

with the flag of the Union, and, without a dissenting voice, voted to ask the Government for \$12 a month for every man who served in the war, now or hereafter unfit for labor, whether or not the incapacity is due to his improvidence or even vice. Such rapacity, in such a body, is without example in the history of the country, and is another proof of the widespread demoralization which has succeeded the war. It is unpleasant to recall the eagerness with which Southern members of Congress caballed to secure appropriations from the general Government for unimprovable "water-ways," after having fought for State sovereignty and State responsibility, or to recall the unanimity with which certain Southern States are now seeking aid from the same source for their public schools; but surely the fact which an American will hereafter recall with greatest shame is the recent action of the Grand Army of the Republic.

PRO PATRIA.

ST. LOUIS, October 1, 1887.

IN THE SADDLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In the *Nation* for August 4 was a very readable article entitled "Holiday Equestrians," in which some good points are made by the writer that every rider will appreciate. Permit me, however, to take exception to some of the statements made by the writer of this article, who is evidently accustomed to the saddle.

In the first place, in speaking of the difference between the seat of the cow-boy and that of the Cossack or Turcoman, he says, "All three are superb riders." There is perhaps no more common error concerning the West than the popular idea that the cow-boy is a good rider. I know nothing of the Asiatic seat, but many years among the cow-boys have long since proved to me that they are far from being "superb" riders, or even good riders in the proper acceptation of that term. Of course, among them you do find good riders, and in such a party as Buffalo Bill's combination there are riders who are very expert. But even among these I think a close observer will discover that the success of the rider is due as much to the merits of the horse as to those of the rider. There is not, perhaps, in this State a mining camp or prairie town which could not produce better riders than you will find on any of the ranges between the Rio Grande and the Platte.

And again, in speaking of riding in an English saddle, the writer properly says that the principle of "rising" in the trot is to relieve the horse; but he adds, "He keeps his weight steady on the horse by throwing it into his stirrups." Every "park rider" accustomed to an English saddle will agree with me, I think, in saying that *as little weight as possible should be thrown into the stirrups*. With the stirrups of a proper length, the feet well thrust in, and the knees clamped tight against the sides of the "pig-skin," the rider rises, naturally and easy, not from the stirrup, but from the knee. The horse is thus relieved from all weight, as it is distributed down the sides; and the rider secures a firmness of seat which he can get in no other way. The knee is the pivotal point; and the knee-grasp is the great desideratum in a seat on the "pig-skin."

HORACE VAN TRUMP.

DENVER, COL., September 27, 1887.

DEN AND BOUDOIR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I have just received your paper of August 11, in which "M. N. S." asks that "equal rights"

be accorded to men in the furnishing of the parlor, assuming that, with the disappearance of ribbons and meaningless knick-knacks, the to her obnoxious "den" will also vanish. Do away with the frippery with all my heart; have "the large table with its corner for newspapers, without which many a man's happiness is wrecked," the inkstand and dictionary within arm's reach—but will these round out the sum of his happiness? And, when spittoon and pipe are added, what becomes of "equal rights" for the feminine portion of the household? They must learn to endure the puffs of smoke coming from the other side of the table; with all the resources of housewifery must wage a daily, losing war against its stale odors, which cling to curtains and walls, go abroad with them in the folds of their gowns, are sent to friends in the paper on which they write; they must accept the disorderly ashes, the offensive spittoon.

An Englishman only smokes in the rooms appropriated to his use, but the American man has too long been in the habit of smoking all over the house; and the heroine of former times "retired into her boudoir," I suppose, because there only could she breathe a pure air. Is it not a distinct advance in civilization when the hero now "retreats into his den" to enjoy his fragrant weed, and afterwards rejoins his family in the neutral region of a smokeless atmosphere? As I write, my chamber is full of the odor of tobacco, creeping round the edges of a locked door, on the other side of which is the bedroom of a young American couple. Would not "equal rights" give that wife—and me—an untainted atmosphere to sleep in, and the "den" be a means to that end?

So long as man is constituted as he is, sister-woman must endure the distasteful tobacco when there is but one living room in the house; but, so soon as there are others than the parlor, gentle breeding demands that one of them shall be the "den," whose *raison d'être*, as I take it, lies not in the frivolous furnishing of the present day, but in the growing amenity of family life. Therefore, while in our homes fancy work wanes, may dens remain and multiply; but could not men invent some other nomenclature for their especial sanctum than one which suggests the wild beast and all savagery?

I. C. N.

ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND, September 17, 1887.

RELIGIOUS DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONTINENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Absence from home kept me from seeing your journal of the 11th ult. before to-day. It was a pleasing surprise that the extract from my letter should have been thought worth forwarding to you for publication. It was also a proof of the interest the matter has for thoughtful Americans.

Only those who have lived on the Continent can realize the lack of information there touching religion in America. The unusual complications of social and religious conditions in the United States, and the multitude of churches of commanding interest, make the knowledge of and the acquisition of the literature and statistics peculiarly difficult. This difficulty would be permanently relieved if every religious body, besides sending to the University Library at Leipzig the documents already in print, would forward regularly its reports of all kinds as they appear. With thanks for your aid, I am your obedient servant,

CASPAR RENÉ GREGORY.

LEIPZIG, LIEBIGSTRASSE 9, IV. 1,
September 12, 1887.

Notes.

THE Rev. W. E. Griffis' 'Life of Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry' will be issued directly by Cupples & Hurd, Boston.

Mr. William Cushing's supplement to his 'Initials and Pseudonyms' will go to press this fall. Subscriptions may be sent to the compiler at 18 Wendell Street, Cambridge, Mass.

Subscriptions for the 'Poems of Frank Forester (Henry William Herbert)' may be sent to Mr. Morgan Herbert, who edits the work, in care of John Wiley & Sons, New York, or Trübner & Co., London. It will make a small quarto, will contain a sketch of the author's life, and will be illustrated from photographs and paintings. The "Prometheus" and "Agamemnon" will not be reprinted.

'Faint, Yet Pursuing, and Other Sermons,' by the author of 'How to be Happy though Married'; Dorner's 'System of Christian Ethics,' translated by Prof. Mead of Andover; Pünjer's 'History of the Christian Philosophy of Religion,' translated by W. Hastie; Prof. Sayce's Hibbert Lectures for 1887, on the 'Origin and Growth of Religion as illustrated by the Religion of the Ancient Babylonians'; 'Pictures from Holland,' in the "Pen and Pencil Series"; and 'The Printed Book: its History, Illustration, and Adornment,' are among the latest announcements of Scribner & Welford.

Funk & Wagnalls will have ready in the course of a month a photographic facsimile of the first Shakspeare folio. Oddly enough, they offer it as a convenient test of the Donnelly-Bacon lunacy.

Thomas Whittaker republishes directly William Sharp's collection of English and American 'Sonnets of this Century,' and Samuel Waddington's 'Sonnets of Europe'—translations with notes.

The building of the great Central Asian Railroad by the Russians is related from official documents by Dr. O. Heyfelder in a work shortly to appear—'Transkaspien und seine Eisenbahn' (Hanover: Mierziński; New York: Christern). It will be amply illustrated. We may remark here that a preliminary report of an expedition sent by the Russian Government in 1886 to the Transcaspien region and North Khorasan is published in the August and September numbers of *Petermann's Mitteilungen*. Its special aims, besides the study of the physical geography and geology of the country, were to examine the deposits of naphtha, salt, and sulphur, and to collect specimens of the fauna and flora. An admirable map of the region explored, including the line of the Transcaspien Railway, drawn from Government sources, accompanies the report.

Miss G. Mendum of Stapleton, N. Y., is engaged on a translation of Lamartine's 'Harmonies.'

A new edition of Count Leo Tolstoi's Caucasian sketch, 'The Cossacks' (William S. Gottsberger), comes to remind American admirers of the great Russian writer that it is to Mr. Eugene Schuyler that they were indebted for their first introduction, nine years ago, to the author whose name is now a household word in this country. The majority of readers will hardly agree with Turgenyev's estimate of the work, as the author's best, although it possesses, on a small scale, many of the qualities which distinguish his more complete works. It takes rank in importance after 'War and Peace' and 'Anna Karenina,' and people who know Tolstoi only through the latter should read this book in its revised form as now issued.

Prof. Gneist's work on the English Parliament, lately reviewed by us (*Nation*, No. 1155), has appeared in "a fresh translation" by A. H. Keane,

Vice-President of the Anthropological Institute. The former translation was so exceedingly bad that this new edition will be welcome to all students of the English Constitution. It is certainly very much improved—not so much so, however, as if Mr. Keane had not made the old translation the basis of his work, but had gone to work unembarrassed by it, and made a wholly independent version. A piece of really bad English is incapable of being made really good by any amount of revision, and had better be put at once in the fire. Two decided merits of the new edition are an index and the removal of the notes from the end of the chapter to the foot of the page. The style of the new book is somewhat more attractive than the old, although it is not really better printed. The Messrs. Putnam are the American agents.

Mr. John Ashton's mode of writing history with the aid of newspaper clippings and broadside and caricature art is well known and is uniformly employed in his numerous works—perhaps nowhere more satisfactorily than in his 'Dawn of the Nineteenth Century in England: a Social Sketch of the Times.' The political events of the first decade are dismissed in nineteen chapters, and what follows is a very interesting and curious presentation of the manners of the time, beginning with roads and transportation. The whole text is freely sprinkled with contemporaneous illustrations traced by Mr. Ashton's own hand. A popular edition of this work, in one volume, just published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, promises it a new lease of life.

From J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, we have two more volumes in the pocket Thackeray, to which "Barry Lyndon" and "Lovel the Widower" furnish the titles, covering also other minor pieces. The same firm sends us the seven concluding volumes of the fine Library Edition of the Waverley Novels, making twenty-five in all. The last of these contains several features of much value and convenience—tables of the tales in alphabetic order, and again in the order of their internal chronology; a list of the characters introduced in each, with a synopsis of their leading incidents; an index to the names; another to the notes; and finally a glossary. This portion of the work merits separate publication.

Mrs. Lydia Hoyt Farmer has followed up her 'Boys' Book of Famous Rulers' with the 'Girls' Book of Famous Queens' (T. Y. Crowell & Co.). That she has found encouragement to do this is sufficient evidence that the earlier work gained acceptance with the class for whom it was designed. She tells a story, indeed, with much animation of style, and conveys a good amount of historical information in an agreeable way. There is, however, a lack of discrimination in her moral judgments, and an utter absence of the critical faculty. The reader of the book will probably get the impression that Semiramis and Dido are as real historical personages as Mary Queen of Scots and the Empress Eugénie. The illustrations, which are numerous, are execrable.

From the office of the *Publishers' Weekly* in this city issues for the fifteenth time the bulkiest and cheapest book published in America, 'The Publishers' Trade List Annual' for 1887. Every bookseller knows its indispensableness, as does every head of a literary department or newspaper, and not a few readers in our public libraries who have access to it. The various firm catalogues here bound together alphabetically do not, as time goes on, show any tendency towards uniformity except in size.

An address entitled "A Legal Mummy; or, the Present Status of the Dartmouth College Case," delivered before the Vermont Bar Association by its President, Mr. Aldace F. Walker of Rutland, Vermont, in October, 1885, has been

reprinted (Montpelier, Vt.). The title is not entirely colorless; it intimates the lack of satisfaction that the writer entertains with the great case referred to. There is a good deal of sense and vigor of thought in the pamphlet, and it is worthy the attention of the student of constitutional law.

Those who remember Prof. Langdell's very striking address at the dinner of the Harvard Law School Association last November, in which he enforced the view that our law should be taught after the methods prevailing on the continent of Europe, and that in this respect "we should not longer follow in the footsteps of England, but should bring ourselves into harmony with the rest of the civilized world," will be interested in reading a short article on the English modes of teaching law, in the *Revue Internationale de l'Enseignement* for August 15 last. The writer, George Blondel, "Chargé de cours à la Faculté de droit de Lyon," is giving some account of a recent address at Berlin, by P. F. Aschrott, a German magistrate and Doctor of Jurisprudence and Philosophy, before the Société Juridique, in which he finds several points in the English methods that are worthy of consideration in Germany. It seems that they suffer in Germany from pedantry, dullness, a lack of the "aptitude pédagogique," and from "ignorance de la pratique." These are the natural defects of the Continental system, and it may be that Germany has something to learn from England; but it is very certain that England has much more to learn, as regards the teaching of law, from Germany. The writer of the article referred to (and, as it would seem, M. Aschrott also) appears to be ignorant of the notable advances and reforms lately made in teaching law at the English universities.

We commend to those interested Dr. Albert Bushnell Hart's paper on the teaching of history in high and preparatory schools in the *Syracuse Academy* for October. It is both a discussion and a bibliographic index.

The summer numbers of the *Antiquary*—for July, August, and September—must be passed over with a very summary examination. The first article that strikes the reader is a continued one, opening the July number and running through the other two, by Prof. Hodgetts, entitled "The Smith and the Wright." These two words, of diverse etymology but similar meaning, are examined, and a history given of the various mechanic arts included in their definition. The writer is an ardent eulogist of everything Germanic, and seems to us to exaggerate the independent skill of his early countrymen. Nevertheless, the articles contain much curious and interesting matter. It is to be wished that the passage in Tacitus were cited which "speaks of a delicately executed kind of ribbed tile of a semi-cylindrical form made by the northern Germans, which possessed a beauty of color and a brilliancy that no Roman tile could present." Another continued paper, in three numbers, is "On Some Garters King-at-Arms," by John Alt Porter, consisting mostly of short biographical notices. Mr. Round's article, "The Early Custody of Domesday Book," begun in the June number, is continued in July, with the conclusion that, "during at least the first century of its existence, the official resting place of Domesday Book was within the walls of Winchester Castle." "Notes on Incidents in Folk-tales," in the August and September numbers, contain many interesting details and discussion. Of the single articles, perhaps the most valuable are that upon "John Hodgson, the Antiquarian" (July), "A Visit to Mount Athos" (September), and "Bone Caves," by H. P. Malet, in the same number. This last, to be continued, undertakes, from the writer's own observations in India, to disprove

the theory that the animals whose bones are found in caves were dragged thither by hyenas. "Whatever ancient beasts did, the modern hyena always dines where he finds his food, never dirties his den, and never dies there, except by accident."

L'Intermédiaire, the French *Notes and Queries*, for September 10th prints extracts from a brochure by M. Henry Mosnier on the "Château de Chavaniac-Lafayette," showing the amount of money expended by the Marquis de Lafayette during our war of the Revolution. The figures are taken from the papers of his intendant. His income during the years 1777-1783 was 50,000 livres annually, all of which he spent. But in addition he raised, both by loans and by selling portions of his estate, 741,000 livres, making a total of over a million of livres, the greater part of which was devoted to the support of the war.

A special number of the *Illustrazione Italiana* is wholly given up to the late universal competition for a new façade to the cathedral at Milan. Sixteen elevations are reproduced on a large scale, besides the existing front. Numerous plans and subordinate elevations also, with the letterpress, eke out a very complete conspectus of the problem, and of its attempted solution, both now and formerly.

In the eleventh part of the supplemental volume of Brockhaus's 'Conversations-Lexikon' there is an interesting chart, showing by different colors and shading the extent of the cultivation of the principal plants and grains throughout the world. Wheat, of course, leads the other food plants, but rye, barley, and oats do not fall far behind. Next to these, apparently, comes rice. It is surprising to note how small the wheat-fields of the United States appear compared with those of Europe and Asia, as well as the very wide extent of the cultivation of cotton.

The Parisian publisher, M. Édouard Rouveyre, having made a hit last year with M. Octave Uzanne's brightly written and admirably illustrated essay on modern bookbinding, has now sent forth 'La Reliure de Luxe,' by M. L. Derôme (New York: F. W. Christern), in the same form as M. Uzanne's 'Reliure Moderne,' with the same cover, and with abundant illustrations, most of which look as if they had been left over from the earlier and better book. M. Derôme's text has even less connection with the plates than had M. Uzanne's, and the plates are inferior in value and interest. The frontispiece is a vellum binding painted by M. J. Adeline—rather confused and muddy, and yet suggestive and promising as a specimen of a mode of decorative bindings likely to meet with increasing favor. The severe and monotonous, and yet dignified, bindings of plain morocco, tooled in parallel lines with broken corners in the style of Trautz-Bauzonnet, are perhaps the best things in the book. The influence of Japanese art is shown happily in one or two of the illustrations, where the rigidity of European design has been abandoned. A curious novelty is the binding of a pair of volumes together, one opening to the right, and the other to the left—but this is more curious than useful or beautiful. From these plates it is evident that the use of silk stuffs, brocades, etc., for book-covers is growing in France; and also that the Parisian binders have not yet availed themselves of the alligator, seal-skin, and snake-skin with which our binders have familiarized us.

—The *Atlantic* for October, with an abundance of other matter of interest which makes the number one of unusual excellence, has a singularly thorough criticism of Jean François Millet, called out by the recent exhibition of his works in Paris. One does not need to agree with the critic to recognize the all-round character of his view of Millet; nor, though one should acknow-

ledge that his observations are just, need he therefore accept the critic's conclusions. The report is highly unfavorable to Millet's reputation. "Millet is not a great painter, worthy to be ranked with the great masters of the past; and even when we compare him with his contemporaries, Delacroix and Théodore Rousseau, he sinks to a modest level which it may be well not to attempt to qualify too precisely." This verdict is rendered on the score that the painter was in default on the artistic side, and on the theory that, in art, defects of this sort are eventually fatal to a claim to real greatness. Millet's character, it is said, was mainly "moral and literary," and so are his works; and it is "by the intentions, by the subjects, by the preachings" in his works that he succeeds with the public. He was "not only a peasant, but a Norman, and therefore half an Englishman—a serious and contemplative man, who read his Bible with the convictions of a millenarian of the time of Cromwell"; he is "a révolté"—a peasant who has made a cult of the contemplation of the fate of the peasant; a "sort of melancholy Burns." He leaves out the cheerfulness of the country life, all its festive side, and dwells only on its hardships; he is preaching always the lot of man, son of the earth; he is preoccupied with this, and though he is "a profound thinker" compared with Paul Potter or Cuypp, "a captivating dreamer" compared with Terburg and Metz, "incontestably noble" compared with Jan Steen, Ostade, and Brouwer, yet he is "far inferior to one and all of these" in "purely artistic qualities"; and the end falls—"not a great painter." Such a criticism is of the sort that inform and stimulate, and it is seldom that the artist when judging has so clear an eye for qualities "not artistic," and so much frankness in admitting their value; but the sentence passed is to be set down as a verdict of the schools, not of the disinterested mind—much more not that "intuitive judgment of the world" to which the critic alludes as "final." The schools have been so often mistaken; man, son of the earth, is so integral with the landscape for ever, that those to whom Millet is the artist of the true democratic spirit, in one of its purest and humblest as well as most enduring moods, need not yet despair of his being reckoned "a great painter." There is a note on Realism in the "Contributors' Club," for which we beg unusual attention.

—In the *Harper's*, Mr. Henry James has a lengthy and highly appreciative notice of the young portrait painter, John S. Sargent, who was born an American; but the national claim to him is modified by the facts that the places of his birth, his education, and residence are European, while his artistic quality, Mr. James says, is Parisian. He is given the praise of having attained the one great quality—style—and the future predicted for him is brilliant. The few illustrations of his work given, though wholly inadequate as a basis for such judgment as the text contains, are of use in bearing out the statement in which lies the kernel of Mr. James's praise, namely, that his portraits are also pictures. The republic of Costa Rica is treated after the thorough fashion which we recently commended in the case of the similar article on Chili, and we observe that the hope then expressed that there is to be a series of such papers on the Southern countries of this continent is to be realized. A second travel article describes the old Portuguese mission station, Bassein, in India. Of other articles not especially noticeable it will be well to single out Dr. Titus M. Coan's paper upon "The Curative Uses of Water," which contains a considerable amount of practical information on the functions of water in the body, and on the use of baths of different temperatures and their various effects, together with details of

special value to those who seek water-cures. The writer remarks with truth enough that "an invalid who would not venture to prescribe a grain of quinine for himself, will placidly elect a bath-treatment, or even a whole course of mineral waters at a foreign spa, without the least qualm of doubt as to his own fitness for self-direction." The healthy man, as well as the invalid, will find the suggestions of the article relative to ordinary bathing well worth attending to. In the *Easy Chair* Mr. Curtis has one of his best-touched papers on the subject—somewhat a matter of mere wonder to Americans—of "Buffalo Bill's" vogue in the last London season.

—*Scribner's* also has a leading art paper—one of those encyclopædic articles to which the magazines have now accustomed us—in this case, upon the Paris School of Fine Arts. Prof. Shaler continues his scientific papers, discussing in this issue the attractive subject of caverns. He calls attention to the value of observation of the character of life in these dark places as affording a great natural experiment to determine the influence of other elements than selection for survival in modifying the organisms, and thus supplementing and limiting the Darwinian theory of descent. Mr. Brownell contributes a criticism of the French in respect to the good sense which is their characteristic, and the absence of sentiment, broadly speaking, which is their defect. As in most generalizations there is much over-statement of the case proper. He thinks the old Romanized Gallic element in the nation more important than the Celtic ingredient, and attributes to it the fundamental moderation, temperance, and allied qualities in the people; he denies that they have the fanatic spirit, and he affirms that they hate excess. While this may be true in the main, we wish he had at least glanced at the apparent contradiction to all this in the revolutionary spirit which still retains something of noise and fury. In fact, it is by this revolutionary spirit, and not by the intellectual and literary regard for limits to be found in the French, that they have stood forth to the world at large and made "the fool-fury of the Seine" a byword among the English. Mr. Gamaliel Bradford, in an article which deals with the always timely matter of how to govern our cities, returns to his theory of personal responsibility as a main element in democracy, on the ground that the people can vote better for men than for measures. The paper deserves to be carefully read by those whom the subject concerns.

—An English correspondent writes us from Wadebridge, Cornwall, with reference to our remarks on the definition of *biscuit* in the 'New English Dictionary' (*Nation*, No. 1155, p. 138):

"The word *biscuit* always has been used here (locally) and probably throughout Cornwall in the sense in which you use it in the States, *i. e.*, the Webster-Worcester sense. Twenty or thirty years ago it was usually used in this sense, and hard crisp biscuits (except ship-biscuits, which were always called 'biscuits') were called 'hard biscuits.' In many families *biscuit* is still applied to both the soft and hard, but for the most part I notice it used now in the ordinary English sense; but it is still so much used for the soft sort that my wife (an Essex woman) when she came here could not understand what they meant when they used the word."

—The English Dialect Society shows, by its thirteenth report, that there is no lack of material either for collection or for publication. The folk-speech of South Cheshire, of certain localities in the West Riding of Yorkshire; a dictionary of the Kentish dialect; glossaries of Berkshire, Norfolk and Suffolk words, and, most interesting, perhaps, of all, a collection of sea words and phrases made by the late Edward Fitzgerald among the seafaring men of the Suf-

folk coast (revised by him upon the original contribution to *East Anglian Notes and Queries*)—such are some of the newest offerings to the Society. Prof. Skeat is now urgent that a fund be raised for the printing of an English Dialect Dictionary by the University of Cambridge—a worthy parallel and complement of the great enterprise of the sister university. He offers to give a hundredth part of the least sum of \$25,000 for that purpose, and we should hope that his example might be followed, or bettered, in this country, where, indeed, there are many who could, with ease, bear the whole charge, with much glory. Accompanying this report is the second by Mr. Alexander J. Ellis, on his dialectal work from May, 1886, to May, 1887, which consists in mapping England according to the pronunciation of certain vowels and consonants, *e. g.*, in the case of the word *some*, the "sum" and the "sööm" districts. To this report he adds a long bibliographic-historic calendar of his labors in early English pronunciation from 1848 to the present time, accounting for the apparent gaps with a list of intermediate excursions, in mathematics and in music, which alone would be a monument to his enormous diligence.

—Two issues of the Society's series accompany the foregoing, bearing, as usual, the imprint of Trübner & Co. One is a most systematic exhibit of the range, meaning, pronunciation, and etymology of four dialect words, *clem*, *lake*, *nesh*, and *oes*, by Thomas Hallam. *Clem* means to perish of hunger, or to starve; and *starve* is compared with it in a separate section, in which Webster is cited as stating that the word is, in the literary usage of the United States, applied to death from hunger only, not from cold. This is true, but, in the dialectic usage here in the first quarter of the present century, "I'm most starved" could mean "I'm almost frozen." *Lake*, to play, is a variant of our word *lark* (*frollic*). *Nesh* (or *nash*), delicate, is probably still used among us over a wide area. *Oss* (or *ause*), to attempt, is an interesting derivative from the Latin *ausus* through the French *oser*. Mr. Hallam's conspectus is richly illustrated with literary quotations. An excellent piece of work, also, and good browsing-ground for the amateur, is the Rev. R. E. G. Cole's "Glossary of the Words in Use in Southwest Lincolnshire." *Nesh* alone, of the group just noticed, is found in it. Familiar to Yankee ears is *nation* (the oath-adverb of intensity), and to Southern, *pedart*; to journalistic, *newsy*. Southern, too, in our own association, is *naturally* in the sense of really, as in the negro "spiritual"—

"Let me tell you what is nat'rally de fac',
Who is on de Lord's side," etc.

Heartslain (heart-broken) and *pine-house*, "a place where animals are shut up to fast the night before being killed," are distinctly poetic and pathetic; while for a rough metaphor commend us to *market-place*, "the front teeth: as, 'I'll knock your market-place down your throat.'" Of the verb *snickersneeze*, it is remarked: "A term without meaning, used to frighten children." But when, in Thackeray's ballad of "Little Billee," gorging Jack "pulled out his snickersnee," we have a very clear suggestion of a cut-throat knife. We observe, finally, the word *challenge*, "to claim acquaintance with," which we may compare with the use of the word by Pepys when his wife, on February 14, 1666, receiving a call from one Mr. Hill, was disappointed to find he had not come to be her Valentine, yet nevertheless bade him come up, and "challenged [*i. e.*, claimed] him." So we read in "Gulliver": "— which was, therefore, a character we had no pretence to challenge [*i. e.*, lay claim to]."

—Tylor (in his 'Early History,' p. 45) says:

"Shaking hands is not a custom which belongs naturally to all mankind. We may trace its introduction into countries where it was before unknown. The Fijians, who used to salute by smelling or sniffing at one another, learned to shake hands from the missionaries." Tylor is, however, in doubt whether the red Indians learned the hand-shaking custom from whites. His doubts would have been dispelled if he had read Col. Garrick Mallery's treatise on Dactylogy in the first report of our Bureau of Ethnology. We there read (p. 385): "The practice of shaking hands was not until very recently used by Indians, and is even now seldom used by them among each other." It was clearly an importation. Col. Mallery, writing, no doubt, after unsavory experience, calls the practice in dealings with Indians "an annoying etiquette." He adds that this gesture is senseless, inconvenient, and, in the extent to which it prevails in the United States, a subject of ridicule by foreigners. In the hope of displacing the Yankee usage, he describes Japanese salutatory etiquette thus: "As acquaintances come in sight they approach with downcast eyes and averted faces, as if neither were worthy of beholding the other, and then they bow so low as to bring the face on a level with the knees, on which the palms of the hands are pressed." This procedure is not unlike the Egyptian as described by Herodotus (ii, 80). But the style of greeting which finds most favor with Col. Mallery is that in vogue among the Chinese, who shake each his own hands. When two polite Celestials meet, standing a few feet apart, each places the fingers of one of his hands over the other doubled up into a fist so that the thumbs meet, and then shakes his hands up and down in front of his breast. This kind of manipulation will show a higher conception of politeness than ours, in the view of all Presidents. The man who can give the Chinese fashion currency during the Presidential journey now in progress may be sure of the best office in the gift of Mr. Cleveland which the civil-service rules will allow him to bestow. Yet the truth is, that hand-shaking runs down its roots too deep for them to be easily extracted. It reminds of the right hand of fellowship which other apostles gave to Paul. It was already common in the Homeric era. When Ulysses and Diomed returned to the Grecian camp with the horses of Rhesus they had stolen, Nestor welcomed them back, not only with honeyed words, but, before that, "with his right hand," which means, say commentators, a shaking of hands. Not only is this physical contact a medium of sympathy and a gauge of character, it is felt to be an outward and visible sign and recognition of human equality.

A MODERN DIPLOMATIST.

St. Petersburg and London, 1852-1862. Reminiscences of Count Charles Frederick Vitzthum von Eckstedt. Translated by G. F. Taylor. 2 vols. London: Longmans. 1887.

The author of these memoirs was for a number of eventful years Saxon Minister at the Court of St. James's. In this capacity he was in London during the Crimean war, the long campaigns which followed upon the outbreak of the Indian mutiny, through the entire process of the unification of Italy under one sovereign, our own civil war, and the Austro-Prussian campaign which terminated the existence of Saxony as an independent kingdom. His office brought him into close and constant relations with all the leading statesmen of the day in London, and a natural genius for society enabled him to turn his opportunities to the best account. The volumes before us consist chiefly of letters written from London during the period of his residence there, and re-

fect in a lively and not uninteresting fashion the shifting aspects of political opinion in the fashionable circles in which he moved. The Count dignifies this political gossip by calling it "la haute politique"; but "drawing-room politics" would be a more correct description of the contents of his book.

The society to which we are introduced is of the most august description. Kings, emperors, princes, ministers, and ambassadors jostle one another on every page; and talk, it must be acknowledged, in a manner which does eminent discredit to their foresight and discretion. The press is generally credited with the authorship of the many groundless panics which startle the world, and with fear of change perplex the stock exchanges. But if Count Vitzthum's revelations are authentic, this supposition must be given up as calumnious. Sovereigns, statesmen, and diplomatists are the exclusive manufacturers of their own panics. The "ethics of the political bandit" appears to be the accepted rule of conduct among them, and the consequence is that whenever a war breaks out anywhere, they at once leap to the conclusion that all governments will clutch at the opportunity to fish in troubled waters, and seize upon something which is not legitimately theirs. These predictions, happily for the peace and happiness of the world, are rarely verified, because the prophets take no account of the resistance offered by the nature of things. They regard the civilized world as held together by nothing possessed of greater resisting power than "the treaties of 1815," and certain fictions contained only in the books of jurists, and described collectively as "international law." They make no account of the people and their wishes and interests. Arguing from these premises, we find that when the Emperor Louis Napoleon entered upon the campaign of Magenta and Solferino, Count Vitzthum, and all those "who were in a position to know," were absolutely convinced that, after driving Austria out of Lombardy, he would assail Germany on the Rhine, then annex Belgium, and ultimately revenge Waterloo by an invasion of Great Britain. The Count has no patience with the infatuation of the British people who, indifferent to the warnings of the professors of *la haute politique*, chose this critical time of all others to enter into a commercial treaty with France. The design of the Emperor in this transaction was, by a show of friendliness, to lull his intended victims to a sense of a false security; at the same time that, by the cheaper importation to France of British coal and iron, he would enjoy unlooked-for assistance towards completing his preparations for an invasion.

Neither to the Count nor to any of his sagacious friends in London did it occur that this vast scheme of universal aggression could not be carried through a single stage without entailing sacrifices upon the people of France which would drive them to offer a resolute opposition to its further development. The people of France counted for nothing in their vaticinations. They argued that whatever the first Napoleon might have dreamed in his most ambitious moments, his nephew would be able without difficulty to execute; that armies would spring up at a stamp of his foot, all properly organized and disciplined; that France would cheerfully endure any quantity of taxation, and so forth. Actually, as all the world knows, a month's campaign in Lombardy and two great battles so crippled the army of Napoleon that he had to patch up a peace in order to save France from invasion. It is Europe's misfortune to be governed by men so placed that they rarely, if ever, feel in their own persons the sufferings which the silliness of their *haute politique* inflicts upon others. It is barely possible for them to get nearer to the realities of

things than a printed representation in an official report.

"Half ignorant, they turn an easy wheel,
Which sets sharp racks to work to pinch and peel."

How completely the author of these Memoirs has surrendered his mind to the belief that Europe and all that it inhabit is an artificial product put together by sovereigns and statesmen, is seen in his moral indignation at any breach, actual or threatened, of "the sanctity of treaties." He describes as "a piece of thoughtlessness" Lord Palmerston's ingenious device for relieving himself of the responsibility for the disastrous issue of the first invasion of Afghanistan. That war had been undertaken by the noble Lord in the teeth of the warnings of Sir Alexander Burnes, the British resident at Kabul. But Burnes having been killed, Lord Palmerston so doctored his despatches, before laying them on the table of the House of Commons, as to make them appear to advise an invasion which they earnestly condemned. To Count Vitzthum's unaffected astonishment, the House of Commons, when they discovered this "half-forgotten piece of thoughtlessness," became highly indignant, and were with difficulty restrained from turning the culprit out of office. The Count sees nothing worthy of condemnation in this transaction; but the expulsion of Austria from Lombardy and the invasion of Sicily by Garibaldi are described by him as crimes of exceptional enormity. They struck a blow at "the sanctity of treaties." What obligation there was on Garibaldi to respect a treaty to which he was not a party, Count Vitzthum does not say. He takes for granted that every right-minded person will accept, as an adequate ethical ideal, the diplomatic view of the universe.

We cannot commend these volumes as throwing any new light upon the great events with which they deal. They systematically ignore the veritable causes of them, and depict as causes the changing eddies on the surface. But no book is to be despised which illustrates with what a small amount of wisdom the world is still content to be governed; and few books with which we are acquainted do this so copiously as the Memoirs of Count Vitzthum. For American readers it has some specially amusing passages, and we take leave of the book with the following extract (vol. ii, p. 169), merely expressing our surprise that it should have been allowed to pass by Mr. Henry Reeve, who is responsible for the editorial supervision:

"With regard to the man who saved the North at this crisis [the outbreak of the civil war in the United States], I heard afterwards some characteristic details dating back to 1862. In the rising commercial town of Chicago were living, when the civil war began, three friends. One of them was foreman in a tan-yard, at a monthly wage of ten to fifteen dollars. The second was head of a boot-and-shoe shop, and thus was brought by his business into daily intercourse with the first. The third and best-to-do of the three, one Washburne, had some influence with the State authorities. When the war broke out and volunteer corps were formed, and the first misfortunes roused the people, Russell Jones, the shoemaker, reminded Washburne that their friend the tanner, Grant, had been to the military college at West Point, and could possibly render good service to the State by his knowledge of strategy. Washburne mentioned Grant to Governor Yates, who took him into his office. But this did not satisfy Grant. He told his friends that he would return to his tannery unless he was given active employment against the enemy.

"Among the young men who offered themselves as volunteers, there were a number of low fellows and loafers who were ripe for any mischief, and gave much trouble and difficulty to the already overworked police. The Governor proposed to Washburne to appoint Grant as Colonel, on condition that he would at once rid the town of the rabble collected there; form out of this rabble a regiment, and take it away by the next train to join the army. Grant accepted the offer. He was popular with the working classes, and in two days he had a complete regiment under his command, which he purposely led by a circuitous