

## ESTIMATES OF NEW BOOKS.

REMINISCENCES AND TRAVEL.—The new edition of *The Reminiscences and Recollections of Captain Gronow* (London, Nimmo; New York, Scribner's) is beautifully printed and contains several features which have been in no previous edition. There is a very full index to each of the two volumes, which makes them of greatly increased value, as one may more readily find the allusions to historic personages. Thirty-two unique illustrations from contemporary sources have been made by Joseph Grego, and are colored by hand. They represent the social lions of the day in London and Paris. These reminiscences, which have been famous for a generation, are among the most delightful and unstudied records ever set down by a man of the world. Most of the prominent figures in the social and political life of England and France, from 1810 to 1860, appear in these pages as they were known personally by Captain Gronow. He gives much of the idle gossip and some of the scandal of the day, but is generally most discreet and charitable in telling of the foibles of distinguished people.—Recollections of a far different sort are collected in *Barracks, Bivouacs, and Battles* (Macmillan) by Archibald Forbes. There is nothing but the title and their common author to bring them together, as they represent fiction, narrative, historical reminiscence, and a touch of a grievance. They have much to do with the British soldier, both in fiction and fact, and the background of them is in many lands. Brave deeds, narrow escapes, and the spirit of chivalry are their woof. The style is that stirring, vigorous, and roughly picturesque English which made Archibald Forbes the greatest war correspondent of his generation. Among these chapters the one entitled "Bill Beresford and his Victoria Cross" is an admirable account of a famous episode in the Zulu campaign.—Theodore Child had no thought of adventure in his travels while collecting materials for his book on *The Spanish-American Republics* (Harper's). His aim was to see things as they are, politically, commercially, socially, and "in short, to make a modern report of the progress of civilization south of the Equator." The five republics of Chili, Peru, the Argentine, Paraguay, and Uruguay were visited by him. He has pictured the sudden changes from savagery to civilization, the strange mixture of the most advanced modern inventions with the devices of primitive man, and the clashing of diverse races—Anglo-Saxon spirit of enterprise with Spanish love of ease. The beautiful illustrations which appeared with these articles in *Harper's Magazine* are reproduced in the book, and a chapter has been added which summarizes the stirring political events in Chili and the Argentine since 1890, when the articles were written. The volume is a valuable addition to our knowledge of a curious region, where some of the political methods of the United States are being strangely imitated by a people alien to our ideas.

ESSAYS.—In *Short Studies in Literature* (Dodd) Hamilton Wright Mabie has given varied expression to the fundamental idea that literature is an

artistic expression of life; that its primary impulses are found in experience; and that, as life is exhaustless and forever renews itself, literature will also forever renew "its freshness, its power, and its beauty." Upon this thesis he has thrown many side-lights by brief studies of the various forms of literature, such as Hebrew and English poetry, folk-lore, the epic, the drama, the novel, and criticism. Mr. Mabie avowedly takes the attitude of interpretation rather than that of comparative criticism.—Brander Matthews has gathered in a single volume *The Dramatic Essays of Charles Lamb* (Dodd), chosen from all his published works and arranged by the editor, with a brief introductory essay in which he expresses his warmest admiration for Lamb as a dramatic critic. He believes that "there are two grand portrait galleries of the British theatre, and it is not easy to say which is the more artful a painter of players—Colley Cibber or Charles Lamb."—*Studies in the Wagnerian Drama* (Harper) by Henry Edward Krehbiel, the accomplished musical critic of the New York *Tribune*, contains an introductory chapter on Wagner as a Regenerator of the Lyric Drama, whose aim was to make of the opera a form of theatrical entertainment in which "poetry, music, pantomime, painting, and the plastic arts were to co-operate on a basis of mutual dependence, or better, perhaps, interdependence;"—and four other chapters analyzing his great works, "Tristan," "The Meistersinger," "The Ring of the Nibelungen," and "Parsifal." These are sympathetic interpretations of the spirit of the operas, of the greatest value to those who want to hear them right.—A book of unusual significance and value is Robert Archey Woods' *English Social Movements* (Scribner), in which is clearly set forth, for the first time in a single volume, those remarkable manifestations of the past ten years which have been forming into a coherent body the great social democracy of England. Mr. Woods writes from adequate knowledge gained by a residence at Toynbee Hall, and by visits to leading English and Scotch cities where he met the leaders in these various movements. The notable thing is that in nearly every case the initiative and inspiration of these movements have come from men of education and high social position. Among those described are the Socialist Leagues, the Labor Federation, the University Settlement, University Extension, and practical charities organized by the churches.—From the German of Ewald Flügel has been translated by Jessica G. Tyler the former's essay on *Thomas Carlyle's Moral and Religious Development* (M. L. Holbrook). The key of it is Carlyle's often-quoted exhortation: "Love not Pleasure, love God! This is the Everlasting Yea, wherein all contradiction is solved."

FICTION.—Among recent works of fiction *The Little Minister* (Lovell) by J. M. Barrie is exquisitely finished in detail, though failing of complete success as a novel with unity and cumulative effect. The sketches of minor characters (many of whom have appeared before in "A Window in Thrums") are very real, and full of odd humor. For the time the reader and author (as well as the creatures of his fancy) are unconscious of any other world than the little Scotch village. With this acute insight goes a power of literary expression, rich and original, and touched with poetic imagery.—In *Huckleberries* (Houghton) Rose Terry Cooke collects a volume of short studies of New England character, which (like Miss Jewett and Miss Wilkins) she never tires of putting in fiction. Since the days of Mrs. Stowe's "Old Town

Folks" this minute study of provincial character has been pursued by writing women, until there is hardly a county in New Eng'nd which has failed of its special novelist. They still read these tales up there with avidity; it is the food of that sort of vanity which likes to contemplate its own photograph.—*The Lady of Fort St. John* (Houghton) is a picturesque historical romance of Acadia, by Mary Hartwell Catherwood.—A novel which is attracting renewed interest, although first issued in 1890, is *The Chevalier of Pensieri-Vani*, by Henry B. Fuller, of Chicago. It is a book with a curious history—first published in Chicago, then taken up by a Boston publisher, and much praised by Boston literary men, including Lowell and Norton; and now reset by De Vinne and issued by The Century Co. It has found its way slowly to the select audience which likes the writing of a cultivated man. Here, in an age of hurry and sensationalism, are leisurely wanderings amid the beauties of Italy. *The Chevalier* is a modern knight and dilettante. He has a little knowledge of a great many things, and pursues knowledge not for gain, but for pleasure. The story (which has no plot) is told in a charming, limpid style, with occasionally an affectation of simplicity which overshoots the mark. It will perhaps become a fad, and easily slide off those for whom it is not intended.—A very different product of Chicago is *With Edge Tools* (McClurg), by Hobart Chatfield Taylor, who submits his native city to the criticism of New York, and shows her a little behind in the conventions, but far enough ahead in the moralities. Some of the discussions between representatives of Puritanism and European refinements are more amusing than impressive. The book as a whole reveals a wider knowledge of "the world" than of human nature, of people in crowds rather than of individuals.—Ellen Olney Kirk endeavors to picture New York society in *Ciphers* (Houghton), introducing men and women who never existed outside of melodramatic fiction. The story might as well be set in Philadelphia or San Francisco. Grant its characters, however, and there is enough of sentiment in it to interest readers who like what is emotional.—George MacDonald, after a long silence, has published *The Flight of the Shadow* (D. Appleton). It is a mysterious tale, written with expressive and felicitous phrases, and has little to do with reality of any kind.—*In Biscayne Bay* (Dodd), by Caroline Washburn Rockwood, is a slight and unimportant tale, which contains some good descriptions of the southernmost coast of Florida, the remnant of the Seminoles, the edges of the Everglades, Key West, etc., a region which has been fully pictured in fiction by Kirk Munroe. There are many excellent illustrations from photographs by Thomas A. Hine.—Among new editions, Mrs. Gaskell's *Cranford* (Macmillan), with Hugh Thomson's illustrations, is notable. A favorite classic has for the first time found its true interpreter in pictures.—In a sumptuous setting is the new edition of Irving's *Alhambra* (Putnam), printed from new plates, bound in white cloth, stamped with Moorish designs, and each page printed in a red and gold Moorish border. There are thirty-one full-page photogravures from recent photographs of the Alhambra.—For the use of students, Fred N. Scott has prepared an edition of Johnson's *Rasselas* (Leach), with explanatory notes, and brief essays on Johnson's life, methods of study, and the sources of information about *Rasselas*.—The winter season has produced many children's books, and it is gratifying to notice that the best talent occa-

sionally employs itself in writing them. Thomas Nelson Page's *Among the Camps* (Scribner) is an example of excellent story-telling for young folks—romantic, interesting, and wholesome.—John Kendrick Bangs's *Tiddledywink Tales* (R. H. Russell & Son) is for young children who will delight in the odd fancies, grotesque names, and happy rhymes. It is beautifully illustrated by Charles Howard Johnson.—To interest older children in the classics the Rev. Alfred J. Church has told in simple prose *The Story of the Iliad* and *The Story of the Odyssey* (Macmillan). The books are appropriately illustrated with tinted plates after Flaxman.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Mrs. Oliphant has written in the most reverent spirit a volume about *Jerusalem, the Holy City: its History and Hope* (Macmillan). She has no faith in the New Criticism, and has written this narrative with a full acceptance of the Biblical writers. Her history begins with the house of David and ends with Christ, and is in the form of a continuous narrative, with vivid descriptions of scenes in the Holy Land, founded on Mrs. Oliphant's recent travels there.—The *History, Principles, and Practice of Heraldry* (Macmillan), by F. Edward Hulme, traces the development of heraldic symbols, from the devices of the tribes of Israel to the totems of North-American Indians. There are interesting chapters on crests, mottoes, royal standards, and national flags.

## WRITERS AND SUBJECTS IN THE FEBRUARY FORUM.

GEORGE FRANKLIN EDMUNDS (*Perils of Our National Elections*) was born in Rutland, Vt., in 1828. He began to practise law in 1849. In 1851 he moved to Burlington. He was a member of the State Legislature from 1854 to 1859, for three of these years acting as Speaker. In 1861-62 he was President *pro tempore* of the State Senate. In 1866 he was appointed to the United States Senate, where he served for successive terms until his resignation last year, and was during the administration of President Arthur President *pro tempore*. He was a member of the Electoral Commission in 1876 and is the originator of the "Edmunds Act" for the suppression of polygamy in Utah, presented to Congress in 1882, and of a similar act passed in 1887.

EDWARD J. PHELPS (*The Choice of Presidential Electors*) was born in Vermont about sixty-five years ago. He was educated at Middlebury College. He began to practise law in New York City. In 1857 he moved to Burlington, Vt., where he won great distinction in his profession. He took a prominent part in the Democratic politics of the State and received the Democratic nomination for Governor in 1880. The next year he was elected to the Kent Professorship of Law at Yale, which he has held ever since, with the exception of his term of service as Minister to England under President Cleveland.

WARNER MILLER (*The Nicaragua Canal and Commerce*) was born in Oswego County, N. Y., in 1838. Soon after his graduation from Union College, in 1860, he enlisted as a private in a New York Cavalry regiment, served under Gen. P. H. Sheridan in Shenandoah Valley and was promoted to a lieutenancy. Receiving an honorable discharge he went to Europe, and on his return entered business in Herkimer, N. Y. From 1874 to 1878 he served in the State Legislature. In 1878 he was elected to Congress, re-elected in 1880, and the next year chosen United States Senator, his term expiring in 1887. He is now President of the Nicaragua Canal Construction Company.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM L. MERRY (*The Nicaragua Canal; Its Political Aspects*) was for several years President of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. He has made a special study of the commercial development of the Pacific Coast of both the United States and South America.

CUSHMAN KELLOGG DAVIS (*Our Lake Commerce and Ways to the Sea*), born in Jefferson County, N. Y., in 1838, is a graduate of Michigan University and by profession a lawyer. He entered the Minnesota Legislature in 1867, served as United States District Attorney for Minnesota from 1868 to 1873, was Governor of the State in 1874-75, and became a United States Senator in 1887 for a term of six years. He has devoted himself both in Congress and in private life to the study of commercial problems.

JORN N. IRWIN (*A Great Domain by Irrigation*) was born in Ohio about forty-five years ago. After graduating from Dartmouth College he went