

Negro Myths from the Georgia Coast, Told in the Vernacular. By Charles C. Jones, jr., LL.D. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1888.

Two pleasant surprises await the reader of this book, viz., that so many additions can still be made to the store of "Uncle Remus," and that Mr. Jones's transcription of "the vernacular" is worthy to be ranked with Mr. Harris's. This Georgia-coast dialect is nothing else than the primitive speech of Daddy Jack, but, as here rendered, it will be found, owing to its syntax, especially, much harder to understand, and especially to read aloud, than its forerunner in 'Nights with Uncle Remus.' It is a little complicated, too, by some phonetic inconsistencies, as when *for* is written in two ways in a single paragraph—"fur eat," "fuh eat" (p. 25), or again, "fur me" (p. 3) compared with "fuh mo" (p. 15). This may very well represent a divided usage, also observable in the curious locative word *duh* or *der* (in the, of the, to the, into the, etc.), e. g., "Eh see de King Crab duh squat een de water duh bottom er de boat"; "een de closet duh garret"; "fuh feed ehself un eh fambly duh winter time"; "eh gone der bottom." The identical meaning of these two forms is not pointed out in the glossary, nor is *duh* (which is much the commoner in Mr. Jones's handling) allowed the above signification at all; "was" and "were" being the sole recognized equivalents. Apparently this sense is assigned to a very prevalent and curious use of *duh*, to form the only present participle employed in this collection. In the examples which we shall now give, however, *duh* seems rather to stand for "do" with the infinitive: "Eh couldn't ketch um duh tief de water"; "Wen Buh Wolf yent duh watch um" (wasn't watching him); "Wuh you duh do yuh anyhow?" "Buh Tukrey Buzzard rise wid de Crab duh heng on ter eh leg"; "Eh meet Buh Rabbit duh siddown duh wait [sitting down waiting] fuh hire somebody fuh cahr him meat ter him house," etc. Another unfamiliar term is *blan*, as: "Enty you blan tek water outer me spring?" (ain't you in the habit of taking). Finally, the substitution of *b* for *v* is noticeable: *mobe* (move), *bex* (vex, vexed).

When we come to the substance of the fables, we find no inconsiderable number which are mere variants of Uncle Remus. Such are the widespread myth of the race between deer and tortoise, the ever-delightful Tar Baby, Buh Wolf ridden in triumph by Buh Rabbit, the stories of "Buh Rabbit, Buh Fox, an de Fisherman," of "Buh Rabbit, Buh Wolf, de Dog, an de Goose" and the parallel "Buh Rabbit, Buh Wolf, an de holler tree," of "Buh Alligatuh, Buh Rabbit, an Buh Wolf" (Daddy Jack's imitable "Brother 'Possum gets in trouble"), etc. Mr. Jones undertakes no framing of his fables—no machinery of the cabin and its inmates—so that, dialect apart, there is a direct comparison between his mode of narration and Mr. Harris's, whose greater art is well exhibited in the common tale of the 'coon and the 'possum. On the other hand, Mr. Jones's appended morals are very pithy and taking—as, touching saying grace at the right time, "Bes plan fuh er man fuh mek sho er eh bittle [victuals] befo eh say tenky fuh um."

Buh Rabbit remains the hero of this black folk-lore; but though his "schemy" character is again and again illustrated, not without occasional disapprobation, it cannot truly be said of him, "Ebry time you yeddy bout Buh Rabbit, you fine um duh come out head." In the division of the cowmeat, he is cheated out of his portion by Buh Pattridge, contrary to his better luck on a similar well-known occasion. And we may say here that the birds play an interesting part in this collection. The impudent Buh Sparruh, who "yent much fur wuk," rivals Buh Rabbit in laziness and untruthfulness. The parable of the fowl-hawk who, "Lord er no Lord," in a season of scarcity, "manage fuh fine all him want fuh eat," but impales himself by mistake on a stump, and so furnishes a meal to the starving but still pious buzzard, is irresistible. "De man wuh trus in ehself," moralized Daddy Sandy, 'guine fail; wile dem dat wait topper de Lord will hab perwision mek fur um.'" The alligator, as was to be expected, cuts a relatively conspicuous figure in these pages.

We must not close without mention of the stories distinctly derived from Europeans, like "De Debble an May Belle" (Bluebeard), "De Two Fren an de Bear" (Æsop), "Buh Lion, Buh Rabbit, Buh Fox, an Buh Roccoon" (a very noticeable version of Herodotus's story of Agamedes, the thieving architect of the treasure-house of Rhampsinitus, whose unhappy rôle is here taken by the coon), and such Orientalisms as "De King an eh Ring" and "De Ole King an de Noug King." For these, as well as for the strictly African myths, Mr. Jones and his publishers deserve the hearty thanks of the reading public.

The Chess-Player's Manual. By G. H. D. Gossip. Revised and edited and with an American appendix by S. Lipschütz. Geo. Routledge & Sons.

It may be said of books on chess as the Kentuckian said of brands of whiskey—some are better than others, but all are good. The game stands supreme among intellectual amusements: its combinations are infinite, and its fascinations imperishable. There cannot be too many books about it. From the inexhaustible field of discovery every faithful laborer can bring something of interest. In this age we have chess-writers, chess-players, chess champions, and chess clubs, and there is no danger that the noble game will die or even decay; but it is to be regretted that it has not a stronger hold at the fireside. Properly speaking, it has no rival, but there are amusements, some of them evil, which to a great extent supplant it. Of the young people of the present day probably ten know the value of a "flush" and a "full"—and know it "for stamps," as they say—where one knows the difference between a bishop and a knight.

The manual before us is an octavo volume of 882 pages, published in 1874, and now republished with an appendix of 120 pages by the champion of the Manhattan Club of New York. The original work and the appendix are valuable in themselves, and, taken together, they may be regarded as exhaustive of

the subject to the present date. The large bulk of the volume is due, of course, to the heavy demand made upon space in presenting tabular statements of games necessary to explain the openings, and to show by the games actually played by the best players the changes that time has produced in attack and defence. The work is commendable not only to beginners, but to the most advanced chess students.

Homestead Highways. By Herbert Milton Sylvester. Boston: Ticknor & Co. 1888.

THIS volume is in the same style as the author's previous 'Prose Pastorals,' and describes scenes of New England life of the sort of which Whittier's 'Snow-Bound' is the lasting memorial. The greater part of the volume is taken up with pictures of the snow-storm on the eve of Thanksgiving, the drive to the meeting-house and the sermon by the old pastor, the farm-house dinner, and the fag-end of the day; and in a second paper the opening of the district-school, the scenes of school-boy life, and the personality of the teachers. The remaining chapters lack the directness and concentration of these two. The style is pleasant, and always touched with that reverence for the early days of country life, and loving reminiscence of them, which are traits of the New England nature; and in living the old time over in these sketches the author has depicted it with such reality and simplicity that his own past has the value of a type, and will be a welcome reminder to the lovers of this kind of literature, who are not few, of the humble annals of many country homes.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Adams, J. C. The Fatherhood of God. Boston: Universalist Publishing House.
- A Strange Manuscript Found in a Copper Cylinder. Harper & Bros.
- Baumbach, R. Summer Legends. Thomas Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.25.
- Brislin, Gen. J. S. Trees and Tree Planting. Harper & Bros.
- Brooks, N. Abraham Lincoln: A Biography for Young People. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.75.
- Christianity and Evolution; Modern Problems of the Faith. T. Whittaker. \$1.50.
- Cobb, S., Jr. Orion, the Goldbeater. Cassell & Co. 50 cents.
- Daudet, A. Partners; or, Fromont, Jr., and Risler, Senior. Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co.
- Eaton, A. W. The Heart of the Creed: Historical Religion in the Light of Modern Thought. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.
- Fishwick, H. The Registers of the Parish Church of Rochdale in the County of Lancaster. 1582-1616. London: Trübner & Co.
- Gielgud, A. Memoirs of Prince Adam Czartoryski and his Correspondence with Alexander I. 2 vols. With Portraits. Scribner & Welford.
- Goode, G. B. American Fishes: A Popular Treatise upon the Game and Food Fishes of North America. Illustrated. Standard Book Co.
- Goodwin, J. A. The Pilgrim Republic: An Historical Review of the Colony of New Plymouth, etc. Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$4.
- Griffiths, A. The Wrong Road. Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co. 25 cents.
- Gröber, Prof. G. Grundriss der Romanischen Philologie. III. Lieferung. Straassburg: Karl J. Trübner.
- Hadley, A. Life of Walter Harriman. With Selections from his Speeches and Writings. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$2.50.
- Hahn, Anna E. Summer Assembly Days; or, What was Seen, Heard, and Felt at the Nebraska Chautauqua. Boston: Congregational Publishing Society. \$1.
- Harte, B. The Argonauts of North Liberty. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.
- Hewlett, H. G. A Wayfarer's Wallet. London: George Redway.
- Hill, G. A. Lessons in Geometry for the Use of Beginners. Boston: Ginn & Co. 75 cents.
- Hinsdale, Prof. B. A. The Old Northwest: with a View of the Thirteen Colonies as Constituted by the Royal Charters. Townsend MacCorm. \$2.50.
- Hirsh's Tabulated Digest of the Divorce Laws of the United States.
- Howells, W. D. The Minister's Charge. Boston: Ticknor & Co. 50 cents.
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