

was as pronounced as towards slavery and the pro-slavery religion of the day. He never lowered his standards for the sake of promoting his worldly fortune, and one of the most characteristic and touching passages in this volume occurs in a letter to his future wife, written while he was keeping school in Pennsylvania, and he seemed likely to have to face the question which Prudence Crandall met so nobly in his native State, whether he would deny instruction to any child on account of its color. In these matters, as time went on, his Connecticut townsmen came round to his side, or learned to differ from him and respect him. Like many another "fanatical" and "visionary" and "infidel" abolitionist, he gave them object lessons in practical charity and public spirit. Like Tolstoi, "he obtained permission to plough, fertilize, and sow a worn-out meadow owned by a widow or man too poor to cultivate it, afterwards taking great satisfaction in the sight of the new crop of fresh green herbage which he had produced." He came to be relied upon to settle disputes in town meeting. He gave a powerful lift to the village library, and fostered the social life of a large territory by introducing lecturers and by founding a successful dramatic institution for public objects. His school gave distinction to the place. He taught manliness, purity, and honor rather than a high degree of learning, in ways suggested by his knowledge of human nature, sympathy with boy nature in particular, and eccentric humor. He had no method to transmit or to be formulated for imitation. One feels, from the loving testimony here gathered together, and from his own "Words" preserved in the appendix, that he was a compeer of Evarts, Benjamin Silliman, and Chief-Justice Waite, his classmates at Yale, though his sphere was confined to a little corner of the Nutmeg State.

Olden-Time Music: A Compilation from Newspapers and Books. By Henry M. Brooks. Boston: Ticknor & Co. 12mo, pp. xx, 283.

THE bulk of the material is the apparent excuse for taking this volume out of the somewhat more handy "Olden-Time Series," to which it belongs by every characteristic. It sets out with an account of music in England before the Puritans came over, and it determines the hither limit of the "olden time" in this country by the year 1830, "although a few matters of a later date are incidentally mentioned." Mr. Brooks's method is unfavorable to a general view or distinct impression, yet much information is conveyed in a desultory manner. His reviewer can hardly be more connected. We read on page 33:

"An examination of the earliest 'inventories' in the Probate Office of Essex County [Mass.] fails to find record of any musical instruments appraised in the estates settled there. While every pot, skillet, gridiron, article of wearing apparel, old chair and table, bed, bolster and pillow, silver spoon, pewter dish, bushel of corn—indeed, articles of the most trifling nature—are carefully enumerated, no lutes, citterns, spinets, harpsichords, flutes, or viols are mentioned. This would seem to show that the early settlers did not possess these instruments, or that at least they must have been rarely seen here."

The first church-organ in Salem, purchased in 1743, was the fifth set up in New England; King's Chapel, Boston, having had the first. Dr. Flagg, a Boston dentist, going abroad in 1797, advertised that, if supported, he would "contract in Europe for the construction of a number of organs, calculated to play all tunes usually sung in places of worship, with interludes to each psalm, without the assistance of

an organist." A Broadwood piano of 1791 is preserved at the rooms of the Essex Institute in Salem, and is pictured on page 141. Its contracted keyboard suggests an interesting comparison between the precocity of Mozart and Josef Hofmann as infant performers in public.

Mr. Brooks furnishes a large variety of concert programmes; and when Signor Pucci comes on the scene in 1815, the printer makes diabolic work of his foreign titles, as is the custom even to this day. Thus: "French Air—*a Gevudire Mama*," and "Song—*Alosanfan, du' la Patri (Marseilles Hymn)*." In Salem, in 1816, there was a Jews'-Harp Club, which on February 2 was entreated to be punctual in attendance at a rehearsal of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. The pedal harp was played by Master P. Lewis at an "extraordinary concert" in Boylston Hall, Boston, April 8, 1819, "after seven weeks' practice on that difficult Instrument." We recall no other mention of it in these pages, but as the only index is, oddly enough, one of proper names, our memory must pass for what it is worth. In the same city in 1790, a concert was given "for the benefit of Oliver Barron, one of the unhappy men who were cast away on Grand Manan; by which accident he had the misfortune to freeze his feet to such a degree as to be under the necessity of having them cut off, which has rendered him unable to support himself."

The great instrument-makers, Elias Hook with his organs and Jonas Chickering with his pianos; the first American composer, "William Billings, a native of Boston, in New England," and a genuine "original"; Henry K. Oliver, author of the hymn known as "Federal Street"; and a great number of minor personages, are directly or incidentally the subject of Mr. Brooks's discourse or of his newspaper clippings. He also reproduces some of the older music and some forgotten odes and ballads, and gives several curious delineations of spinets, harpsichords, and pianos, facsimiles of pictorial advertisements, a portrait silhouette, etc.

Christianity, Islam and the Negro Race. By Edward W. Blyden, LL.D., late Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia at the Court of St. James's. London: W. B. Whittingham & Co. 1887.

THE most striking thing to be noted in connection with this book is the personality of its author. Born in the island of St. Thomas, of the purest negro parentage, he went to Liberia in his seventeenth year, and there obtained his education and has spent the larger part of his life. In 1862 he was elected to a professorship in the newly founded College of Liberia, and became President of that institution in 1881. For two years he was the republic's Secretary of State, and in 1877 was appointed Minister to England. He has travelled extensively in Africa, spent some time in Syria acquiring Arabic, and has frequently visited the United States. He has been an acquaintance and correspondent of Lord Brougham, of Dean Stanley and Mr. Gladstone, and of Charles Sumner. When we add that, besides his knowledge of the classics, of Hebrew, Arabic, and several African dialects, he quotes familiarly from German, French, Italian, and Spanish authors, it may be believed that, as has been said of him, he is the most scholarly man of his race now living. And that he is not deficient in the rarer qualities of thorough and patient study, some of the papers in the book before us give abundant testimony. They show broad reading, minute investigation, a surprising mental alertness. As a speaker, according to those

who have heard him in this country, he has an unusually persuasive eloquence.

It would be strange if such a man could have escaped entirely the limitations of his inheritance, and the judicious reader of his pages will not be surprised to find occasional displays of narrow prejudice. One such is seen in his rather laughable displeasure at the custom of writing negro with a small "n." He says of one of the remaining survivors of the original American abolitionists, that he "shows his own conception of the status and functions of the Negro by never using a capital letter in writing the word that describes the race" (p. 113, note). Thus to stick in the bark of a mere question of usage seems particularly ridiculous in view of the fact that Dr. Blyden repeatedly writes "whites" and "white man" with a small "w." In some more important matters, he shows a lack of good mental balance. We will instance his ideas on the proper education of negroes, as propounded in his inaugural address as President of the College of Liberia. He seriously contends for the wisdom of cutting off the great mass of Liberian youth from all knowledge of history, of science, of literature, or philosophy, since the Middle Ages. "We are still held in bondage by our indiscriminate and injudicious use of a foreign literature" (p. 89). "The instruments of culture which we shall employ in the College will be chiefly the Classics and Mathematics. By Classics I mean the Greek and Latin languages and their literature. In those languages there is not, as far as I know, a sentence, a word, or a syllable disparaging to the Negro. He may get nourishment from them without taking in any race-poison. They will perform no sinister work upon his consciousness, and give no unholy bias to his inclinations" (p. 97). These extracts will indicate the author's fanciful idea that the thing which keeps the negro degraded is the knowledge that his ancestors were slaves. He squarely says: "There is nothing that we need to know for the work of building up this country, in its moral, political, and religious character, which we may not learn from the ancients. There is nothing in the domain of literature, philosophy, or religion for which we need to be dependent upon the moderns." To speak of only one of the surprising parts of this educational programme, we cannot help asking if Dr. Blyden means to get on without the idea of personal rights, so peculiarly modern. What does he say to his students, when they come upon the Greek and Roman conception of slavery as the natural and inevitable lot of some classes in society? Or is it simply negro slavery that he is afraid to have mentioned in their hearing?

The two main contentions of the articles and addresses here collected by Dr. Blyden are, first, that the spread of Islam in western Africa has been almost an unmixed good to the tribes brought under its sway, and, second, that Christian missions to Africa, as at present conducted, will continue to be failures until they are put into the hands of natives. Liberia, he thinks, is to become the great source of evangelizing influences, and its future position as the leading African power and civilizer is to be assured, he believes, by the emigration of hundreds of thousands of negroes from the United States to the home of their fathers. As a speculation, this seems to us hardly worth discussing; but we must seriously question some of Dr. Blyden's statements of fact on this subject. He positively asserts that there are "thousands and tens of thousands" of the colored population of the United States who, "in various parts of the country, are asking for aid to reach the land of their fathers." In an

address delivered before the Colonization Society, in 1880, he said that "there are thousands of Negroes, in comfortable circumstances here, who are yet yearning after the land of their fathers." But if "in comfortable circumstances," why not go at once at their own expense? Why "ask for aid"? The truth is, that there is a woful want of definiteness and absence of proof in all these broad statements. If they were true, it is incredible that nothing should have been heard of them in the press of this country. We have been warned of a great many imminent negro "exodus" to various parts of the world, but never of a single one to Liberia. Dr. Blyden may be entirely correct, but we cannot be expected to believe it without a scrap of evidence. In the absence of that, we must rather think that his vague assertions rest wholly upon equally vague assurances of sympathy for his project, given him, here and there, as a result of his impassioned appeals. If there is anything more than this back of what he says, it was inexcusable in him not to have declared it; not to have given a single name of man or locality, nor a single application for transportation to Liberia, nor a single reference to persons who could substantiate his allegations. He admits that no considerable emigration is to be looked for without Government aid. That he should think this obtainable marks him as a highly sanguine spirit; that he should think that if it were obtained, "the emigration might be so excessive as to imperil the vital interests of the colony," that "the ambitious and turbulent" could be excluded and "thousands of industrious, hard-working farmers and mechanics" induced to go, seems to us a proof almost of temporary mental aberration.

What Dr. Blyden has to say about the relative achievements and prospects of Mohammedanism and Christianity in Africa is, of course, entitled to great respect from his position and opportunities. He cannot, however, blame the advocates of Christian missions if they argue from his exaggerating and enthusiastic habit of speech, as exemplified elsewhere, that he is more forensic than judicial in his discussions of these points. But it cannot well be doubted that he strongly reinforces the testimony going to show that, in west Africa at least, Islam has worked for civilization and moral improvement. A Christian himself, his profound conviction that the methods of Christian missions in Africa need radically to be changed, ought to receive at least a patient hearing from the authorities whom he addresses.

Ireland. By the Hon. Emily Lawless. [The

Story of the Nations.] G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1888.

It was not without considerable misgivings that we opened this book. Miss Lawless's conception of the Irish character in 'Hurrish,' and her close connection with one of the families most opposed to the Irish people on the land question, did not appear to us to qualify her for the task she had undertaken. A careful examination of the book proves that we were mistaken. It is an honest piece of work. The author does not accord sufficient merit to the supremacy in some respects of the early Christian art of the country, or realize the iniquity of the means by which Pitt's Union was accomplished, or give any key to the present troubles. We cannot agree with her that the struggle "has been almost wholly an agrarian one," or that we have no precedents to guide us in discounting the possible effects of home rule. There are a few unimportant slips as to dates and statements; but on the whole we have seldom met a work of the kind more conscientiously written, or which we could more unhesitatingly recommend. Many of the maps and illustrations are admirable. We must, however, enter our protest against the insertion of so many old engravings, which have been doing duty hither and thither for the past forty years, and to the distressing inequality in the scale of the portraits; nor is the selection of subjects for portraiture altogether happy.

Introductory Steps in Science, for the use of schools. By Paul Bert. Translated by Marc F. Vallette, LL.D., revised and enlarged by John Mickleborough, Ph.D. Appletons. 1887. 8vo, xiv, 363 pp., illustrated.

In the *Nation* of February 4, 1886, was noticed the version by Madame Bert of her husband's classical little manual for young children. The present work, by its title-page, purports to be an original translation, but the internal evidence would indicate that Madame Bert's language has been adopted almost bodily. It has been modified here and there, usually for the worse as regards style (although the original was literal and somewhat rough), and in the direction of inaccuracy as regards statement. The additions for the most part are such as tend to take away the elementary and harmonious character of the original, by inserting data more suitable for older students or remarks which are sometimes ludicrously pedantic.

The substitution of American animals and illustrations for those more familiar to European children which are given by Bert, would be an improvement if done with judgment; and larger cuts are to be preferred to those of the original. But the zoological part has evi-

dently been revised by a person having little qualification for such a task; the cuts err on the side of excess, and, having been prepared for other works and merely utilized here, are not as well suited to the purpose as one might wish. By their insertion the book has been made larger and more costly, but, on the whole, we should prefer for our own use Madame Bert's original version with all its faults.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Barrows, W. The Indian's Side of the Indian Question. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. \$1.
- Bonar, J. Letters of David Ricardo to Thomas Robert Malthus. 1810-1820. Macmillan & Co. \$2.75.
- Canadian Leaves: A Series of New Papers Read before the Canadian Club in New York. Napoleon Thompson & Co.
- Child, Rev. F. S. Courage and Comfort that Concern the Ministry of Trouble. Baker & Taylor Co.
- De Vere, A. Essays, Chiefly on Poetry. In 2 vols. Macmillan & Co. \$4.
- Gage, Dr. A. P. Introduction to Physical Science. Boston: Ginn & Co.
- Gordon, Anna A. The White Ribbon Birthday Book. Chicago: Woman's Temp. Pub. Association. \$1.
- Great Authors, from Goldsmith to Wordsworth. T. Nelson & Son.
- Harte, B. A Phyllis of the Sierras, and A Drift from Redwood Camp. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.
- Hufferst, E. W. English in the Preparatory Schools. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.
- Lindley-Widney. California of the South. Complete Guide-Book. Illustrated. D. Appleton & Co. \$2.
- Mitchell, S. W. A Masque, and Other Poems. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.50.
- Monteith, J. Familiar Animals and their Wild Kindred. Van Antwerp, Bragg & Co.
- Olipphant-Aldrich. The Second Son: A Novel. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.50.
- Pearson, K. The Ethics of Free Thought: Essays and Lectures. London: T. Fisher Unwin.
- Pelley, G. Woman and the Commonwealth; or, a Question of Expediency. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 50 cents.
- Rogers, J. E. T. A History of Agriculture and Prices in England, from 1259 to 1793. Vols. v. and vi. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Ruete, Emily. Memoirs of an Arabian Princess. An Autobiography. D. Appleton & Co. 75 cents.
- Slater, J. W. Sewage Treatment and Utilization. D. Van Nostrand.
- Southwick, A. T. A Quiz Book on the Theory and Practice of Teaching. C. W. Bardeen.
- The Hereafter. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. 25 cents.
- The Silent Dormitory, and Other Poems. By Ala. John Lockwood.
- Webster, Augusta. The Sentence: A Drama. Scribner & Welford.
- Weeks, Caleb S. Pope's Essay on Man, with Responding Essay: Man Seen in the Deepening Dawn. Fowler & Wells Co.
- Welch-Duffield. Cæsar: Helvetic War. Macmillan & Co. 40 cents.
- Weldon's Fancy Costumes for Fancy Dress Balls, &c. Dick & Fitzgerald. 50 cents.
- Wells-Bedford. Sonnets of Love and Life. Frederick A. Stokes & Bro.
- Wells, Kate Gannett. Miss Curtis: A Sketch. Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$1.25.
- Wenckebach-Schrakamp. Deutsche Grammatik für Amerikaner. 4th ed. Henry Holt & Co.
- Westall, W. Her Two Millions; The Story of a Fortune. Harper's Franklin Square Library. 25 cents.
- West, Mary Allen. Childhood: Its Care and Culture. Chicago: Woman's Temperance Publication Association. \$3.50.
- What Shall We Talk About? or, Things that Every One Ought to Know. Illustrated. Thomas Nelson & Sons.
- Whittaker's Almanack for 1888. Thomas Whittaker. 40 cents.
- Whiting, C. E. A New Part-Song and Chorus Book. For High Schools, &c. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.
- Whitton, Dr. J. M. Turning Points of Thought, and Conduct. Thomas Whittaker. \$1.
- Whitney, Mrs. A. D. T. Bird-Talk: A Calendar of the Orchard and Wild-Wood. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.
- White, W. D. Practical French. Henry Holt & Co.
- Wiggin, Kate Douglas. The Bird's Christmas Carol. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 50 cents.
- Wilson, J. H. The Life and Services of Brevet Brigadier-General Andrew Jonathan Alexander, U. S. A. Public Service Publication Co.
- Zola, Emile. La Terre. Paris: Charpentier.

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Macdonell, Ph.D. 126 pp. Teachers' price, 35 cents; by mail, 38 cents.

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SCHILLER'S JUNGFRAU VON ORLEANS. New edition, edited by A. B. Nichols, late Instructor in German in Yale University. 145 pp. Teachers' price, 40 cents; by mail, 44 cents.

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