

young "females" from home and family life (a fact corroborated by one of the latest utterances of the Prussian Minister of Education), one must also consider that books are sometimes heavy—at least all Church Fathers are—and that only full-grown and able-bodied persons ought to be engaged in the handling of them. Hence the Prussian way of doing things. None but men weighing fully 200 avoirdupois and having served from six to ten years in the army, seem to be chosen for that part of the work; and when they are of that description, they can manage the most ponderous tomes (one at a time, of course) with perfect safety to themselves and to others. What with their steady, thoughtful gait; what with the absolute precision with which they have been taught to take a book from the shelf where it has been waiting for you since yesterday when you ordered it, and lay it on the desk of the Doctor who is to deliver it to you; what with the Doctor's careful final examination of the book and your order-slip on which you have previously put down title, author, date, and place of publication, date and place of application for the loan of the book, your name, your residence, and your calling or title; what with an occasional pathetic appeal of the Doctor to a careless student to write a little more legibly; what with the same painstaking, loving, fatherly care that relieves you of the book when you have done with it and insists upon your taking a receipt or voucher for the return of it—what, I say, with all these exquisite, precise, and thoroughly military methods, I have known even our untutored and half-civilized Americans to stand with mouths and eyes wide open, and spontaneously express their wonderment by saying that this was a royal library indeed, nay, as some put it, a "darned" royal library, and that there was nothing like it—no, nor ever would be!

And that's just my opinion, and the reason why I recommend the study of it, and of military and scholastic methods in general, before anything more is done about the Tilden Library. There are other suggestions in regard to minor points, such as airing the delivery-room only on high-feast days and on the Emperor's (say, the President's) birthday; it will prevent a great many people from catching cold, and keep the books from being eaten by that mysterious library moth. I might also mention the subject of cataloguing, but I will only say, by all means avoid the foolish card system. Get good large folios, three or four for every letter, and put them up high enough where the blue-stockings can't get at them. Avoid also a double catalogue, one for subjects and another for authors: they involve too great a loss of valuable time on the part of the officials, who will constantly be obliged to explain to students which is which. But these are considerations of less importance. Only look to it that the thing is done up in a military and scholastic fashion, and the rest will take care of itself.

I have no doubt that the Library authorities here will be glad to assist a committee from New York if notice is given of their arrival a semester beforehand. In fact, I myself shall deem it a privilege to be of any further service in thus indirectly diffusing knowledge and true inwardness of theory. I confess, with somewhat of a blush, that it is nothing but native modesty, or rather democratic prejudice, that keeps me from putting my full name and address to this communication; for if the authorities here knew of my zeal for so noble a royal institution, they might single me out as a fit subject to be decorated with a medal or "Orden," which, as a citizen of a republic, I could

not very well accept. However, I send you my address privately, and remain yours truly,

X.

BERLIN, November, 1888.

ISAAH AND MONTESQUIEU.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION :

SIR: In a review of a new edition of Montesquieu's 'Esprit des Lois,' you say that the division of government powers into three departments, now so generally accepted, is due to his thought, and that it was "not dreamt of" in antiquity.

It must have been in the mind of Isaiah about 730 B. C., when he wrote (ch. 33, v. 22): "For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king."

Truly,

L. N. D.

LOUISVILLE, KY., December 13, 1888.

[Not so. Isaiah can only be quoted to show that he thought the three functions properly united in one person. It is the differentiation of them—the vesting them in separate and independent persons—that is modern.—ED. NATION.]

Notes.

An early copy of Prof. James Bryce's 'American Commonwealth' has come to hand through the courtesy of the publishers, Macmillan & Co. It is in two compact volumes of convenient size and fair aspect, and, if only to be digested deliberately, is readable throughout. We must defer any extended notice of it for a little while; but, both from the author's exceptional mastery and from the collaboration he has secured from American specialists, we have no hesitation in placing this book at the head of those which pretend to treat of our form of government in theory and in its practical working. We bespeak for it the largest possible circulation, and at this season no more fitting gift could be made to any one interested in political inquiry, whether young or old. Taken as a whole, it is an incomparable mine of information and philosophic observation.

J. B. Lippincott Co. have in press a 'Life of Henry M. Stanley,' by H. W. Little; a 'History of the Celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Constitution of the United States,' edited by Hampton L. Carson; and 'A Shocking Example, and Other Sketches,' by Frances Courtney Baylor.

Miss Sally P. McLean, author of 'Cape Cod Folks,' has written a new novel, 'Lastchance Junction,' to be published directly by Cupples & Hurd, Boston.

Longmans, Green & Co., 15 East Sixteenth Street, will be the American publishers of the late Lord Stanhope's 'Notes of Conversations with the Duke of Wellington.' They also promise a collection of the later lyrics of the Englishwoman who writes under the name of "E. Nesbit," entitled 'Leaves of Life.'

Early in the new year will appear the work on 'Remarkable Bindings in the British Museum' (New York: J. W. Bouton), for which Mr. H. B. Wheatley has prepared the text, and which is to contain sixty photogravure plates. This is evidently intended to do for the British collection what M. Bouchot's sumptuous work did for the French; and in recognition of the fact that the French interest in the art of book-binding is greater than the English, there will be a simultaneous edition published in French by MM. Gruel & Englemann. The edition is

limited to two hundred copies in English and two hundred in French. Lovers of the art in America may be interested to know that the catalogue of the recent Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society contained a note on bookbinding as an art and as a handicraft by Mr. Cobden-Sanderson, perhaps the most accomplished binder living; and a report of a recent lecture of his is condensed in the number of the *Book-binder* dated November 28.

Mr. Richard le Gallienne, author of 'My Ladies' Sonnets' in which there were several poems in praise of books, will issue early in 1889 a volume of bookish verse to be called 'Volumes in Folio,' of which there will be but 250 copies in 16mo and 50 on large paper.

The pleasant announcement comes from Paris that M. Jules Lemaitre, perhaps the most brilliant of the younger French authors, will publish early in the new year a volume of short stories, to be called simply 'Des Contes,' and to be illustrated by M. Clairin and others.

Any one who wishes to see how far the United States lag behind in copyright legislation, as compared with the effete monarchies of despotic Europe, may be referred to a comprehensive French work recently compiled (not always quite accurately) by M. Charles Constant, 'Code Général des Droits d'Auteur' (Paris: Pedone-Lauriel; New York: F. W. Christern), in which he will find the full text of the Berne international convention, and French translations of the copyright laws of all the leading states of Europe. An examination of it shows that almost every country in Europe acknowledges the principle of international copyright, and that many of them make no inquiry as to the nationality of an author, extending the protection of their laws as fully to the alien as to the citizen. In no country of Europe (except Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Serbia) is the duration of copyright less than the life of the author. In England it is forty-two years after publication, or seven years after the author's death, whichever period is the longer. In most of the Continental nations, copyright does not expire until thirty years after the author's death. In France and in Belgium the term extends to fifty years after the author dies, and in Spain to eighty years; and this reminds us that even in Mexico the rights of authors are far more carefully guarded by law than in the United States. It is a curious and anomalous fact that the United States should be the first and the most liberal in caring for the inventor by their patent laws, and the last and the least liberal in caring for the author by their copyright laws.

We have already praised the editions of Hugo and Dumas now being issued by Little, Brown & Co., Boston. Two volumes each of 'The Toilers of the Sea' and of 'The Man Who Laughs' have just been added to the former series, and two of 'Twenty Years After' in the 'D' Artagnan romances. The binding is simple but of rich effect, and the typography is capital.

The seventh and eighth volumes of the 'Poetical Works of Robert Browning' have just appeared in the author's latest edition (Macmillan). They contain "In a Balcony" and "Dramatis Personæ," and the first volume of "The Ring and the Book." These attractive volumes are embellished with the familiar Talfourd portrait of Browning (1859), a *scudo* of Innocent XII. with his effigy, and an old title-page in facsimile.

We are glad to greet again Prof. Child's selection of two tales from Malcolm's 'Sketches of Persia'—'Stories from the Persian: Abdulla of Khorassan, and Ahmed the Cobbler' (Cam-

bridge: C. W. Sever; New York: Brentano). They have a perennial freshness.

Gen. H. B. Carrington's 'Patriotic Reader; or, Human Liberty Developed in Verse and Prose' (Lippincott & Co.) awakens expectations by no means fulfilled. It contains nothing whatever drawn from the moral agitation to rid this country of the incubus of slavery. Wendell Phillips is quoted only for his tribute to O'Connell; Sumner for "The Reign of Peace Foreshadowed"; Whittier for "The Battle of Lexington" and his "Centennial Hymn"; Pierpont for "The Pilgrim Fathers" and "Warren's Address"; Beecher for his "Eulogy on Grant"; Seward for "America's True Greatness"; John Quincy Adams for historical utterances; Lowell not at all, Giddings not at all, and so forth. The section (XIII) in which the subject is squinted at is euphemistically entitled, "America Survives the Ordeal of Conflicting Systems"; but ought not "the youth of America" to have had a glimpse of the "irrepressible conflict"? With much good matter, there is a deal of rubbish and padding in this book.

Longfellow's well-known ballad translation from Uhland furnishes the starting-point of a dainty holiday brochure, 'The Story of the Luck of Edenhall,' by Amanda B. Harris (Boston: D. Lothrop Co.). Miss Harris traces from his diaries the first promptings of Longfellow's muse in this instance, compares several ballads in which the "Luck" is commemorated, and tells a little about the Hall and the Musgrave family. Mr. E. H. Garrett supplies appropriate and pleasing designs made on the spot, as well as some imaginative ones (not so commendable) to accompany a metrical moral on the old theme, by Susan Coolidge.

Longfellow's 'Village Blacksmith,' illustrated in colors, with the American imprint of E. & J. B. Young & Co., is a neat little production, in which it is curious to see an English designer give a transatlantic complexion to the hero of the poem and his environment.

Though a commercial enterprise, the idea of 'Some Noted Sculptures and their Homes,' compiled by Mary Graham Duff, and published by the Soule Photograph Co., Boston, is not bad. Some fifty masterpieces of ancient art are described in the words of sundry writers possessing all sorts of qualifications as critics, and are provided each with a blank leaf for mounting the proper photographs—which can be had at such a price of the publishers, or can be procured in any other way. The work is in two volumes.

A new edition of H. D. Sleeper's 'Songs of Harvard' (Cambridge: C. W. Sever; New York: Brentano) has just appeared, with a pretty rubricated cover. The collection is out of the ordinary, and very tastefully printed.

The "George Eliot" and the "Schiller" Calendars are issued by Nims & Knight, Troy, N. Y., each equipped with appropriate background in chromolithograph, with portraits of the respective authors and typical characters from their works. The Schiller pad conveys extracts in the original German and in literal translation. This calendar is given the shape of a fan. The same firm's "Sunshine Calendar" is of a different sort—illuminated monthly cards hung upon a steel rod, with a Cupid design in front and a poem upon the back.

Pretty and novel is the "Author's Calendar" brought out by Greenough, Hopkins & Cushing, Boston—a rose-spray device on a white and gold cover, with each weekly leaf given up to extracts from a single author, Tennyson leading off. Sometimes the month is hit in the quotations, but not always. Yet there was

room for a little aptness here—Herrick for May, Lowell for June, Tom Hood for November, etc.

Sun and Shade for December, according to promise, shows the photogravure, photolithographic, and photogelatine processes applied to a baker's dozen of paintings, engravings, etc., representing children, one being a portrait from life in colors.

L'Art for November 1 opens with a chapter on the "Damnation of Faust," from Adolphe Jullien's new work on Berlioz. The noble volume itself has quickly followed: 'Hector Berlioz: sa Vie et ses Œuvres' (Paris: Librairie de l'Art; New York: Macmillan). We should miss the golden moment of the gift, season if we waited to say our full say about it, after having read it carefully. Its externals in the way of very profuse illustrations—portraits, caricatures, facsimiles of music, and fourteen symbolic lithographic drawings to fit the quarto page, by M. Fantin-Latour—ensure the worth of the purchaser's investment. But M. Jullien's similar monograph on Wagner proved that in matters musical he speaks with large knowledge and authority. Hence our advice is, to buy first of all, and judge afterwards.

The well-known Austrian traveller, Ernst von Hesse-Wartegg, contributes to *Petermann's Mitteilungen* an entertaining account of his recent explorations in Northern Venezuela, and especially of the Lake of Tacarigua or Valencia, interesting as being one of the three freshwater lakes of any size in South America. He notes but few changes in the country since the time of Humboldt's visit, except that the cultivation of indigo and cotton, its principal productions then, has been entirely supplanted by coffee and cacao, the amount exported of the former having increased from one million pounds in 1804 to forty million in 1886. In some districts, agriculture is being relinquished for cattle-raising, with a consequent destruction of the forests and a material decrease of the waters of the lake. This is now thirty miles long by about nine broad, and, though sixty thousand people live near its shores, is almost deserted, only four small canoes being upon it. Prof. O. Krummel discusses in the same number, with the aid of some admirable charts, the old "problem of the Euripus," the cause of its irregular currents or tides, a phenomenon frequently mentioned by ancient writers and used proverbially by Æschines and Aristotle to designate an unstable man; and Emil Schlagintweit explains the meanings of the names of the principal Himalayan peaks, suggesting for the sake of uniformity that the highest should be called Gaurisankar-Everest. A supplemental number contains an unusually well-written description, by H. Michaelis, of his travels in central and western China.

A fine wall-map for students and teachers of Cæsar and later Roman history is that by H. Kiepert of Hither and Farther Gaul and the adjacent countries, just issued by Dietrich Reimer, Berlin. Its range may roughly be described as from Rome to Liverpool and Vienna.

There is a sensible article to be noted in the (Syracuse) *Academy* for December on "Who Shall Teach French or German?" by Dr. A. N. Van Daell of Boston.

In the current *American Journal of Philology* Mr. M. D. Learned continues his papers on the Pennsylvania German Dialect, and Mr. J. D. Prince contributes some interesting observations on the language of the Eastern Algonkin tribes.

The "Ten-Year Book" of Cornell University appears for the second time. It is a list of matriculates as well as graduates, and adds present addresses and (in the case of graduates) a brief

summary of the post-graduate career. In those particulars, the register is, we believe, unique. The labor of preparing it may be estimated.

Two significant "circulars of information" have just issued from the Bureau of Education: the one, "Industrial Education at the South," by the Rev. A. D. Mayo; the other and more extensive, "Thomas Jefferson and the University of Virginia," by Dr. Herbert B. Adams. The latter brochure is beautifully illustrated, and is a monograph of permanent historical value. It combines with its main topic authorized statistics of the chief Southern colleges.

The last of the holiday books come to us from Nims & Knight (Troy, N. Y.), in the form of four thin volumes. The first three of these, 'Celebrated Artists,' 'Gems of Art,' and 'Gems of French Art,' are all built upon the same lines. The first is a collection of etchings, and the two others are collections of photogravures, and the grouping is made on no discoverable principle. As is apt to be the case in such collections, the "gems" are largely paste, though a real stone is to be found here and there. The fourth volume is an edition of Bryant's 'Autumn Pastoral,' with photogravure reproductions of drawings by C. E. Phillips. There is little good to be said of it.

—Mr. Halliwell-Phillips thus writes to an American friend: "I have done nothing in a literary way all this summer, nor have I been capable of doing anything except adding to my collection of Shakespeare rareties. [It is much to do that.] Among my recent acquisitions are a copy of the printed original music to 'Farewell, Dear Heart, since I must needs be gone,' quoted in 'Twelfth Night' (act ii., 3), only one other copy being known; and a manuscript book of travels of the last century containing the earliest account of the interior of Shakespeare's birth-room that has yet been discovered." Bears hibernate through the winter. Mr. Phillips reverses their habit. As he has, to use his own phrase, "lain fallow all summer," Shaksperian students who remember his activities during so many a year are sanguine that he will not let the winter pass without adding to the weighty debt they owe him.

—It will be gratifying to students of science in this country to know that the Cuvier Prize of the French Academy of Sciences, which is awarded triennially for the most important researches in the domain of general natural history and geology, and which has associated with it, among others, the names of Von Baer, Ehrenberg, Richard Owen, Agassiz, and Heer, has been this year decreed to the distinguished president of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Professor Joseph Leidy. Following closely upon the award to the same scientist of the Lyell Medal of the Geological Society of London, and of the Walker Grand Prize of the Boston Society of Natural History, this recognition is a just tribute to the worth of one who has, with a degree of modesty uncommon to men of such eminence, kept himself well in the background among aspirants for fame and honors. There are probably few among the distinguished naturalists of this country who are less generally known than Professor Leidy, yet it is safe to say that during the last quarter of a century he has had no peer among the native-born, nor any co-laborer whose works have been held in higher repute by the savants of both Europe and America. As a comparative anatomist and microscopist, he easily leads the field; and if in the department of vertebrate palæontology he has seen rivals grow about him, it can yet be said that Dr. Leidy was the founder of

the science in this country, and that to his pen belong the records of the first important researches made into the extinct life of the Western Territories. To Dr. Leidy, likewise, humanity is indebted in great part for the determination of the nature of trichina.

—About a year ago, in speaking of the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of Mommsen's Berlin professorship, we remarked regretfully that we could see no sign of the completion of his long-delayed work on Roman constitutional law. When we wrote these words, the wished-for work was, no doubt, already completed, and it has since been published as Vol. III., in two thick parts, making in all 1,336 pages. This great work, in Mommsen's strong and condensed style, in which there is never a word too much, but which is not devoid of the intolerable complexities of German construction, with exhaustive citations and illustrative extracts, and provided with abundant cross-references, may well daunt the most enthusiastic reader in this busy age. It is, nevertheless, whether for reading or for reference, indispensable to all students of the Roman Constitution; and, indeed, it renders unnecessary a great deal of previously necessary reading, at the same time clearing up points which have heretofore been obscure. It is to be noted that in this treatise Mommsen's point of view is that of the lawyer rather than the historian—a point of view which explains, for example, his theory of the relations of the plebs to the clients, in which we cannot but think that the historical question is somewhat obscured by his purely legal treatment. This explains, too, the order of the work—the theory of the magistracy occupying the first volume, the several magistrates the second, the people and the Senate the third. We should, for our part, be tempted to reverse the order, or at least commence the subject with the discussion of the people and their organization. The present volume, after treating of the body of citizens (*Bürgerschaft*), their organization, rights, and duties (assemblies, equites, nobles, etc.), proceeds to take up the classes of qualified citizens and dependent bodies—Latins, *Socii*, etc.—together with the important subject of municipal organization. Part II. (why not call it a separate volume, as it really is?) is devoted to the Senate. In this part, contrary to his usual custom, which is to omit mention of rival theories, Mommsen makes constant mention of Willems's great work, 'Le Sénat de la République Romaine,' which he treats with the respect due to an able antagonist.

—An interesting proof of the widespread interest in the study of that branch of folk-lore relating to popular tales reaches us from the south of Spain, in the shape of a work devoted to Catalan tales. It is entitled, 'Rondallística: Estudi de Literatura Popular ab mostres catalanes inédites' (Barcelona, 1888), and received the extraordinary prize in the Floral Games at Barcelona in the same year. The author, Pan Bertran y Bros, has prefixed to his text an excellent treatise on folk-lore, in which he gives a very clear account of the various theories of the origin and diffusion of popular tales, and proposes a scheme of classification into three classes: sub-human (animals, plants, inorganic natures), super-human (fairies, witches, giants, etc.), and human (man). The twenty-five stories that follow have not been previously published, and are a welcome contribution to our somewhat scanty stock from the Iberian peninsula. Some of the stories are already familiar in other versions: No. 1, *Compare Llop y comare Guineu* is Grimm No. 2, "Cat and Mouse in Partnership" (in the Catalan tale the wolf

and fox are the actors); No. 2, *La Gallina, 'l Gall, la Cabra, 'l Porch, el Llop y la Guineu* is Crane's 'Italian Popular Tales,' lxxxvii, "The Cock"; No. 4, *El Corp, la Guineu, y 'l Llop* is Uncle Remus's "Old Mr. Rabbit, he's a good Fisherman" (*La Fontaine* xi, 6); No. 5, *La Guineu y 'l Griparu*, is Uncle Remus's "Mr. Rabbit finds his Match at Last" (the Amazonian myth of how the tortoise outran the deer); No. 6, *L'Aucellet*, is Grimm No. 47, "The Juniper Tree"; No. 7, *Boquet, Boquill*, is Crane's lxxviii (the story so well known in English of the old woman who found a little crooked sixpence and went to market and bought a little pig); No. 8, *Pere Xich*, is Grimm No. 20, "The Valiant Little Tailor"; No. 10, *Sant Vicens Ferrer y 'l Aprentent*, is Crane's li, "The Lord, St. Peter, and the Blacksmith"; No. 11, *Sant Pere y 'l Ronyó del Bé*, is in the *Cento Nouvelle* No. lxxv, and Grimm No. 81, "Brother Lustig"; No. 14, *La Endevinalla*, is Grimm No. 22, "The Middle"; No. 15, *El Soldat del llibre Marvellós*, is (partly) Grimm No. 61, "The Little Farmer"; No. 18, *El Mitja-Amich*, is the *Disciplina Clericalis* (ed. Schmidt, p. 35). The other stories are of the class of jests, several of them belonging to the cycle of our Lord's travels upon earth, in which St. Peter, as usual, plays a sorry part.

—The title of the work demands notice. It is a new creation from the Catalan word *rondalla* (tale), a term derived from the habit of narrating tales at the winter evening meetings of neighbors, where the stories go round the fire from one mouth to another. The editor states that what he has published constitutes but a small part of the stock he has collected. It is to be hoped that he may be able to publish the rest as a supplement to *Maspons y Labros's* collection ('*Lo Rondallayre*,' Barcelona, 1871-75, 3 vols.), which contains nothing but fairy tales—fables, legends, and anecdotes being entirely wanting.

—There is a certain solitary wasp which regularly lays in a store of five half-dead caterpillars for its coming male grubs and ten for its female. Mr. Galton has lately found out in his Anthropometrical Laboratory, that women who do not wear corsets have a breathing capacity nearly half as great again as that of women who do wear them. An investigation by Lowenfeld, noticed in the last number of the *Journal of Psychology*, makes it plain that neither the weight of the brain nor the convolution of its surface is to be considered as a reliable expression of intellectual development, for they are modified by the length and weight of the body and the thickness of the cortex, but that the supply of blood to the brain is so very variable as to be a matter of great importance. He finds that the relative diameter of the cerebral blood-vessels, per 100 grammes of brain, is in some cases nearly twice as great as in others, and that it increases with increase of age; and he draws the natural conclusion that the capability of continuous mental exertion and the development of talent must depend very largely upon this factor. These three facts are not without a connection. A large amount of food is necessary for the production of a large amount of energy. But the amount of food which the human machine can transform into work depends upon the breathing capacity of the lungs, and that depends upon the amount of air which can be supplied for its combustion, and that depends upon the wearing or the not wearing of corsets. With a generous supply of blood, the proportion of it which can be turned in upon the brain is very variable, and must be capable of being largely influenced

by habit. Hence the amount of intellectual work which can be done by woman it is within her own power to regulate, to a much greater extent than might have been supposed possible. It has been noticed that college women have largely given up the wearing of the corset, and it is doubtless a custom that will become more and more widespread; it would seem strange that any one should care to pour into himself intellectual food at the same time that he carefully shuts off the draft of his furnace and so prevents its utilization.

RECENT POETRY.

IF this age does not build the tombs of the prophets, it at least edits anthologies from the poets, combining and recombining their material in endless repetition. Fortunately, the work is almost always done well, with ample editorial labor in the way of annotating and indexing. We are somewhat tardy in noticing Mr. Sharp's admirable 'Sonnets of this Century' (Whittaker), which includes, indeed, only English poets, yet brings the list down to recent years, and furnishes an indispensable supplement to the collections of Caine, Waddington, and others. A still more valuable work is that of Samuel Waddington, 'Sonnets of Europe' (White & Allen), giving copious translations, not merely from the Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese, but also from realms where the sonnet seems exotic—the French, German, Swedish, Dutch, and Polish. Many of his translations are the work of Americans—Brooks, Bryant, Higginson, Longfellow, Lowell, Norton, Parsons, and Madame Ossoli. It is a volume which recalls curiously the period when the sonnet, in its strict form, came to be temporarily distrusted as un-English; so that Coleridge, writing in 1797 a preface to his own sonnets, declared an English composition on the Italian model to be too difficult and artificial a thing to attempt, and maintained that a sonnet-writer should "consult his own convenience" as to metre, and have "rhymes many or few, or no rhymes at all." This he proceeded to illustrate by publishing a "sonnet" in sixteen lines, with alternate rhymes, composed while climbing Brockley Coomb—although the composition appears in later editions only as "Lines," with all claims to sonneteering discreetly withheld. If Coleridge thought even the Italian sonnet too artificial, what would have been his verdict on the little volume 'Ballades and Rondeaux, Chants Royals, Sestinas, Villanelles, etc.' by Gleeson White (Appletons)? Here we have a cyclopædia of the so-called French forms of poetic art, with many American contributions from Oscar Fay Adams, Bunner, Brander Matthews, Scollard, and others. There is much wit and some wisdom, as well as a great deal of grace and ingenuity, in this little book; but we fancy that Coleridge would have closed it with a slight feeling of *après moi la déluge*. Even the modern reader may turn with some mental unbending to the pretty little volume called 'Elfin Music: An Anthology of English Fairy Poetry,' by Arthur Edward Waite (London: Walter Scott; New York: Whittaker). All the versified fairy tales which charmed his youth will here be found; but why did not the editor include the pretty Irish legend of "The Fairy Reaper," which appeared, some years since, in an English magazine? Mr. Henry F. Randolph has edited 'The Book of Latter-Day Ballads (1858-1888)' (A. D. F. Randolph & Co.), a well-printed and well-edited collection, but somewhat miscellaneous in character. It seems curious that he should omit Kingsley from his list of poets; his omission of Longfellow and some other