

HIGH-PRICED BREAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I notice that some of the labor organizations have adopted resolutions protesting against the recent advance in the price of bread, and denouncing "Old Hutch" as a public enemy. So far as these organizations are supporters of Harrison, is not this action somewhat inconsistent? They object to cheap clothing, because, as Mr. Harrison says, a cheap coat implies a cheap man under the coat. Or, to take the ordinary Protectionist view, if high-priced wool and woollen goods benefit the laboring man by stimulating industry, is not this much more true of high-priced bread? We produce ourselves but a moiety of the wool and woollens we consume; but we produce all, and much more than all, the wheat and flour. If, therefore, it is an advantage to workingmen to make woollen goods artificially dear, it should be a much greater advantage to make bread artificially dear. Assuming that "Old Hutch" is really responsible, instead of denouncing him as a public enemy, they should laud him as a public benefactor. J. M. L. S.

DAYTON, OHIO.

THE NORTHERN CONSUMER'S VIEW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: It is frequently urged by Republicans (I see by your issue of the 25th inst. that the *Boston Commercial Bulletin* has recently taken up the cry again), that the Mills bill sacrifices Northern to Southern interests, the contrast being usually made between wool and sugar. As regards these articles, certainly, there is an answer to be made which must appeal to every man and woman who is not above counting the cost of the necessaries of life.

Sugar is probably used to the same amount per head in all parts of the country (unless, indeed, its presence in mint juleps raises the Southern average), so that, while all who look at the tariff from the consumer's standpoint would have been glad had the Mills bill done more for them in this respect, Northerners cannot complain that they are worse off than Southerners.

With wool the case is different. That part of the country which would be most benefited by any lowering of the present exorbitant price of all kinds of woollen goods is obviously the North, because, being the colder region, it uses far more wool, both for clothes, blankets, and carpets, than does the sunny South.

I believe that, as a matter of fact, the South raises more wool than the North (Mr. Mills's own State, as you point out, raising the most of all), so that the charge of sectionalism is groundless; but, even apart from this, it is clear that, as far as free wool—the most radical and probably the most criticised feature of the Mills bill—affects the interests of the mass of the community, the North is favored by that measure far more than the South. C. C. B.

PHILADELPHIA, October 26, 1888.

A CORRECTION FROM BISHOP BECKWITH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In your issue of October 18, page 305, I find what purports to be a quotation from me in these words: "The old-fashioned Gospel of Christ and Him crucified has satisfied the world for centuries, but a new era is upon us." I certainly never intended to make such a statement, nor do I think that I ever did. What I tried to say—and thought I did say—was, that "the old-fashioned mode of preaching the

Gospel of Christ and Him crucified has satisfied the world for centuries, etc." I think that the sentence with which I am credited in the *Nation* conveys the idea that, in my judgment, the new era which is upon us demands some change in "the old-fashioned Gospel of Christ and Him crucified." Nothing can be farther from my belief. I do not think that those who heard me misunderstood my meaning, which was simply this: The faith of many of our young men in the fundamental truths of the Christian religion is being shaken; therefore, instead of the old-fashioned mode of preaching the Gospel, which took for granted the soundness of this faith, our preaching should be in defence of the faith and in answer to those who deny it.

My faith in the "old-fashioned Gospel of Christ and Him crucified" is the very foundation of all my hopes; and the study of the "new theories" which characterize this age has only strengthened my belief in the statement of the great master of induction—the Apostle Paul—that "the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even His everlasting power and divinity."

Trusting that you will pardon my troubling you, and that you will do me the favor to make for me the desired correction, believe me

Most respectfully yours, etc.,

JOHN W. BECKWITH, Bishop of Georgia.
ATLANTA, GA., October 26, 1888.

PROF. PAYNE ON GERMAN BOOKS ON EDUCATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I leave it for your readers to judge whether the two sentences quoted below in parallel columns are equivalent. The first contains what Prof. Payne *did* say, the second what, according to his letter in your last issue, he *intended* to say:

"To be even approachable, a German work on the philosophy of education needs to be translated twice, first into English and then into English common sense."

"The speculations of a German educational philosopher frequently need, not only to be turned literally into English, but to be paraphrased in order to come within the ready comprehension of the ordinary reader."

The sentence at the right, as I understand it, expresses a commonplace which applies to any book in any language, if "the ordinary reader" means one reading his own language only. I neither took Prof. Payne's original utterance in that sense, nor do I look upon the teachers in whose midst it was made as ordinary readers. Rather than charging one who fails to give to his original statement the sense of his subsequent interpretation with "a gratuitous assumption . . . for an unworthy purpose," it behooved Prof. Payne to say what he intended to say, and to state the *worthy* purpose for which it was said.

Mr. Drew's remarks are for the most part irrelevant; the question is not one of the merit of German literary style, especially not of the style of authors who lived and died before the vast majority of the most valuable works on education were written. I felt justified in bringing this subject to the notice of your readers, considering that it must be of some interest to them to know how far university students of pedagogy are encouraged to pursue that science in a broad and scholarly spirit. On this point Mr. Drew's letter throws no light whatever. Yet he will admit that Matthew Arnold and Mr. Hosmer could not have given us their valuable contributions to the study of

German education and literature, had they been frightened in their early manhood by the horrors of the "awful German language." It is also clear that occasional criticisms of the defects of German style from the pens of such writers can neither appear ungracious nor repel any student. Y.

Notes.

A. D. F. RANDOLPH & Co. will publish immediately 'The Historical Memorials of Canterbury,' in a limited large-paper edition uniform with Dean Stanley's 'Memorials of Westminster,' 'The Autobiography and Memorials of Samuel Irenæus Prime,' edited by Wendell Prime; 'The Testimony of Justin Martyr to Early Christianity,' by the Rev. Geo. T. Purves; 'The Only Way Out,' a story of doubt and belief, by Leander S. Keyser; and 'The Peerless Prophet,' a Life of John the Baptist, by the Rev. Archibald McCullagh.

Additional announcements by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. are 'The Witch in the Glass, and Other Poems,' by Mrs. S. M. B. Piatt; 'A Blockaded Family,' a story of the war from the Southern side, by Mrs. Parthenia Hague; and 'People and Countries Visited in a Winding Journey Around the World,' by O. W. Wight.

T. Y. Crowell & Co. have nearly ready an unabridged translation—the first ever made—of Tolstoi's 'What to Do,' in an inexpensive popular form; 'Her Only Brother,' from the German of "Heimburg" (Bertha Behrens); and 'Scotch Caps,' by J A K, a story for young folks.

The Victor Hugo furore still prevails. Estes & Lauriat of Boston and W. R. Jenkins of New York have in hand a magnificent illustrated two-volume edition of 'Notre Dame de Paris'—the former firm in a new translation by A. L. Alger, the latter in the original French, with adornments in common. There will be nearly 200 illustrations, sixteen of them aquarelles. The University Press, Cambridge, will manufacture the work, of which there will be 500 copies in each set.

Encouraged by the great success of their most beautiful edition of 'L'Abbé Constantin,' with photogravure illustrations by Mme. Madeleine Lemaire, MM. Boussod, Valadon & Cie. are going to issue this year a similar edition of M. Guy de Maupassant's 'Pierre et Jean,' with illustrations by M. Duez and M. Lynch. The choice of book is not so happy. M. Halévy's novel was delightfully brisk and perfectly proper, while M. Maupassant's is sombre, analytic, and rather unpleasant in tone.

'The Curse of Marriage,' a novel by Walter Hubbell, is in the press of the American News Co.

Much interest should attach to 'The Life and Letters of Mary Howitt,' edited by her daughter, of which the English publishers will be the Messrs. Isbister; and to 'Dante Gabriel Rossetti as Designer and Writer: Notes by W. M. Rossetti,' which Cassell & Co. will issue.

We learn with great pleasure that Macmillan & Co. are about to issue, for the Society of Dilettanti, a new edition of Penrose's invaluable 'Principles of Athenian Architecture,' the result of the author's recent year in Athens. The greater part of the present book will remain as it is, but there will be much new matter relating to the Erechtheion; the temple adjoining it, of which the remains were brought to light not long since; the Propylæia; the older

Parthenon; and the Temple of the Olympian Zeus; and a number of plates will be added.

Apropos of the Erechtheion, in the destruction of the so-called "Odysseus bastion," erected by the Greek general of that name at the northwest corner of the Acropolis, an inscription was discovered last spring which appears to be a portion of the famous building account of the Erechtheion. It is of especial importance, because it proves that this temple had a pediment (*aietés*) at both its eastern and its western end, and therefore a pointed roof—a fact that has never been established before. The inscription is published, but not described, by Lolling in the last number of the Athenian *Mittheilungen des Instituts*.

Four holiday gift-books on our table bear the imprint of J. B. Lippincott Co. The best of these is not new, except in size, being Keats's 'Lamia' with the notable illustrations of Will H. Low, which suffer less than might have been expected by the present reduction, and, decoratively viewed, hardly any. The book is now handy for enjoyment of the poem as well as of the designs, is less cumbersome, and still makes a handsome show on the centre-table, the cover being very tasteful and ornamental. Altogether crude and uninspired are the etchings which are supposed to add something to the classical texts of Goldsmith's 'Traveller' and Goethe's 'Hermann and Dorothea.' Only the typography of the former can be praised: that of the latter is much too condensed for beauty. Both these volumes have a smart binding in leatherette, or "new-style leather." The last book of the above group is 'Béranger's Poems,' a collection of upwards of fifty translations gathered together by Mr. William S. Walsh. He has, he says, been careful to omit what was indelicate; but as the collection is truly representative, this point can hardly be insisted on—witness Thackeray's version of "Le Grenier," to mention no others. The most of the translations are by William Young, William Maginn, and Robert Brough; more than a fourth are anonymous. Half a hundred unexceptional renderings of so difficult a poet were not to be counted on. "Les étoiles qui filent" is an example of failure not without excuse. The volume is well printed, has a few explanatory notes, and a number of copies of old-fashioned steel plates that adorned some early French edition. The binding is attractive.

The illustrated edition of Henry C. Work's well-known poem 'Marching through Georgia' (Ticknor & Co.) does not achieve distinction. The best woodcut is a portrait of Gen. Sherman, which serves as a frontispiece.

In Margaret Sidney's 'Old Concord, her Highways and Byways' (D. Lothrop Co.), the purchaser will find both a practicable guide-book to this historical locality and an agreeable fireside itinerary. The pleasant discourse is much aided by very judicious selections of bits of scenery, houses, interiors, etc., copied after nature by "process" engraving. These are charming enough. Among them occurs the Public Library, and one can but feel that this institution is a better guarantee of the permanence of what was good and great in the past of the quiet town than the richest of historical associations and traditions, and the various memorial monuments and tablets exhibited in this handsome volume.

We may fitly join with the foregoing a brief mention of Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney's 'Louisa May Alcott, the Children's Friend' (Boston: L. Prang & Co.). This is an unaffected account, for children, of the life of Miss Alcott, especially as reflected in her juvenile stories, and has been written with the utmost good

taste and sobriety. A few pen-drawings of homes and residences are scattered through the text. An appendix preserves a few family poems by Miss Alcott and her father.

Likewise for children is the 'Longfellow Remembrance Book' (D. Lothrop Co.), the work of several hands, but the poet's brother and biographer has the largest and the best share in it. He has the knack of addressing the young, and tells them here nothing that will fail to interest them. There are numerous helpful illustrations.

Geo. Routledge & Sons send us two fancy almanacs for 1889. That designated "The Kirmess Almanac" we can only say is appropriately illustrated—not very well—with dancing groups of various nationalities. Kate Greenaway's smaller Almanac is in her usual vein of pastoral daintiness, with no change in the dramatic personæ or in her color scheme, and with little art in drawing where the puppet model does not serve. Herrick, Milton, and Shakspeare furnish the sole text.

'A Winter Picnic,' by J. and E. Dickinson and S. C. Dowd (Henry Holt & Co.) gives a chatty description of the pleasant spending of several months in Nassau by a party of ladies, and of their modest housekeeping there. The most interesting portions relate the peculiarities of the colored population. The length of the book is out of proportion to its attractiveness, and the too frequent careless familiarity of the style borders on rudeness to the reading public. However, it may be useful as a guide-book.

An amusing illustration of the public demand for sugar-coated instruction is 'Molly Bishop's Family,' by Catherine Owen (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.). Under the guise of a story, we find a sort of compound treatise on domestic matters: for instance, on the training of babies, the choice of furniture, the financial and culinary management of a small boarding-house, etc., not to speak of recipes for meat-pies and other things. Fortunately, good sense pervades it, and no doubt it will prove useful to many.

It is with great pleasure that we record the publication of 'The Dramatic Year, 1887-1888, Brief Criticisms of Important Theatrical Events in the United States,' edited by Edward Fuller (Boston: Ticknor & Co.), because it shows that a literary interest in the acted drama is increasing; and as this interest is brought to bear, it will in time have its effect on the contemporary stage—an effect which cannot but be wholesome. Mr. Fuller's preface intimates that this is probably the first of an annual series, and we trust that its success will encourage him. The volume contains twenty-seven papers on important plays, performances, and productions, seen in New York and Boston during the past theatrical season. These papers were written by the editor, in part, and in part by Messrs. H. M. Ticknor, L. H. Weeks, G. E. Montgomery, J. R. Towse, C. T. Copeland, and B. E. Woolf (who supplies an analysis of "Ambitious Amateurs," i. e., Mrs. Langtry, Mrs. Potter, Miss Banks, Miss Mather, et al.). Mr. William Archer contributes an incisive review of the London theatrical season of 1887-1888, which he says will be marked in his memory "by two delightful pictures, indelibly printed—the pictures of two American actresses in two Shaksperian characters: Miss Anderson as *Perdita*, and Miss Rehan as *Katharine*." In the succeeding annual issues it would be well to append a double index of plays and of players.

Shaksperiana for October (Philadelphia: Leonard Scott Publication Co.) is an exceptionally valuable number. The symposium, "How did you become a Shakspeare student?"

is rather disappointing, though it is something to learn that Miss Helen Faucit gave the needful impulse to Mr. Halliwell-Phillipps to begin that pursuit of *Shaksperiana* which has attained such prodigious dimensions. Mr. Talcott Williams furnishes a bibliography of the "Taming of the Shrew," and Helen A. Clarke a list of Shakspeare "operas, operatized dramas, and overtures," with dates of first representations.

The November number of the Photo-Gravure Company's *Sun and Shade* is much the best of the three thus far issued. The two classes of plates are kept by themselves, instead of being mingled as heretofore, and violent contrasts have thus been avoided. Moreover, a decided "actuality" is given to this portfolio by two capital photogravure portraits of Messrs. Morton and Thurman, and by one of Mme. Jane Hading, whose histrionic art is now claiming our admiration. In landscape we have a rough yet tender woodland scene from the brush of William Hamilton Gibson, and a prospect of the battlefield of Gettysburg, from nature, the point of view being Little Round Top. The excuse for this latter plate is the bronze statue to Gen. G. K. Warren erected on the summit. This gallant soldier looks in the print like a Quaker pedestrian surveying the scene, field-glass in hand; or, if we make out that his sword is not a staff, then he seems but the hero of Quaker guns. Architecture is pleasingly represented by an engraving of the Tower of Catherine de Médicis at Blois.

The first paper in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* for October is Mr. H. H. Johnston's entertaining account of his explorations in the Cameroons, originally read before the British Association. In view of the German phonetic spelling, Kamerun, he gives as a reason for retaining the common form the fact that it is not, as they appear to think, a native word, but is simply a corruption of the Portuguese "camarões" (shrimps), betokening the abundance of these animals in the adjacent waters. Among other excursions, he ascended to the highest peak of the Cameroon Mountains, which he found to be 13,508 feet above the sea. He dwells upon the great value to the white residents of the coast of the mountain slopes as a sanatorium. That a European climate was within two days' journey from the pestilential swamps of the Delta seems to have been a fact up to this time very strangely ignored. It is encouraging to learn that sweet wines "are rapidly usurping the place of rum and gin in native estimation." An interesting account of a recent journey in Little Russia, by Mr. E. Delmar Morgan, and Mr. H. R. Mills's "Sea Temperature on the Continental Shelf," both of which were read at Bath, complete the number, with the exception, of course, of the usual geographical notes, which are compiled with great care and completeness.

Excavations are being conducted at Mykenæ with great results. It now appears that there are pre-Homeric tombs on all sides of the city, cut or dug into the hills like the "Treasury of Atreus," with passages leading to them, though, if we may judge from brief descriptions received, much less pretentious in size and style. Remains of bodies found show that they were not burned, but laid at full length in the burial chamber, and large numbers of prehistoric ornaments, of an Oriental character, have been found.

—General Sheridan's reminiscences of the march of the German army from Gravelotte to Sedan, which *Scribner's* offers its readers this month, make a paper of very great interest as an expression of the man himself, as

well as for the sake of the personages whom he so closely observed, and of the critical events which he witnessed. The principal figure is Bismarck, and it must be acknowledged that no pen has drawn the Chancellor with so life-like strokes. It is not that Bismarck said or did anything remarkable; but Sheridan saw the man, and he has related small details in such a way as to give that elusive personality which biographers seek often in vain. It is not too much to say, without intending any derogation by the reference, that Boswell himself did not render the old doctor with greater directness. It is a paper which must be read entire, however, in its own words. The military criticism is slight. The force of the whole lies in the clear ocular sight, if one may use a seeming tautology, both of the eminent men and of the field of operation; and Sheridan had the gift of telling what he saw. The second paper of leading interest is the survey of the working life of railroad employees. The whole corps is covered, from the hero of the locomotive to the station agent. The variety of work needed to sustain the system is set forth fully, and the responsibilities and hardships of the hands strongly brought out. The peculiarity of the employment is that a single error has such fatal consequences, and hence there must be a continual strain, which few men can support without sometimes relaxing the tension. It is observed that, notwithstanding the many improvements which have diminished the chances of injury to the employees, it is necessary still to hold the corporations to their duty in this respect by law. This is a disagreeable truth. The writer gives to the employees generally an excellent character, and what he says goes to show that strikes are not fair exponents of what the men really are. Mr. Stevenson's opening chapters of "The Master of Ballantrae" promise exciting adventure, and contrast with the quiet and somewhat despairing ending of "First Harvests." Mr. Stimson exercises a doubtful power in an author in wreaking vengeance on the characters he hates and detests with so thorough a good-will. Mr. Birrell's article upon Arnold, Mr. Brownell's on "French Manners," and General Greely's upon our "Winter Climate" also deserve mention in this sterling number.

—Harper's is full of beautiful illustrations of the engraver's art in landscape, and of striking or curious cuts of ancient and foreign objects. The paper upon the Lower St. Lawrence, while it is excellent in its choice of subjects and in its literary touch, fades out beside the series of illustrations, which give the characteristics of the landscape and the people with a freshness and vigor and picturesqueness that bring them home to the eye at once. The writer upon the Boats of the Tagus, too, is indebted to the sharply-lined cuts of the strangely-rigged craft which live in its waters, for the precision with which his words are realized. In the article upon Elk-hunting, likewise, though the tale of adventure and slaughter is well told, with a sportsman's relish, and something of the true sportsman's regret that any other than himself should do the exterminating, many readers will find the pictures of the splendid, great-antlered animals the more enjoyable. Theodore Child employs the combined arts of photography and engraving in a more utilitarian fashion, to set before the reader the image of the interesting curiosities which are housed in the Museum of the Hôtel Carnavalet at Paris, and which illustrate the history of the city from the earliest times. He selects the objects of the Revolutionary period to form the bulk of the article; and between

the cuts and the gossip of the text, the paper is one of the most successful from his very prolific pen. The most entertaining contribution, however, is by Charles Gayarré upon the New Orleans Bench and Bar in 1823. It is novel in its method, and reproduces the figures of Mazureau and Hennen, Grymes, Edward Livingston, and Moreau Lislet, taken as typical lawyers of the French-English régime, in a series of scenes from the court-room, conducted in dialogue between judge, jury, and the opposing counsel. The vivacity and strength of these reminiscences are remarkable; and as a contribution to a most perishable and a most attractive part of our provincial history, the article has real interest beyond its powers of entertainment. We should mention, too, Mr. Richard Wheatley's account of the New York Real Estate Exchange, with several excellent portraits, and much encyclopedic information in respect to the methods and the operations of the Exchange and the history of real-estate values in this city. The number is the best which this magazine has issued for some time.

—Mr. Bradford Torrey opens the November *Atlantic* with a chronicle of the month, a floral and ornithological chronicle, in which he does not so much say a good word for "the melancholy days" as prove a good case for them. Indeed, without relying too much on the ever-hoped-for Indian summer, the long-accustomed observer finds the autumn as tardy in departing as the spring is in coming to our northern hillsides, and the snow is as likely to flurry down upon our asters as upon our young hyacinths. Mr. Torrey found seventy-three species of plants in blossom, among them the Deptford pink, and he counted twenty-five species of birds still lingering in the wood and meadow. Of his search for one of these, the Ipswich sparrow, which was unknown until 1868, he gives a pleasant account, making it the best episode of his little paper, delightful for the unconscious feeling with which he renders the scenery of the beach—not the sky and sea, but the mere sand-hills, the bare grass, and the tracks of the birds through it. It is noticeable that these observations are taken near the seacoast, which is favorable to a variety of species and to the late blooming of the plants. Mrs. Lillie B. Chace Wyman takes us back to factory life, and to one of its most disagreeable and unjust phases, that of black-listing. She describes her visit to the houses of the hands, and particularly two or three of these black-listed men whom she found there, and who are various enough to serve as types. It would be impossible to practise black-listing without leaving the door wide open for injustice, arbitrariness, and caprice; and in these cases the writer finds nothing to support the decision of the overseers that these men should not receive work from anybody in the business to which they were trained. The paper, like all from her pen, has the value belonging to the work of an intelligent, interested, and trustworthy observer. Prof. Trowbridge presents, in another short paper, the latest educational idea, and it is one which, if accepted, would truly be revolutionary. It is in fact a sporadic development of the elective system. He would have, as we understand it, only one study, or closely allied group of two or three, pursued at once, for a period of perhaps three months, and then another study or group should be taken up for the same time, and so on, to the end of the curriculum. This scheme is not likely to receive much attention, the length of time during which one is conversant with a subject being quite as important an element in education as the intensity of the interest in it for a short time.

—The layman who labors under a feeling of essential inferiority to scientific men because their work is beyond his comprehension, may take comfort on seeing how little the work of scientists differs from that of ordinary men when they address themselves to general questions. The latest illustration of this is furnished by Prof. Cope's article on "The Relation of the Sexes to Government" in the *Popular Science Monthly* for October. The article opens with some observations on the antiquity of the difference between the sexes, and on the great advance which was made in the possibilities of progress when sexual reproduction first made its appearance among living things; but the unwary reader who is led to expect that this exceedingly ancient history is going to throw any light on the question, will find himself completely disappointed. In point of fact, the author himself soon leaves this "scientific" point of view, and rambles in a very inconsecutive manner over the familiar ground of woman's disabilities, as disclosed by what he calls "ordinary observation." The arguments of the article depend essentially on the unquestioning acceptance of the results of such observation, which are embodied, in the main, in the following passage:

"We find in men a greater capacity for rational processes, a capacity which is not always exercised to its full. We find in men a greater capacity for endurance of the activity of the rational faculty. We find in men a greater capacity for work in the higher departments of intelligence which require mechanical skill of a high order."

—Prof. Cope not only accepts, without so much as the insinuation of a doubt, these results of a kind of observation which if a scientific man were to accept in his specialty, he would be supposed to have lost his senses; he does not for a moment consider how great may be the degree of this incapacity, but takes it for granted that it must be sufficient to be fatal to the claims of women. He says elsewhere that most men have had to steel their minds against the aimlessness and pettiness of women, and have observed in them "a pronounced frailty of the rational faculty in thought or action." It is to be hoped that a very respectable minority among men have been more fortunate; but in any case, does Prof. Cope think it scientific to assume, as he does throughout his article, that if women should take part in government, all the beautiful qualities for which he gives them credit will take flight, while the aimlessness and pettiness and irrationality will remain unaffected? Whichever side one may take on the question of women's political aspirations, one may regret that scientists should not set an example of clear and consecutive thinking when discussing a subject upon which plenty of loose writing has been done. And the sooner scientific writers learn that the catchwords of evolution and of physical science are not sufficient to give authority to their utterances on subjects which require chiefly sound judgment and knowledge of human affairs, the better it will be for their influence in the world.

—Our note on the proposed coöperative portrait catalogue, discussed at the Catskill meeting of the American Library Association (*Nation*, Oct. 4), has brought us a number of letters of inquiry from collectors. But we find that there is a general misunderstanding of the matter. The Association did not propose undertaking a general catalogue of portraits: that is a very desirable thing, but is far beyond its powers either of preparation or of printing. What it has in mind is to make coöperatively, and print by subscription, a list of the portraits in such

collections as Lodge's, Kay's, the Clouets at Castle Howard, 'Men of Mark,' the half-dozen national portrait galleries, Petitot's 'Émaux,' the 'Allgemeines historisches Porträtwerk,' the 'Galerie Théâtrale,' Crombie's 'Modern Athenians,' etc.; and the old magazines that used to give a portrait a month, and books like the fine new edition of Grammont's Memoirs. If anyone wants the portrait of any person in whom he has become interested in his reading, he may, of course, find it in the first book he consults; but the chances are that he will have to finger the indexes of half the portrait collections in his library (when they have indexes, which is not always) before he finds what he is in search of. What a help if he could turn to an alphabetically arranged general index, and be referred to the very work, volume, and page where his man was portrayed! Portraits published singly are easily found in a library, for they are of course catalogued under the name of the person. A general catalogue of portraits, therefore, though it has other uses, does not uncover any buried treasures in a library, and would not deserve library coöperation.

—A correspondent writes us:

"Your editorial on the Whitechapel murders calls to mind one of De Quincey's fragments, a sequel to the 'Essay upon Murder as a Fine Art,' wherein he describes with frightful vividness a series of murders in this same East London in the year 1812. De Quincey, of course, treated the subject from an æsthetic standpoint, as befitted his theme; but the series of household murders, committed (as it afterwards proved) by one man, as cunning as he was ferocious, bears a remarkable resemblance to the crimes over which London is agitated this very month. East London and human nature in it, as your editorial suggests, remain quite constant, it would seem."

—Some idea of the importance attached to the study of Greek archæology in Germany, and of the extraordinary activity of the Imperial Archæological Institute in this field of research, may be formed from the report of Herr Conze, Secretary of the Institute, presented at a recent meeting of the Berlin Academy of Arts and Sciences. The headquarters of the Institute are in Berlin, where the executive officer is a *Generalsekretär*, Herr Conze, director of the classical department of the Berlin Museum. In Rome and Athens the Institute has branch establishments, that in Rome occupying an estate which belongs to it, while that in Athens is about to hire of Dr. Schliemann a house built expressly for the Institute this year, the former quarters having been in an ordinary dwelling-house. Each of these branches is under the charge of two secretaries, in Rome Herren Petersen and Hülsen, in Athens Herren Dörpfeld and Wolters. Members of the Institute who are pursuing investigations in Italy or Greece are provided with quarters in either of these buildings. The periodical publications of the Institute are its *Jahrbuch*, published quarterly in Berlin, the *Mittheilungen* of the Athenian and Roman branches respectively, the *Ephemeris Epigraphica*, a supplement to the Corpus of Latin inscriptions, and the *Antike Denkmäler*, a folio of twelve plates annually, in which all the resources of modern reproductive art are called upon to illustrate newly discovered or important works.

—Valuable as these periodicals are, they appear almost insignificant beside the great publications which the Institute has under way, some of which have already occupied more than a generation of workers. Those of which Herr Conze made mention in his report are the Corpus, if we may so call it, of Roman Sarcophagi, by Prof. Carl Robert, of which one volume is now in press, Kekulé's work on

Greek Terra-cottas, of which a volume on the reliefs of the Campana style is now in preparation, a collection of Etruscan cinerary urns, by Herr Körte, who is also continuing Gerhard's great work on the Etruscan mirrors, having already issued seven parts of his supplement. In addition to his labors in the Museum, and in the preparation of the great work on Pergamon, Herr Conze has charge of the Corpus of Greek grave-reliefs, also under the auspices of the Institute. In topography the most important work of the Institute is the *Karten von Attika*, by Curtius and Kaupert, of which five parts have appeared. All these publications are conducted under the immediate direction of the Institute, to which reports of progress are made by the several editors at stated intervals. The expense of these superbly illustrated volumes is naturally very great, the amount of travel necessitated being no inconsiderable item, and is, we believe, met entirely by the imperial Ministry of Public Instruction, by whom appropriations are made annually for the Institute.

ELY'S AMERICAN MUNICIPAL TAXATION.

Taxation in American States and Cities.
By Richard T. Ely, Ph.D., assisted by John H. Finley, A.B. Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

In spite of much hasty investigation and more hasty deduction, this volume is almost invaluable to students of American politics. It is the first attempt that has been made at a systematic presentation of the history and present status of the American experiments in local taxation. Of the qualities necessary for the work, Prof. Ely possessed three of prime importance—industry, a gift for popularizing economic subjects, and a zeal for reform. Unfortunately, it is the last of these qualities that is disproportionately prominent. As a scientific work, this volume on 'Taxation' cannot be ranked with the author's 'French and German Socialism.' It is the work of an agitator, not that of a critic. In season and out of season, Prof. Ely pleads for state and municipal socialism. The fact that the American system of levying local taxes amounts to the exercise by the public of a part ownership in the property taxed, does not in any wise satisfy him. He follows blindly his German masters. The socialism which he advocates is not the increased recognition of the duties of property, wherein America leads the world while Germany has yet the first lessons to learn, but the German ideal of state management of business enterprises. He advocates, for instance, the abandonment of the American plan of assessing abutting land for street improvements and taxing it for general public expenses, and would instead provide for "the finest educational facilities the world has ever seen" by a law or constitutional provision,

"that no new street shall be laid out by any municipality through land which it does not own; this land to be acquired as agricultural land, and to be leased as demand might arise at auction, in periods of twenty-five years, to be released at the expiration of that period; the lessee, if a new person, to acquire improvements at an appraised valuation."

There is, it will be seen, no confiscation in this plan. It is the socialism of the chair, not that of the streets. The city merely assumes the position of a private investor who goes in debt for his capital. Whether there would be profits or losses would depend upon (1) whether, in the first instance, the city councilmen showed the economy of a private investor in planning and contracting for street improvements; (2) whether they drove as good bar-

gains in leasing the land; (3) whether as landlords they were as severe in refusing subsequent improvements; and (4) whether the citizens would be anxious to build upon land which was merely leased. In case the councilmen made extravagant contracts in laying out the streets, submitted to hard bargains in leasing the land, yielded to pressure for subsequent improvements, and found citizens averse to building upon lots which they only leased, the plan would involve a succession of losses from beginning to end.

This faith, however, in the plenary inspiration of aldermen in no way mars the historical portion of Prof. Ely's volume. Regarding details, the author shows excellent judgment as to what is interesting and significant. The volume opens with a short sketch of the universal history of taxation, from the time when the Romans waged foreign wars in order to be relieved from taxation, down to the time when Americans—an influential minority, at least—are willing to wage them in order not to be relieved. The recognition that taxation is a blessing instead of a curse did not begin to manifest itself until direct taxation was replaced by indirect. In England this occurred in the reign of Charles II., when Parliament "divested the landed gentry of all feudal obligations to the Crown, without touching their privileges, and replaced these obligations by taxes on beer, wine, tobacco, and spirits." This effectually shifted the burden of taxation upon the propertyless masses, and taxes ceased to annoy the influential classes. But they did not come to be regarded with affectionate devotion until, with the development of commerce, those who controlled legislation learned to incorporate in the tax laws protective features, by which their wealth, instead of being diminished by the nation's burdens, was increased.

Even in our own country, taxation was not always so popular as at present. In colonial times it was with the greatest difficulty that citizens could be persuaded to submit to it. In 1649 the General Treasurer of Rhode Island reported that he had received nothing and had nothing in his hands. Public expenses were frequently defrayed by quit-rents, fines, fees, and lotteries, which last were often employed to secure funds for the erection of schools, and even churches. Very early, however, the colonies had recourse to the property tax. At first the assessments were inconsiderable. In Virginia, in 1796, we find it fixed at one-fourth of one per cent. upon the assessed value of the land. Gradually, as the local governments became more thoroughly democratic, other taxes were repealed, and many of the State constitutions provided that no other should be levied. The name "American system" has been applied by the followers of Henry Clay to the protective tariff, though it was framed entirely upon European models. Prof. Ely, with much greater justice, applies the term to the system of State and local taxation which, by the middle of the century, was completely established in all our commonwealths. He describes it in a single sentence: "It is the taxation of all property, movable and immovable, . . . at one uniform rate."

Prof. Ely, as has been indicated, is not a partisan of the system. He quotes Baron von Reitzenstein's condemnation of it as primitive and crude, and himself goes so far as to declare it to be "so radically bad that the more you improve it the worse it becomes." He recognizes the intensity of the sentiment in its favor among the masses, yet characterizes the efforts to enforce it, which are increasing both in frequency and in strenuousness, as the pur-