

ESTIMATES OF NEW BOOKS.

HISTORY AND TRAVEL.—Field-Marshal von Moltke's compact and popular history of *The Franco-German War of 1870-71* (Harpers), which has been published serially in this country since his death, is issued in a handsome volume in the translation of Clara Bell and H. W. Fischer. The present Count von Moltke, in explaining the origin and purpose of the work, says: "This work, which was undertaken in all simplicity of purpose, as a popular history, is practically from beginning to end the expression of a private opinion of the war from the Field-Marshal himself."—After considerable delay H. Morse Stephens has issued the second volume of his *History of the French Revolution* (Scribner), covering the period from the opening of the Legislative Assembly of 1791 to the close of the year 1793, and including the Girondin ministry, the massacres of September, and the Reign of Terror. The author's aim has been to write "a fairly veracious picture of the period, a mere sober study in black-and-white, aiming neither at Venetian color nor impressionist dash." It will be completed in a third volume.—This same period from a different point of view is pictured in a newly translated volume of the series on "Famous Women of the French Court," by Imbert de Saint-Amand—*Marie Antoinette and the Downfall of Royalty* (Scribner). Mrs. Elizabeth G. Martin is the translator.—The scope and quality of George Kennan's wonderful Siberian articles are so well known that they need not be referred to in these brief notes. It is enough to say that, revised and enlarged, they have been issued in two volumes, under the title *Siberia and the Exile System* (The Century Co.). The original engravings are reproduced and the whole work is printed in the artistic manner of the De Vinne Press.—Another of those very handsome volumes which magazine enterprise makes available in book-form at a reasonable price is Sir Edwin Arnold's *Japonica* (Scribner) with Robert Blum's original illustrations. This volume gives a sympathetic and admiring account of the country, the people, and their ways and thoughts, as they appear at the present day to an eminent English man-of-letters and poet.—Amelia B. Edwards has revised the lectures on Egyptian subjects which she delivered some months ago in America and has put them in a volume entitled *Pharaohs, Fellahs, and Explorers* (Harper). There are more than one hundred illustrations, and notes and index. The topics principally discussed are the ancient cities, the painting, sculpture, and literature of Ancient Egypt, with a chapter on the origin of Greek decorative art in Egypt, *à propos* of Mr. Goodyear's recent discoveries in regard to the lotus flower in ancient art.—Max O'Rell's *Frenchman in America* (Cassell) is the random notes of a lecturer who has travelled rapidly throughout the country, seen a great many things, and heard some good stories. He is good-natured, if superficial. Mr. E. W. Kemble's illustrations are better than the text.—Helen Mather embodies

the light and agreeable records of her vacation journal in *One Summer in Hawaii* (Cassell).

AMERICAN HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.—In an octavo volume of more than six hundred pages, handsomely printed and bound, Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard College, presents a most admirable biography of *Christopher Columbus* (Houghton) which is based on the best authorities, and puts in a scholarly yet popular form all that is known of the great discoverer. The preliminary chapters on the original sources, and the biographers, portraits, and ancestry of Columbus throw much light on the necessary limitations of the biography. This author summarizes his view of the character of Columbus in a few pithy sentences: "Hardly another character in the world's record has made so little of its opportunities. His discovery was a blunder; his blunder was a new world; the New World is his monument! Its discoverer might have been its father; he proved to be its despoiler."—The fifth and final volume is published of James Schoulers's *History of the United States of America under the Constitution* (Dodd, Mead & Co.). It covers the period from 1847 to 1861, the most critical in the country's history. As a compact, accurate, and interesting history, this work, which has been long in progress, has won the commendation of the best authorities.—The Rev. Alexander Crummell, of Washington, has collected a heterogeneous volume of addresses and discourses under the title *Africa and America* (Wiley & Co.). As a negro clergyman he discusses a number of questions which are of considerable historical importance, especially to his own race. Among them are the race-problem, the black woman of the South, a defence of the negro race in America, and our national mistakes.—A work of great research in a little explored field is Prof. William Graham Sumner's two octavo volumes on *The Financier and the Finances of the American Revolution* (Dodd, Mead & Co.). The author's plan is to make the groundwork a biography of Robert Morris, about whom the great financial operations of that period centred. These are explained clearly and with sufficient detail, although, the author declares, an adequate account is impossible, as the most important record of the financial administration between 1775 and 1781 are lost.—Two more volumes have been added to the useful series on the "Makers of America," (Dodd). Prof. Barrett Wendell of Harvard College has written with earnestness and sympathetic admiration of *Cotton Mather*. His aim has been to put himself as a judge in the times and environment of Cotton Mather, and estimate him from that point of view. Where possible he has made him tell the story of his own life by extracts from his diaries and published works. The biographer's own estimate is that Cotton Mather was no doubt a hasty, passionate, indiscreet man, but "the better I know him, the more firmly I believe that from beginning to end he meant to be honest."—Joseph Hopkins Twichell has written the biography of *John Winthrop*, the first Governor of Massachusetts, in the same series, following as his chief authority Winthrop's own Journal. The biographer's conclusion is that Winthrop was primarily a man of religion, in whose eyes Massachusetts was, before all else, a Church. But in his moderating influence between the autocratic and democratic elements he was a prototype of Abraham Lincoln, and the "pre-eminent representative in the Massachusetts colony of the idea of independent self-government."

WRITERS AND SUBJECTS IN THE JANUARY FORUM.

- THE LOUISIANA LOTTERY: SHALL ITS CHARTER BE RE-NEWED?** Judge FRANK MCGLOIN. Judge McGloin was born in Louisiana and is one of the most highly respected members of the judiciary of that State, being a judge of the Court of Appeals. He has long been an active opponent of the Louisiana Lottery Company.
- THE LOUISIANA LOTTERY: A HISTORY OF THE COMPANY.** JOHN C. WICKLIFFE. Mr. Wickliffe also is a native of Louisiana and a prominent lawyer and editor in New Orleans, and one of the foremost men in the movement against the Louisiana Lottery Company.
- THE POPE AND THE FUTURE OF THE PAPACY.** Prof. F. HEINRICH GEFFCKEN. Professor Geffcken was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1830. He is professor *emeritus* of international law in the University of Strasburg. He became widely known several years ago through his imprisonment and trial upon a charge of high treason by Prince Bismarck for the publication of the diary of the late Emperor Frederick. Professor Geffcken is one of the foremost European political writers.
- THE SECRET BALLOT IN THIRTY-THREE STATES.** JOSEPH B. BISHOP. Mr. Bishop was graduated at Brown University in 1870. After thirteen years' service on the "New York Tribune," in 1883 he became an editorial writer on the "New York Evening Post." He has made a special study of the ballot-reform movement since its beginning, and was a prominent advocate of it before its adoption by any State.
- BRAZIL: THE LATE CRISIS AND ITS CAUSES.** COURTENAY DE KALB. Mr. De Kalb was born in Virginia in 1861. He is a mining engineer, and has travelled much and lived in Brazil and other South American countries, of whose affairs he has been a close student. His writings on South American subjects in "The Nation" and other periodicals have attracted attention both here and abroad, and many of them have been translated into Spanish and republished in South America.
- WHY THE SILVER LAW SHOULD BE REPEALED.** GEORGE S. COE. Mr. Coe has been a banker for fifty years, and for thirty-seven years president of the Exchange National Bank in New York City.
- THE TREATY OF BRUSSELS AND OUR DUTY.** Judge LAMBERT TREE. Judge Tree, of Chicago, was born in Washington city in 1832 and was educated at the University of Virginia. He was twice elected to the circuit bench, and in 1885 he was appointed by President Cleveland as minister to Belgium, and in 1887 promoted to the Russian mission.
- HERESY TRIALS AND THE BRIGGS CASE.** The Rev. Dr. PHILIP SCHAFF. Dr. Schaff was educated at the universities of Tübingen, Halle, and Berlin. In 1842-44 he lectured on church history in the University of Berlin, and in 1844 he accepted a professorship in the seminary of the German Reformed Church at Mercersburg, Pa. The next year he was tried for heresy, but was acquitted. In 1863 he removed to New