

hampered George Sand's imagination, and no improbabilities were allowed to stand in the way of the development of a plot or the painting of a character. Her intercourse with the shepherd children of Berry had early given her a love of the marvellous, and the mysterious corridors and winding passages in 'Consuelo' and 'La Daniella' (which might be used as a guide-book to the country about Frascati) seem reminiscences of her wanderings about the garrets and cellars of her convent with the other girls, "in search for secrets that never existed, and to rescue from a romantic captivity imaginary victims whose names even were unknown." She says herself:

"I am very fond of romantic events—the unforeseen, intrigue, action in a novel. . . . I have used all my efforts to keep the literature of my times in a practical path between the peaceful lake and the rushing torrent: my instinct would have pushed me towards the precipice."

'La Daniella' was chiefly the product of a subsequent visit to Italy, and contains some singular criticisms on Genoa, Pisa, and Rome, none of which towns inspired the authoress with the sympathy which she had for Venice. She was disgusted with much that she saw at Rome, did not like the monuments, felt oppressed by the ruins, and especially by the dirt, saw nothing picturesque or harmonious in priests and beggars, and hated the Papal Government. All this is seen in the early part of the book, as well as in some of the later chapters; and in a letter to a friend, she says:

"No, I don't wish to admire anything, to love anything, to tolerate anything in the kingdom of Satan, in that old cave of brigands. I wish to spit on the people who kneel to the Cardinals. . . . If, thanks to me, any one takes a horror and disgust of Rome as it is to-day, I shall have done something. I could say as much about ourselves, if I were allowed."

The letter goes on hoping that the French are slightly better than the Romans, and will not sink quite so low under the Empire. The publication of 'La Daniella' brought two warnings to the newspaper in which it was published, *La Presse*; and another article by a different person soon after caused its suspension. As this fell in the middle of another story which George Sand was publishing, she wrote to the Empress, begging that the newspaper might be pardoned.

In 'L'Uscoque' she rewrote the history of Byron's 'Corsair,' and gave it a Venetian setting. "It was very cold in my room," she says in the preface, "and on going to sleep I used to see fantastic landscapes, rough seas, and storm-beaten rocks. The wind blowing outside, and the fire crackling on the hearth, used to produce strange cries and mysterious rustlings, and I believe that I was more possessed than charmed by my subject." The Corsair or Uscoque is a Venetian nobleman of high rank, who used his position of Admiral and Governor to join with the pirates one day in plundering his countrymen, while pretending to fight the pirates the day after.

In 'Le Piccinino' the fancy took her to tell the story of a brigand chief.

"Whether the type be frightful like those of Byron or worthy of the Monthyon prize like those of Cooper, it suffices for these heroes of despair to merit legally the rope or the galleys for every good and honest reader to love them from the first pages and hope for the success of their enterprise. Why, then, under the pretext of being a reasonable person, should I be deprived of creating one to my liking?"

She did not aim in this book either at painting a precise historical epoch or faithfully describing a country. It was a color-study, dreamed rather than felt, where some traits are accidentally true. The scene was laid in

Sicily, rather than anywhere else, because she had just received some good engravings of that country.

All these tales are delightful, both to those who love a mere story for the story's sake, and to those who wish a relief from ordinary occupations; and they seem to suffer not at all from the lack of the realistic touches which are considered necessary by a Stevenson and a Haggard. In 'Teverino' and 'Le Secrétaire intime' you are removed far from any probabilities and possibilities of earth into the realms of poetry and fancy; and yet, while enjoying this, you feel all the time that you are in Italy. In one you get a glimpse of Bassano, in the other of Monaco; but the landscape is so dim and hazy that the pictures would be recognized only by those who know the country. Both of these stories are ended with the same inspiration with which they were begun. It had no time to cool. In many of the longer novels you feel the want of a settled plan: the opening is the finest part; then come the wearisome pseudo-philosophical discussions and reflections, which take the place of inspiration; and the dénouement arrives apparently as a mere matter of duty towards the publisher. George Sand was always fond of natural history: it was part of her love for nature. She gave herself up sometimes for weeks and months, together with her son Maurice, to researches in botany, mineralogy, and zoölogy, when she dreamt of nothing else, and her brains seemed to be filled exclusively with scientific terms; nothing else existed for her. "After one of these scientific orgies," says Caro, "she had all the difficulty in the world to return to ordinary life and her habitual tasks." The 'Secrétaire intime' was suggested to her by a tale of Hoffmann, but it is easy to see from one chapter that it was written just after an entomological orgy.

One of her novels shows remarkably the author's love of nature, and her power of depicting passion, although it is chiefly, as she herself says, "a work of analysis and meditation." It is the strongest of all the tales due to the influence of Italy and one of the strongest of all her books. This is 'Lucrezia Floriani,' a picture of love and jealousy. The scene is laid in the soft landscape of Lake Iseo, such as she saw it in going from Milan to Venice. She has feebly denied that Prince Karoll, the jealous lover, is a portrait of Chopin; but there can be no question that Lucrezia is a portrait of herself—greatly idealized, it is true, but as characteristic as Thérèse in 'Elle et Lui.' Every page, as Caro says, "is written from an observation or a remembrance." In any case it would be difficult to find in literature a more faithful representation of the passion of jealousy—in this case, jealousy of an un concealed and well-known past, which destroyed all pleasure of the present; and left no hope of happiness in the future.

In 'La Dernière Aldini' we return to Venice and the Venetian nobility, then in process of extinction. The story is told by Lelio, the tenor, one of her friends in the Campo S. Luca whose acquaintance we have already made in 'Lettres d'un Voyageur'; and most improbable it is. We demur to the love-making between Mme. Aldini and her gondolier, even when we find that she had been married only for her money, and was despised by her husband for being in reality one of the common people; but the similar scene between the daughter and the gondolier, who had now bloomed into a great singer, is somewhat more natural. We remember, however, that it is a cardinal point of George Sand's faith that love is a leveller, and makes all men as all women equal; and when we yield

to the magic of her style, we almost believe it. This little story shows one trait which is rare in George Sand's works—a sense of humor; in real life she was utterly destitute of it, and her conversation, when more than one person was present, is said to have been very dull and heavy. It was only in the night watches, when her pen seemed to dictate to her brain, that she escaped from the grossness and commonplace of ordinary life into an imaginary world, full of light and airy creatures, whither she will lead, and where she will keep, all who begin to read her stories.

Renan, at one of the dinners at Magny's so celebrated in their time, said that George Sand was truer than Balzac; and added that she would be read three hundred years from now. The late M. Caro, in his charming sketch (which alone is sufficient to justify his election to the Academy), and other recent critics, think that the world is getting tired of realism and naturalism, at least as preached in contemporary France, and predict the return to passion and sentiment as shown in the works of George Sand. Her romantic nonsense and her tedious political philosophy may be eliminated, but very much will still remain.

E. S.

Correspondence.

ELY'S AMERICAN TAXATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your reviewer of my work on 'Taxation in American States' accuses me of ignorance of the decisions of the Supreme Court bearing on the constitutionality of a tax on gross revenues of railroads, which may be held to interfere with inter-State commerce. As your review will be read by many who will never see the book, may I in justice to myself quote a single sentence from page 227, in which I had in mind the very decision referred to?

"Prudence must be exercised in taxation of railroads, or it will be found that laws taxing them will be nullified by a Federal court, on the ground that it involves interference with inter-State commerce."

I believe the Wisconsin system still stands, and when I was in Wisconsin making a special study of taxation, one of the justices of the Supreme Court told me that he did not believe it could be successfully attacked. A few weeks ago a gentleman who has prepared a digest of all the decisions of the Wisconsin Supreme Court on the subject of taxation, wrote me that he regarded their system of taxing railroads as invulnerable. At the same time, I fully recognized the weighty character of the principle involved, and was careful to call attention to it. So far from never having considered the subject, it may not be improper to say that it was carefully considered by our Maryland Tax Commission, of which I had the honor to be a member, and that among its members were lawyers of standing in the community.

Whatever may be the tendency of the book, my intention was to recommend changes which should be an effectual barrier against socialism. It is easy to "call names," but it is generally regarded as evidence of malignity or of a weak cause. Yours truly,

RICHARD T. ELY.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, BALTIMORE, MD.,
November 3, 1888.

GERMAN RAILWAY SERVICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: As an offset to the unfavorable opinion concerning the railway service of Germany

expressed in the article "Competition in Fast Train Service," printed in the *Nation* for October 11, will you allow me to state briefly my experience of German railroad travel? Without possessing the special knowledge relating to this subject evinced by the writer of the article referred to, I have had no inconsiderable experience of our own railroads east of the Missouri River; and I had more than the tourist's usual interest in making whatever observations were possible in regard to railroad trains while making rapid journeys through Europe. Besides carrying a copy of Bradshaw's 'Continental Railway Guide' in a hand-satchel, I made it a point to secure, wherever possible, the local guides or railroad time-tables, and also made a practice of timing the arrival and departure of the various trains.

The following routes, wholly or partly within the German Empire, were travelled over during 1887: Lindau-Munich-Vienna; Vienna-Prague-Dresden-Leipzig; Leipzig to Weimar, to Jena, to Halle, and return; Leipzig-Berlin-Rostock (Warnemünde); Kiel-Hamburg-Bremen-Hanover-Frankfort; Cologne-Frankfort-Heidelberg-Strassburg. With but a single exception, no trains on any of these routes were late, either in departing or arriving. They sometimes reached stations a few minutes earlier than was indicated upon the time-tables, but in such cases delayed their departure until the time set down in the table. The single exception was in the case of a fast train from Hanover to Cassel and Frankfort, which was about fifteen minutes late in reaching Göttingen. This was much complained of at the university town as a thing of too frequent occurrence as regards that special train, and the explanation given was that the schedule time did not make sufficient allowance for the transfer of passengers and baggage from the Berlin-Hanover train, with which it was necessary to make connection. My impressions of the railway service of Germany, as regards reasonable speed, punctuality, choice of trains (both as to swiftness and cost of tickets), comfort, and a prevalent, and to an American most delightful, sense of safety, were entirely favorable.

S

PURITY IN POLITICS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Every lover of higher morals in politics must admire the course of the *Nation* in its endeavors to bring about reform in the civil service and a wise readjustment of the tariff. The inexorable law which politicians seem so unable to grasp is, that the purest party, with the highest aims, must in the long run be the victorious party. This is illustrated in this country and in England by the fact of the frequent change of administration; by the fact that, if the party in power ceases to represent the highest aims in politics, the party out of power, declaring its attachment to such aims, very soon succeeds in wresting the power from the more corrupt one. This law it was that brought victory to Lincoln and the Republican party in 1860, and that turned the party of that name out of power in 1884, and gave victory to Cleveland and the Democrats.

However the coming election issues, whether in keeping in Cleveland or putting in Harrison, let the successful party remember in its flush of triumph that, if old and rejected party corruptions are taken up and questionable political methods countenanced, defeat is sure to come, and quickly. I would transcribe here for the consideration of thoughtful men the following words of a wise living historian, Bishop Stubbs ('Lectures on Mediæval and Modern History'):

"What we want to see is men applying to history and politics the same spirit in which wise men act in their discipline of themselves—not to cease to be partisans, not to cease to hold and utter strong opinions, but to be as careful in their party behavior and in their support of their opinions as they are in their behavior in social circles, their conversation in social life. The first object of the true politician, as of the true patriot, is to keep himself and his party pure, and then to secure victory; to abolish meanness and corruption where he has influence, rather than to make capital by denouncing it where his denunciation can only provoke a retort. The sound politician, on whichever side he may be, believes that his scheme of politics is the one in which the benefit of his country is most entirely involved, and he wishes the position of his country to be impregnable. To be impregnable it must be sound: if his party represents to him his country, his party must be sound, and it concerns him much more closely to purify his own ranks than those of the enemy. Success is certain to the pure and true: success to falsehood and corruption, tyranny and aggression, is only the prelude to a greater and an irremediable fall."

PERCY GORDON.

November 2, 1888.

FOREIGN ALLEGIANCE OF FOREIGN GOODS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I wish to contribute the following to that history of the "Influence of Protection Doctrines upon the Operation of the Intelligence" which some one will surely write, after the present hysteria passes away and sanity returns. It is from a communication in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of October 29, and is an attempt to answer the argument that protection does not help the American laborer as long as the foreign laborer immigrates freely to compete with him:

"The labor that comes to American soil in the shape of human beings is, as a rule, animated by mind, and in consequence thereof thinks and soon becomes Americanized; while goods, wares, and merchandise never forswears (*sic*) allegiance to foreign powers; but always remains foreign, and therefore loyal in results to the land that manufactured it (*sic*)."

The writer would seem to make allowance, by his phrase, "as a rule," for some human beings coming to American soil who are not "animated by mind." He thus secures for himself in advance an asylum from all criticism. D.

CONFIRMATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: May I add, as a commentary on my last week's letter, some sentences from the *Chronique* of M. Charles de Mazade in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* of October 15:

"The recent journey of the President of the Republic, to Lyons, in Savoy, in Burgundy, may throw some useful light upon the real and inward feelings of the country. The President, held back by a certain constitutional preciseness, by an excess of reserve perhaps beyond what public opinion demands, committed himself but little; but he was able to hear what was said to him, and there was almost everywhere the same feeling which finds its most happy expression in the discourse, as temperate as judicious, of the President of the Chamber of Commerce at Lyons, asking for the country only that protection which results from constitutional stability, from public order firmly maintained, from a good condition of the finances, from social peace propagated by that true liberty which is the guarantee of all rights and extends to all faiths."

And a few lines farther on:

"For ten years the evident palpable cause of all the parliamentary incoherences, of all the financial disorders, of the legislative anarchy, is the progressive usurpation of a Chamber as presumptuous as ignorant, which has not ceased to place itself above the Constitution, which has wished to manage everything, without knowing how to do anything."

Is there not instruction and reproof for us in the affairs of France? Is it not true that, with all the abundance of our financial resources, with our large surplus in the Treasury, with all our immense material prosperity, there is through the country a feeling of uneasiness and distrust, owing to want of confidence in the ability of Congress—without leaders or any definite plan of action—to accomplish anything to good purpose?

G. B.

Boston, November 3, 1888.

TEACHER AND COMMUNITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your correspondent "C," whose letter in relation to "The Teacher and the Community" you published on October 18, speaks of the lack of individuality in teaching as caused largely by the custom of giving preference to teachers resident in the community. That this is true, no careful observer can doubt, and it is refreshing to know that there is at least one community in which there exists so nearly an ideal state as your correspondent depicts.

But the evil mentioned as derived from this sort of "protection to home industries" is but a small part of the damage done. The truth is, the methods of employing teachers in our public schools are but little better than those of filling Government offices. The school system needs "civil-service reform" as much as the United States Government. It is bad enough to have political parties running rival candidates for members of the School Board, and to have these nominations worked for from precisely the same motives as Mike or Barney works for an alderman's seat, *i. e.*, that he may use his position to make money. It is, for example, no uncommon thing to find men working for place on school boards because they are coal-dealers and want the contract to supply the schools with coal, or plumbers, or building contractors, or real-estate agents from motives equally obvious; but when we have in addition the custom of employing local talent for teachers, and thus bring into play the whole set of political, social, church, and family interests, then we have a truly deplorable result.

The evil makes itself manifest along two lines. (1.) In the selection of teachers. Good teachers fail to obtain positions for lack of the requisite "influence," while poor ones succeed because of a father or uncle on the School Board, or because pushed by a certain clique, or because of the backing of some social clique. Moreover, it is almost impossible to get rid of an inefficient teacher under such a system. I have in mind now a school in which are two grossly incapable teachers. The principal is well aware of their inefficiency, and finds his own efforts largely nullified by their presence; and yet, were he to endeavor to have them removed, he would stir up a perfect hornets' nest of church and social antipathies, which would probably damage the school more, at least for some time, than does the present poor teaching. Very likely, should he attempt to oust them, not having himself the same sort of "anchors to windward," he would be the one to go. Capable and conscientious superintendents are hampered almost beyond endurance by this custom. It would be difficult to exaggerate this aspect of the evil.

(2.) Good teachers cannot do so good work in their own communities as elsewhere. It is well known that both ministers and teachers succeed best away from their "native seats." It is almost impossible to attain to that absolute impartiality necessary in a public servant, when among one's old friends and associates,

It is a great misfortune to a teacher "always to have known" certain families. In a word, the whole set of local interests and jealousies familiar to us all, but too many to enumerate and describe here, hamper the activity of the teacher, and form an incubus that is non-existent in a strange town. TEACHER.

October 28, 1888.

THE PRATT FREE LIBRARY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION :

SIR: The *Nation* for October 25, in speaking of the library to be given to this city under the provisions of Mr. Tilden's will, states that the only things approaching it in character are the Newberry Library at Chicago and the Boston Public Library. May I ask if the Pratt Library at Baltimore should not receive honorable mention with these? Its money value is less than either of the libraries referred to, though it is not inconsiderable, Mr. Pratt's gift being in all one million dollars, of which two-thirds will draw 7 per cent. interest perpetually. But in respect of its freedom to all classes it certainly has no superior. There are practically no restrictions whatever for actual citizens, while temporary residents in the city can obtain books on the same terms with citizens with much less formality than is necessary at the Boston Public Library.

It certainly could not be, in any fuller sense, "a library of the people." J. S. R.

NEW YORK, October 25, 1888.

TRANSLATION AT SIGHT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION :

SIR: The fact that several little text-books have been prepared of late, with annotated extracts for sight-translation, would seem to indicate "a felt want" on the part of teachers. The need of these books, however, is not very apparent, because a teacher can easily find short extracts in the books used by the classes. There is another form of sight-reading which I have employed with my classes, and which it may be worth while to suggest to other teachers: It consists of extracts from some modern Greek newspaper, written upon the board for the students to read. It is a very easy matter to make selections in which the deviation from the classic standard is exceedingly small. This plan has several important advantages over the reading of short extracts from the ancient authors. The students find it a pleasing change to see that their Greek can actually deal with the affairs of to-day, as well as with those of more than two millenniums ago. The freshness of modern life and modern interests is very helpful in giving a touch of zest and enthusiasm to what so many find a very dry study. To read, in very fair Greek, telegrams about the great events happening over the world, and comments on them, taken, it may be, from the *London Times* or the *New York Herald*, opens the eyes of many a student to the possibilities of his Greek.

A few of the various extracts our Freshmen and Sophomores had last session were, for example, statistics from the *New York Herald* about the number of cows in the United States, and the annual yield of milk, butter, and cheese; articles about the *Great Eastern*; about Volapük; about John Wanamaker's picture-gallery; about Adelina Patti's celebrated fan, with the sentences written on it by the Emperors of Russia and Germany, by Queen Victoria, M. Thiers, as President of the French Republic, and others; about Dickens, George Eliot, Abraham Lincoln. In short, almost anything which at the present day is note-

worthy among current events can be presented to students, in Greek which they would frequently scarcely recognize as not being good enough for Xenophon. At times I have seen students almost double themselves up laughing at jokes in Greek, an experience rather rare in the reading of any of the classic authors they study.

It is quite easy and very appropriate for the teacher to give his scholars in connection with these readings some idea of the structure of modern Greek and its chief departures from the classic norm. To all of which is to be added the important fact that students who have read even this little of modern Greek will be likely to have a keen appreciation of the fact that Greek is a living language. For, strange as it seems, it is not difficult to find intelligent people to whom the declaration that Greek is not a "dead" language comes as a sort of revelation. When you tell them that Greek is as truly a living language as English or French or German, they find it hard to take you seriously.

Respectfully, A. H.
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI.

JOHN WISE OF IPSWICH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION :

SIR: The note concerning this unappreciated worthy, printed in a recent number of the *Nation*, led me to consult the edition of his works published in 1860 by the Congregational Board of Publication. The introductory chapter, by Rev. J. S. Clarke, D.D., asserts that "some of the most glittering sentences in the immortal Declaration of Independence are almost literal quotations from this essay" ('A Vindication of the Government of New England Churches'). If this is true, it is time that Wise took his proper place in our political, as well as our religious annals.

The list of subscribers to the edition of 1772 contains the names of Mr. William Dawes of Boston, Mr. Ephraim Fairbank of Bolton, and Mr. Peter Jayne of Marblehead, each of whom took one hundred copies. But a more important name is that of Rev. Manasseh Cutler of Ipswich, properly of Ipswich Hamlet, now Hamilton. Did any of the wisdom of Wise pass through Cutler into the Ordinance of 1787?

Why, by the way, does Cutler not appear in the Stedman-Hutchinson 'Library of American Literature'? In the volume where he would naturally figure, nearly seven pages are devoted to Eliza Southgate Bowne, who was merely a writer of entertaining letters. Cutler left behind descriptions of social life equally sprightly, besides records of scientific observation, weighty political papers, and written opinions on various religious topics. Surely, he was "an author;" if quantity, quality, influence, and versatility are to be considered.

HENRY BALDWIN.

755 BROADWAY, October 26, 1888.

CONCERNING CERTAIN EPIGRAMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION :

SIR: In the interesting notice in your last number of the recently published volume of Dr. Sterrett, 'An Epigraphical Journey in Asia Minor,' occurs this sentence: "Nos. 243 and 245 are curious riddles; but as Dr. Sterrett gives them on the authority of a Greek physician, we shall hold them open to suspicion."

This was Dr. Sterrett's opinion about No. 243, and it certainly is justified, for it is made up of mutilated portions of two epigrams that are to be found in the 'Anthologia Græca

Palatina.' First come the last three verses of Lib. xiv., Epig. 58, which are followed by the whole of Lib. xiv., Epig. 35, except part of its first word (Ἀνθολογίου κ. τ. λ.).

No. 245 does not seem to be recognized by Dr. Sterrett. This also is to be found in Lib. xiv., Epig. 5, lacking the last line.

Very truly yours, HENRY W. HAYNES.

BOSTON, October 27, 1888.

Notes.

A CHOICE collection of books and papers relating to Lichens, left by the late Prof. Edward Tuckerman to the library of Amherst College, is to be kept apart as a memorial of the donor. Mr. Wm. I. Fletcher, the librarian, desires supplementary contributions of works, and a fund (say of \$1,000) sufficient to maintain the collection by additions and repairs.

Longmans, Green & Co. have nearly ready Walter Besant's 'Eulogy of Richard Jefferies,' author of 'The Gamekeeper at Home' and other remarkable works.

Ticknor & Co. issue this month 'The Other Side of War: With the Army of the Potomac. Letters from Headquarters of the Sanitary Commission during the Virginia Campaign of 1862,' by Katharine Prescott Wormeley; 'Pen and Powder,' by Franc B. Wilkie, a war correspondent; 'Vagrom Verse,' by Charles Henry Webb ("John Paul"); 'The Philistines,' by Arlo Bates; and 'Better Times,' by the author of 'The Story of Margaret Kent.'

John B. Alden publishes directly Gogol's 'Taras Bulba,' translated by Jeremiah Curtin; and Daudet's 'The Immortals.'

Mr. F. J. Stimson's 'First Harvests' will be issued in book form by Charles Scribner's Sons, who also announce Mommens's 'History of the Roman Republic,' abridged by C. Bryans and F. R. Hendy. Their *Book-Buyer* for November has a frontispiece portrait of Mrs. Mary A. Ward, author of 'Robert Elsmere.'

Thomas Whittaker announces as the next volumes in the "Camelot Series" 'The Teaching of Epictetus'; in the "Canterbury Poets," 'Poems of Wild Life,' edited by Charles G. D. Roberts; in the "Great Writers," a 'Life of Heine,' by William Sharp.

The publication of Mr. Lang's 'Letters on Literature' has been postponed until the new year; but his volume of poems, 'Grass of Parnassus,' will be issued immediately.

In 1875 Mr. Grant Allen printed privately at Oxford a little pamphlet discussing certain difficulties in the current conception of energy; and he afterwards sketched out a more elaborate work, which was shown in 1885 to Mr. Edward Clodd, who embodied certain of its conclusions in 'The Story of Creation.' As these conclusions have been attacked, Mr. Grant Allen has determined to join in the controversy, and his 'Force and Energy: a Theory of Dynamics,' will be published here shortly by Longmans, Green & Co., preceded by an "Apology," in which the author modestly sets forth the circumstances of the book's preparation and publication.

Two of the seven volumes of the definitive edition of the Writings of John G. Whittier come to us from Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Externally, the series is uniform with the Browning published by the same firm, but the letter-press is much more open and inviting. The most venerable and endeared of our poets makes for the last time a classification of his verse, with such information concerning the basis and nature of it and the date at which it was written as is desirable. The prefatory