is false; and he seeks to show that it received, even in ancient

times, very much from foreign sources, especially from the Greeks, and perhaps also from the Persians.

Profs. Pischel and Geldner of Halle, as we are informed, intend soon to publish a serial of *Vedische Studien*. They hold that the value of the classical Sanskrit for the interpretation of the Veda has been underrated by Roth and his school, and that this error has retarded the progress of Vedic exegesis. A tendency like that of the Halle professors is seen in the recent studies of Abel Bergaigne in the *Journal Asiatique* (1883-84).

The first number of the *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* has just come to hand. It is published by the great Berlin house of Georg Reimer, more for the sake of honor than pecuniary gain. Articles are paid for, and the services of many of the most eminent philosophical writers of all countries have been secured. Being an international periodical, articles are published in Latin, French, Italian, and English, though naturally most are in German. The *Archiv* is made up of two distinct halves. The first contains short articles intended to add to our historical knowledge of philosophy, and is under the editorship of Diels, Dilthey, Erdmann, Stein, and Zeller. The second contains a critical survey of all new works on the history of philosophy, and is under the editorship of the foregoing, along with Tocco (of Florence), Tannery (of Tonnesins), Bywater (of Oxford), and Schurman (of Cornell). The present number opens with an article by Zeller on the aims and methods of the history of philosophy. This is followed by half-a-dozen critical investigations, and a very interesting batch of the Leibnitz letters lately discovered at Halle. The book-notices are, in this number, confined to German and English books. In the review of recent books in English on mediæval and modern philosophy, by Prof. Schurman, we notice the names of several American writers. French and Italian books will be reviewed in the next number, which is also to contain more of the Leibnitz letters.

Two years ago, at much length, we reviewed, in the English edition, Ormsby's translation of 'Don Quixote,' ranking it above all its predecessors, and predicting that its excellence would discourage any fresh attempt for a long time to come. We need only say of the American edition of Dodd, Mead & Co., compressed into four volumes, that it has been beautifully manufactured for the low price at which it sells; the thinness of the paper alone making such a qualification necessary, though the legibility of the very clear and open type is not at all interfered with. Gilt tops and a geometrically patterned cover make these volumes fit for any library or table.

Lee & Shepard send us 'The Song of Roland,' a translation into English verse by John O'Hagan, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Ireland. This is the first American from the second London edition of a book that deserves the praise it has received from the best English reviews. It is an heroic poem, worth reading in its English form for the mere pleasure of reading it, apart from its value as a translation of the earliest remaining specimen of the old French *chansons de geste*. The translator has not attempted to render the measure and form of the original, but has been satisfied with a spirited version in an irregular measure similar to some of those Scott used so effectively in his long romances in verse. As a translation it is as faithful as could be expected where the exigencies of rhyme and measure require so much expansion that the antique simplicity and directness of the original are too often lost; but as a story in English verse, the book is unexcep-

tionable; it has novelty and vivacity, and a captivating interest.

Ebers's 'Egyptian Princess' has been added to Bohn's Novelists' Library (Scribner & Welford). The translation is by Emma S. Buchheim. The print is large, and the form what every one knows when Bohn is mentioned.

The *Christian Register* published in April last a "symposium" consisting of brief expressions of opinion by eminent men of science, in this country and in England, on the question of the effect produced on the belief in immortality by the discoveries of modern science. The replies sent by the scientists to the editor of the paper in question, together with some additional responses since obtained, are now collected and published by George H. Ellis, Boston, in a little book having the title 'Science and Immortality.'

The latest issue in the line of books of which the Baker & Taylor Co. make a specialty is 'Evangelistic Work,' by Arthur T. Pierson, D.D. It consists of discussions of the question how to make the church attractive to the non-church-going population, and embodies short sketches of famous revivalists from Whitefield to Moody.

As we mentioned last week an English 'Handbook of Home Rule,' we must, in fair play, speak of Prof. A. V. Dicey's little volume on 'Unionist Delusions.' The title has a Home-Rule flavor, but involves exactly the reverse. Prof. Dicey addresses Unionists alone, and his object is to arouse them to a proper sense of the "import and character" of the struggle with the Gladstonians and Parnellites. He wants to remove any hesitation that may exist in supporting the present Tory method of enforcing the supremacy of the laws in Ireland, and maintaining the dignity and efficiency of Parliament. The audience thus chosen would seem to be very un-American, but students on this side of the water should be interested to see how a Liberal like Prof. Dicey seeks to bring others into line like himself with Balfour and Salisbury, and in what his "cause of justice and of sound national morality" consists. Readers of the *London Spectator* have already had the benefit of this exposition in the eight letters now reprinted by Macmillan.

The catalogue of the exhibition of the work of the women etchers of America, now open at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, contains twenty-two names. Half of these belong to Pennsylvania.

An American artist universally beloved and esteemed, the late Asher B. Durand, was commemorated in an address before the Century Club by his brother artist, Mr. Daniel Huntington, on April 9, 1887. The Club has now printed this address; the interval, we presume, having been employed in preparing the plate which serves as a frontispiece to the pamphlet. It is Huntington's portrait of Durand, etched by J. D. Smillie. The address has a permanent interest as material for a history of American steel engraving, and it is a pity that one or more specimens of Durand's admirable art with the graver could not have accompanied it.

Mr. F. Gutekunst, Philadelphia, whose art it is to make the transient permanent, sends us a very interesting phototype portrait of the late Jenny Lind, from a daguerreotype loaned by Mr. F. De B. Richards, and presumably dating back to the Swedish singer's appearance in this country. It is a charming souvenir of a charming woman.

We have before us the second volume of Transactions and Proceedings of the Modern Language Association of America for 1886 (Baltimore). The papers published in full are nine in number. Six of them were composed south of Mason and Dixon's line. Three of them relate

to the French, and two among these are perhaps the most permanently valuable matter in the series—Prof. Fortier's bibliographical "French Literature in Louisiana," and Prof. A. Marshall Elliott's "Speech Mixture in French Canada," a very curious inquiry into the reciprocal linguistic indebtedness of the Indians (Algonkin and Iroquois) and the French. A revised index gives a list of 354 colleges in the United States, with the names of their professors and instructors in the modern languages.

Miss Anna Brackett has some piquant and sensible remarks on teaching French in the (Syracuse) *Academy* for November. Cæsar is again deprecated, by another writer, as a first classic. Prof. Hart of Harvard furnishes a list of general readings in United States history that will be found helpful, especially as the references for the various epochs and topics are to volume and page of the histories cited. There is a brief symposium of presidents and principals on secret societies, a great divergence of opinion being manifested, and even such a contradiction in fact as that President McCosh says these societies have been put down at Princeton, while President Adams of Cornell (no friend to them) says: "I am told that even with all the ironclad rules they have adopted at Princeton, secret societies have existed there almost without interruption for a good many years past."

In the authorized edition of 1814 of Lewis & Clarke's narrative, the map compiled by Capt. Clarke differs materially from one prepared as a preliminary chart by Capt. Lewis at the Mandan village where the expedition wintered, and thence forwarded to Washington in the spring of 1805. Lewis's map was never ordered published by Congress, but a copy has been preserved in the Archives of the War Department, and Mr. Arnold Hague of the United States Geological Survey has reproduced it in facsimile, as a great curiosity, in *Science* for November 4. It is made up of information, received long in advance of the explorers' verification, from Indian guides and others. The interior drainage of the Columbia was wholly misconceived. An amusing instance of difference in point of view between savage and civilized man is shown in the aboriginal name "River which scolds at all other rivers," and the present designation of "Milk River." Mr. Hague, in his interesting communication, recalls the fact that "Yellowstone" was Lewis & Clarke's translation of the French appellation of the river—*Roche jaune*.

The *Art Age* furnishes an extremely faithful chromolithographic rendering of a water-color drawing by that facile draughtsman Mr. Percy Moran, "The Village Belle." The goodness of the print almost redeems the superficiality and *pose plastique* of the drawing. Mr. Moran has long ceased to make any substantial progress except in greater facility, and his work, while possessed of a certain charm of manner which almost rises to style, does not reach or seem to care to reach any depth of artistic sentiment, contenting itself with costume and scenic effect. But if he is superficial, he is not supercilious, and his sincere and well-sustained general treatment has no leaning to the waste of manual dexterity in making brushmarks which so nullifies a great deal of our art to-day.

The *English Illustrated Magazine* (Macmillan) for October contains F. Marion Crawford's "National Hymn for the United States of America," written for the recent Philadelphia celebration. It is in many places marked by vigor and feeling, and the imagery is often noble. The same number has a sea-piece, by Swinburne, characteristic in style, full of motion and rhythm and the feeling for the free-

dom of wild things, but of a higher poetic rank than much of his later work.

The *Manchester Quarterly*, published by the literary club there, devotes several articles to Wordsworth. They are such as would naturally appear in the proceedings of a Wordsworth society. At the end of the number is a narrative of a voyage to the eastern Mediterranean, and a sort of *catalogue raisonné* of the literary celebrities who have resided near Lake Lemnan, a map of which is given.

In *Macmillan's* the young reviewer will find the conclusion of the "old-literary hand's" advice to his nephew, as truthful a sketch of the minor writer's lot as the neophyte ought to be allowed to have. In the same number is a pleasant criticism on a pleasant writer, M. Anatole France, by W. L. Courtney.

—The November *Atlantic* opens with one of those sketches of real life in the New England of the last age which are almost exclusively in the province of this magazine. It is from the practised pen of Miss Preston, and describes the life and character of Mrs. Judge Lyman of Northampton, Mass., whose memoir, by her daughter, was originally printed for private circulation. There is no better reading in the number, especially for the *laudator temporis acti*. Mr. Hamerton's paper, in the series which has been so welcome the past year, deals with the drinking habits of the French and English, and pleads mainly for discrimination between individuals, on the old ground that indictments are not to be drawn against a whole nation; and he takes occasion, touching lightly on a kindred subject, to traverse Mr. Arnold's charge of lubricity, and to remind him that the batch of contemporary novels is not the whole of French moral life. He himself declares the accusation, so far as his observation and knowledge go, to be false; and he ascribes the French novel of the day, not to a world-reforming school of "Realism," but to the fact that it is made to sell, and that vice has greater capacity to afford sensations to the reader than virtue possesses. Mr. Percival Lowell's third article on the characteristics of the Oriental, and more narrowly the Japanese, concerns itself with the attractive topic of their art, and, like its predecessors, illustrates the impersonality of their civilization. Like all we have seen from his pen, this essay is strongly intellectual in its substance, and, though mannered, is brilliantly handled. The historical chapter by John Fiske, on the "Adoption of the Constitution," is a ranking article on the topic which has lately engaged many writers.

—*Scribner's* misses the best part of its welcome in having no more of Thackeray's letters; and literature itself seems to have dropped out of the issue. The first place is held by music. Mr. W. F. Apthorp's article on "Wagner and Scenic Art" is as entertaining as it is timely, in view of the German opera season at the Metropolitan, which promises to be more Wagnerian than ever. It is accompanied by ten illustrations of scenes from Wagner's later operas, partly based on the original sketches for the scenery at Bayreuth, and partly on photographs from life. The poetic character of these illustrations will explain to many who have never seen these dramas, why Wagner was able occasionally to indulge in peculiar effects of stage lighting which, for the moment, made the facial expression of the actor of secondary importance—relying on the situation, the scenery, and the illustrative music for some of his grandest effects. Mr. Apthorp points out very lucidly the methods by means of which Wagner made such great advances over his dramatic predecessors in gaining a complete

and uninterrupted stage illusion. The illustrations to Dr. Sargent's article upon athletics carry with them a pleasing suggestion of the ancient gymnasium and of the more physical examples of Greek art. The text shows what types are developed by the different sports—how the wrestler differs from the runner, and in what directions the gymnast must work to secure the much-desired "all-round" development. It is an interesting exhibition, clear to the most sceptical, although nowhere especially insisted on by the writer, of the serious physiological side of misunderstood "college sports." Miss Seward tells at some length the history of the negotiations with Denmark for the acquisition of its West Indies possessions, and makes a sorry showing for the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, who shelved the treaty and put the friendly and liberal Danish Government in so discredited a position that it fell. The failure to obtain the islands was a secondary matter in comparison with the manner of our behavior in an international affair of such a nature. Mr. Francis A. Walker treats of the proper attitude of those advisers of the working-men who are not of them, but speak for the platform or the press; his words are plain and practical, whether they contain the whole truth or not. He believes in competition so completely that he hails the organization and increased powers of the laborers as another potent factor in the struggle; and the keener the struggle is, the better, he thinks, the results will be. He pleads only for the fair play, and moderation, and law-abiding habit of the native American in the conduct of the economic battle; and in view of the fact that in the confusions of the last two years native Americans have been noticeably absent, he adds his weight and influence seemingly in favor of the protection of the American spirit and way of doing things against the inroads of foreign violence, ignorance, and insolence. The article itself is an excellent example of the attitude of mind the author argues for.

—*Harper's* is largely devoted to the inexhaustible subject of travel. One article, of direct interest to those invalids who have weak lungs, covers in a paragraphic way the leading health resorts of the Mediterranean and this country; another has the color and warmth of Santa Barbara to enliven it; a third, in the disguise of a novel, deals with the South. The two principal contributions are an account of Chantilly, abundantly illustrated, and a view of the Argentine Republic, which deserves to be read by all who are interested in our material prosperity. The text is more statistical and commercial than descriptive of the people and their cities. It reads like the glowing prospectus of some great enterprise; but, in view of what the last decade has accomplished for that vast and prosperous region, in so many ways paralleling the movement of our own population and capital in the new States of the West, and in view also of the great plans already in execution for the opening up of the country to the north, and for the providing of transcontinental paths of commerce between the two oceans by which the long détour about Cape Horn will be made unnecessary, it is hardly possible to exaggerate the meaning and reach of the immediate future of the temperate zone of the Southern Hemisphere. The natural friendliness of the rising Powers, the prospect of their rivalry with ourselves in the export of the necessities of life, and the insignificant portion of international commerce with them which falls to our share, are strongly brought out; the bribes which capital has received to apply itself to bring out their resources, and the generosity of the Government

in providing inducements to settlers, make our own vast grants and liberal policy in peopling and railroading the West seem economical and restrained. It necessarily raises the question how far our reluctance to allow large fortunes to spring up out of schemes which result in widely distributed general good, is justified by facts in a time of enormous expansion; and when a country so very like our new West, with its grain and cattle, is evidently growing up in the Southern Hemisphere, the question of what our trade relations with it are to be both in the way of competition and of supply is one of very deep concern. The difference between English and American enterprise is that the West absorbs us, but it is the world that absorbs London. Differences of national policy, and possibly of national destiny, lie in the distinction.

—In the *Century* Mr. George Kennan begins his series of articles upon Russia and the Nihilists, which promises to be a very notable feature of the magazine. He says, to start with, that there are no Nihilists, as the name is commonly understood—no party, that is, which aims at pure destruction; it would be as sensible to think of the "Know-Nothings" as persons who really are ignoramuses as it is to think of the Nihilists as mere levellers of all institutions indiscriminately. The appellation is a nickname, taken from one of Turgeneff's novels, and applied by the Government to its opponents. This preliminary word of warning opens the way for a truer view of the very heterogeneous party of reform which constitutes the liberalism of Russia. The method of terror is the policy of only one group, and came to be adopted in their case only when the peaceful and legal protests of the other sections had failed. Now Mr. Kennan enables the public to discriminate easily between the dynamite extremists and those who, in any other country, would be known as the constitutionalists. What the grievances of the Russian people are, and what the remedies proposed by the educated class, are questions which could not be answered more authoritatively and clearly than by the letter of the Moscow Liberals laid before the late Czar by Melikoff, which Mr. Kennan is fortunately able to give us. It was on the ground of this petition that the Czar acted in signing the proclamation to give a constitutional government to Russia, as is well known, the day before his assassination. It is a very instructive document—much the most important contribution to the current knowledge of Russian disorders. So far from being a proclamation of anarchy, it shows only too plainly that the Russian Liberals, dynamiters and all, are demanding only the most undisputed rights of men, and institutions embodying the simplest principles of liberty. Mr. Kennan, in his own text, writes in the most matter-of-fact way, and gives names and instances in support of what others have told us in vague declarations. His words must make a deep impression. Other noticeable papers are a pleasant familiar sketch of the Washingtons at Mount Vernon, fresh in style and beautifully illustrated, and a critical eulogy of St. Gaudens, by Kenyon Cox, with a reproduction of the Lincoln statue at Chicago, and of other notable, if minor, productions.

—It was not without some misgivings, in view of a certain eminent example now monthly vouchsafed us, that we noticed in the last *English Illustrated Magazine* a new department of literary and social chat. The writer is Mr. H. D. Traill, whose work we have had occasion to mention from time to time, and often with pleasure. His opening batch of paragraphs was without distinction, but in the

November issue he comes to the front with a series of alert, bright, and thoroughly entertaining little essays, quite up to the level of this sort of literary amusement among ourselves. He has the good luck to get a stroke at the French naturalists, apropos of M. Paul Bonnetain's disapproval of Zola—an ostracism which makes Mr. Traill wittily recall Hogg's news of an acquaintance whom he disliked—that "he had been put ashore by the crew of a whaling vessel for ungentlemanly conduct." Zola is put down by Mr. Traill as an idealist, after all, an idealist of ugliness. "Precisely as the Greek sculptor seized upon the isolated perfections distributed over a group of real, or imaginary models—here the noble poise of a head, there the exquisite moulding of a bust—and combined them into the majestic presentment of the goddess; so the French writer has borrowed features of depravity from a variety of members of these classes from which his hideous heroes and heroines are drawn—here a base instinct, there a foul habit—and then amalgamated them into an ignoble, but not the less ideal, whole." The essay is, entire, a bright little "arrow of the chase." In another paragraph he discovers the startling union of Walt Whitman and Tupper in an imperial poet, Prince Chun, father of the Emperor of China, etc. Certainly this ode sounds like Whitman:

"Oh, this China of four thousand years and more,
Whose civilization and excellence extend to the utmost parts";

but we protest against the ascription of Whitman's poetical fame to "many of his countrymen." It is Englishmen who have made him the "transatlantic laureate of democracy"; and the "fad," after all, has not extended very widely on this side. A beautifully illustrated meandering article on the Bath Road, and some statuesque Capri figure-pieces by MacLaren—supplemented by a romantic sketch of the inexhaustible island by Linda Villari—make the body of this excellent number.

—*Annals of Botany*, vol. 1, No. 1, August, 1887 (Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan), is the first part of a new journal—if that may be so called which is to issue "from time to time"—edited by Profs. Balfour of Oxford University and Vines of Cambridge University, with whom is associated Prof. Farlow of our own Cambridge. Now that these three universities have set up botanical laboratories, under men who are actively engaged in research as well as instruction—especially in physiological and histological research—it is natural that they wish to have an English-speaking periodical, and that they should look for adequate support, "not only in Great Britain, but also in India and the colonies and in America." The excellent appearance of the initial number, not only scientifically in the subject matter, but typographically and iconographically (for the plates are numerous and wonderfully good), should justify the hope. As might be expected, the articles deal chiefly with microscopical subjects, and these are likely to be prominent. But systematic botany and morphology are to have their turn; also reviews and criticisms. In this number the Record of Current Literature is formidably extensive, and is separately paged. Only bare titles are given; but these extend even to short notes in the obscurer or local periodicals as well as in the proceedings of scientific societies, and those of every country. The only objection to this minuteness is, that it gives unimportant notes an undue prominence. Evidently the conductors of these annals do not expect to be idle, nor to be surpassed by the Germans in painstaking.

THE ETHICAL IMPORT OF DARWINISM.

The Ethical-Import of Darwinism. By Jacob Gould Schurman, Professor of Philosophy in Cornell University. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1887. Pp. xv., 264.

PROF. SCHURMAN'S little work is another evidence of the lively philosophic fermentation which is going on in our midst. "It is the mixing up of things which is the great Bad," is a quotation from George Eliot with which the author begins his preface; and he goes on to say that the work is primarily the outcome of his own intellectual needs, and "has cleared up in [his] own mind the confusion between guesses and facts which is 'the great Bad' in evolutionary ethics." He is "not without hope that it may also prove clarifying to other minds," and publishes it for intelligent laymen rather than for philosophic experts.

Dr. Schurman's style is so clear and rich and easy that it is a pleasure to follow him. Sometimes, indeed, he is too copious; and one feels that the argument would stand out more plainly if the author had been shorter in setting it forth. The conclusion, moreover, will, to many, seem discontinuous with the beginning, as if lectures composed for different occasions and afterwards run together might be to thank for the production of the book. The extrication of the reader from his native "mixing up of things" is, in short, not effected with a quite ringing enough note; and one longs occasionally for something a little more in the style of those few memorable pages of Mr. Arthur Balfour (Chief Secretary for Ireland) at the end of his 'Defence of Philosophic Doubt.'

In the first chapter, Dr. Schurman seeks to separate what is speculative from what can be strictly called "scientific" in ethics, and comes to the conclusion that since *sciences* deal only with *facts* and not with *ideals* as such, the history of men's actual opinions about moral acts is the only *science* pertaining to the subject. At the end of the book (p. 255) he admits that no science of such opinions can determine what *are* moral acts; and that no speculations as to what they are have authority beyond the speculator himself, who knows what ought to be only by "feeling it in his bones." This, to many readers, will seem a "sceptical" conclusion. It may be said, however, it puts moral beliefs deeper than any science could put them, for it seems to make of them nothing less than moral *acts*, and leaves us as liable to lose our souls morally by not believing in a duty as by not doing it after the belief is there. Different persons will take this distinction in different ways; and, considering its importance, the author might have thrown it into higher relief.

The next four chapters popularly analyze the essentials of the Darwinian theory of natural selection. They are charmingly written, but make one wonder whether readers who are supposed to need such a lengthy account are worth writing for at all. Persons as densely ignorant at this late day as Dr. Schurman assumes us to be, of the fact that Darwin never professed to explain the original variations, but only to account for their accumulation and survival, can hardly be saved under any circumstances from that "mixing up of things which is the great Bad," and might perhaps be left alone. The reflections which Dr. Schurman proceeds to make on these variations, however, are both clear and interesting, and we have not met them elsewhere. Even were it true, he says, that consciousness were an accident in an automaton, and conscience an accident of that accident—the utilities of the two accidents enabling them to survive—it would not follow (as the materialistic evolutionists keep saying or hint-

ing) that survival is the whole *meaning* of morality, or that speculative utilitarianism is true. Honesty could still be the best policy, even though goodness were an absolute end.

"All that natural selection requires is that something shall be useful; *what else it may be*, what other predicates it may have, wherein its essence consists, natural selection knows not and reckons not. Be virtue a proximate end or an ultimate end, natural selection tells us it will be preserved and perpetuated if it is useful; and it tells us no more. It is, accordingly, a gratuitous assumption which evolutionary moralists make, when they decline to allow more than a merely relative value to morality" (p. 134).

"There are other things besides morality which favor survival. . . . The eye, for example, has no existence among the lowest animals; yet, when it does appear, its own new story is accepted as a fresh revelation of fact. Instead of describing it as an advantage in the struggle for life, the evolutionist sees in the new organ the possibility of a deeper communion with reality; and the more developed the organ, the more valuable its evidence. The earliest eye was probably nothing more than a tingling sensitiveness to light and darkness. The most developed eye discerns a spectrum of seven colors; and along with this advance it has also acquired the capacity of measuring distances, magnitudes, and situations. Both these functions of the eye were eminently useful in the struggle for life. . . . Yet the evolutionist does not hold the eye is merely a utility. Bringing the surprise of something new and unexpected, the eye, he will recognize, is useful only because it makes us aware of fact. But if you accept the evidence of the eye when it testifies to the colors or sizes of objects, you cannot reject the depositions of conscience to the moral character of conduct and motives. This is a new mental function, and has the same claim upon you as the other. The validity of the intuition, 'Injustice is wrong,' is neither greater nor less than the validity of the perception, 'Snow is white'" (p. 158).

The whole question, as far as ethics is concerned, turns on the nature of those primitive variations of impulse and feeling of whose existence natural selection took advantage.

In chapter v. Dr. Schurman, with much ability and success, takes Darwin to task for having abandoned the notion of primitive variations in his explanation of the moral sense, and tried to exhibit the latter as a necessary resultant of such preëxistent mental traits as memory, reflection, and sociability. His speculative ethics is thus drawn on quite other lines from his observational biology. Sudden variations in the way of intuitive perceptions of the superior excellence of social over selfish instincts would (if we understand Dr. Schurman rightly) be the only origin of conscience which he would himself allow to be plausible. But in his last chapter, in which he makes a very telling criticism of Morgan's and McLennan's speculations about the primitive family, he knocks out one such supposed intuitive perception, by admitting that history gives no ground for supposing that chastity and fidelity between the sexes have been universally recognized as virtues by men. But though these virtues are not intuitive, *some* virtues, we may hold, are so. Which they are, further historical study must decide. The author makes some tentative suggestions to this effect as he ends. One misses in his book the clearness and trenchancy which come of a radical temperament. One finds instead the excellences of a scholarly and candid and genuinely inquiring mind. The work deserves to be widely read.

ILLUSTRATED HOLIDAY BOOKS.

King Henry IV. Parts I. and II. Illustrated by Edward Grützner. With an Introduction by Edward Dowden, LL.D. Édition de Luxe. Cassell & Co.

The Modern School of Art. Edited by Wilfred Meynell, Illustrated. Cassell & Co.