

Literary Notices.

The History of the Captivity of Napoleon, by WILLIAM FORSYTH (published by Harper and Brothers), is a complete narrative of the Emperor's life at St. Helena, founded on the letters and other posthumous documents of the late Sir Hudson Lowe. Written in a strongly partisan spirit, it defends the conduct of Sir Hudson in the treatment of his illustrious captive, and calls in question the statements of O'Meara, Las Cases, and other writers, who have presented the opposite side of the history. An interesting biography of Sir Hudson Lowe is given, describing his military and public services, with a view of showing his qualifications for the responsible office which was intrusted to him by the British government. The work is important as a contribution to the history of one of the most remarkable political measures of modern times. Without claiming for it a successful refutation of the charges which have blackened the memory of Sir Hudson Lowe, as a petty tyrant, a malignant persecutor of fallen greatness, and an habitual violator of the noblest sentiments of humanity, we may concede to it the merit of very considerable ability in its presentation of facts, and of ingenuity in its reasonings thence derived in favor of the notorious governor of St. Helena. No one who pretends to the exercise of impartiality in his judgments of Napoleon will fail to examine the evidence presented in this volume with eager interest.

The Memoir of Dr. Judson, by President WAYLAND (published by Phillips, Sampson, and Co.) is a discriminating and vigorous tribute to the rare excellences of that distinguished missionary. The subject was singularly congenial to the feelings of the writer—calling forth his warmest sympathies—inspiring him with a tender and pathetic eloquence—stimulating his most profound religious sensibilities—and he has treated it with a heartfelt unction, as well as signal ability. We think the manner in which he has executed his delicate and responsible task will give satisfaction to the most enthusiastic admirers of Dr. Judson. Nor has he been betrayed by his interest in the subject, into the language of extravagant eulogium. His statements are not set off with any excess of coloring; he takes no pains to enhance the sublimity of his theme. Indeed the numerous elements of romance and heroism which abound in the experience of the Burman missionary are not brought prominently forward. He depicts as great a life as any which is recorded in the annals of the modern religious world in the plain and truthful words that are appropriate to the simple, genuine dignity of the subject. For it can not be denied that in many respects Dr. Judson was one of the most extraordinary men of the age. He was endowed with intellectual powers which could not have failed to render him conspicuous, had he devoted himself to the usual objects of secular ambition. With a highly poetical temperament, and a taste refined even to fastidiousness, he combined a singular force of logic, a gift of close and energetic reasoning, and an acute insight into character and motives, which marked him from the commencement of his public career as a person not only of brilliant promise, but of that rarely endowed nature which at once creates for itself a high and commanding sphere of influence. He was born to act with effect on the convictions of men. He exhibited, in a wonderful degree, the talents which qualify their possessor for important posts of administration and statesmanship. As a proof of this, we need only refer to the consummate skill and

energy which distinguished his conduct during various trying emergencies in the Burman mission. But he selected a less conspicuous, though in reality a more noble career, for the exercise of his high powers. With his tenderness of conscience, his sense of the worth of the soul, and his intensely glowing conviction of the saving power of Christian truth, he might have passed through life content with the modest duties of a faithful pastor. Circumstances, however, brought him into a more distinguished field, and made him a religious hero. As such, he compares favorably with the men whose names are regarded as the chiefest glories of the Church. He united the enterprise of Xavier, and the enthusiasm of Loyola, with the humility of David Brainerd, and the self-sacrificing devotedness of Henry Martyn. Limited to a comparatively narrow path of endeavor, he constantly exercised qualities for which no trust would have been too arduous, no career too lofty or responsible. The biography of such a man presented a task worthy of the eminent person by whom it has been so successfully accomplished. The volumes in which it is recorded form a permanent addition to our intellectual treasures.

Autobiography of Benjamin Robert Haydon, edited by TOM TAYLOR. This is one of the most exciting personal narratives that have lately issued from the English press. In point of tragic interest, original manifestations of character, and the romance of actual life, it is hardly surpassed by any of the productions of popular fiction. Haydon was no doubt a man of remarkable endowments—his strongly-marked individuality, if not amounting to genius, bore a striking resemblance to it; while his passionate devotion to Art, in the midst of the materialism of the age, was not without a certain vein of sublimity. Yet his enormous, incredible self-conceit—his defiance of the arts of conciliation—his persistent wrong-headedness, and contempt of wholesome social customs—embittered his whole existence, prevented the just appreciation which he might have attained, deprived his friends of the power of serving him, and finally brought the protracted agony of his life to a close, by the most deliberate act of suicide on record. In this volume all the weakness and strength of his nature are fully revealed, presenting an instructive moral lesson of appalling impressiveness. Connected as he was, in relations of intimacy, with many of the leading spirits of the age, his incidental notices of his contemporaries are singularly interesting, and present a grateful relief to the prevailingly sombre character of his own experience. Although much of the narrative is occupied with local details, we are confident that it will produce little less sensation in this country than it has awakened in England. (Published by Harper and Brothers.)

The Conflict of Ages, by EDWARD BEECHER, D.D. (Published by Phillips, Sampson, and Co.) This is a strikingly ingenious attempt to reconcile the apparently warring aspects in the moral relations between God and man, and thus to solve one of the most perplexing problems of theology. The conflict of which Dr. Beecher treats, is the apparent discrepancy between the natural depravity of man and the character which our natural intuitions of the right and the honorable conspire in ascribing to the Deity. In the theory which Dr. B. proposes for their reconciliation, he admits the reality of each of the opposing elements. It accordingly maintains the thorough views of innate human depravity and subjection to

the powers of evil, which are recognized as true and Scriptural by men of a profound Christian experience; and also the highest principles of honor and right, which a well-ordered mind intuitively perceives to be true and obligatory upon God as well as upon men. The whole conflict, in the opinion of Dr. B., arises from the unfounded assumption that men, as they come into this world, are new-created beings; whereas, in fact, they lived in a previous state of existence, in which, by a revolt from God, they incurred a forfeiture of their original rights as new-created minds, and are born into this world under that forfeiture. No positive proof is brought forward by the author in support of this hypothesis, but he argues that we must assume it to be correct, because it explains all the difficulties of the question; just as we assume the heliocentric system of astronomy, because it accounts for the movements of the heavenly bodies. The volume shows extensive research in the history of opinions, great acuteness in analyzing the subtle theoretical differences that have prevailed among theologians, a spirit of genuine catholicism in his judgment of individuals, and a profound and tender sentiment of personal religion. Coming before the public with a brilliant prestige from the name and position of the author, it is adapted to produce a deep impression in the sphere of theological controversy. Whether it will be received by any considerable number of thinkers as a "finality," in the settlement of the momentous questions to which it relates—an issue which Dr. Beecher evidently contemplates—or whether it will be set aside as an extraordinary effort of audacious speculation, and be numbered among the curiosities of theological literature, is a problem which we are not competent to solve. Whatever opinion may be formed respecting the soundness and conclusive efficacy of the theory which it propounds, the candor, good faith, and ardent piety which pervade its reasonings are patent to every reader.

Memoirs of John Abernethy, M.D., by JOHN MACILWAIN. The biography of this celebrated medical practitioner possesses an interest for a numerous class of readers outside the pale of the profession. His quaint originality, his racy humor, and his honest bluntness of expression, are familiar matters of tradition. Many of his piquant sayings are embalmed in current anecdotes, which will long associate his name with the sturdy independence and rough jocularly of the English character. His eminence as a scientific physician is well known in both hemispheres. Numerous are the invalids from the American side of the Atlantic who have been indebted to his sagacious counsels for the recovery of their health, and who have brought away ineffaceable reminiscences, both of the eccentric vigor of his character and his extraordinary professional skill. In the present volume, the career of Dr. Abernethy as a medical man is fully described—his services to the science of his profession are minutely analyzed—and a variety of details are given illustrative of his personal qualities. As an instructive and entertaining piece of biography, it will richly reward the attention of intelligent readers. (Published by Harper and Brothers.)

A new work, which will attract general attention in the present Eastern imbroglio, is entitled *The Czar and the Sultan*, by ADRIAN GILSON, giving an account of the private lives and public actions of Nicholas and Abdul Medjid. A comprehensive essay on the rise and decadence of the Turks in Europe, is added by another hand. Whoever wishes to obtain an intelligent view of the question which now

agitates the cabinets of Europe, should carefully peruse this little volume. (Published by Harper and Brothers.)

God with Men; or, Foot-Prints of Providential Leaders, by SAMUEL OSGOOD. (Published by Crosby, Nichols, and Co.) In this volume, by a leading divine of the Unitarian denomination, an attempt is made to set forth the religious instruction suggested by the lives of the most celebrated characters in Scripture history. The examples are well chosen; discussed, less in the spirit of dogmatism than of devotion; and applied, by a natural process of association, to the practical interests of the religious life. The purity of feeling, richness of illustration, and frequent beauty of language, that characterize this work, will recommend it to many readers, irrespective of its doctrinal peculiarities, which indeed are not made in any way conspicuous.

The Bow in the Cloud (published by E. H. Butler, and Co.), is the title of a collection of religious essays, by various choice writers, both English and American, intended for consolation to the afflicted. It is brought out with great typographical elegance, and superbly illustrated.

The American Aboriginal Port-Folio, by MRS. MARY H. EASTMAN, illustrated by Captain S. EASTMAN, of the U. S. Army, is an elegant and instructive volume, which will take a high rank among the popular gift-books of the season. Devoted exclusively to the delineation of Indian life in the Western forests, it presents a series of animated sketches, which, without rhetorical exaggeration, afford a vivid and picturesque view of the aboriginal inhabitants of the North American Continent. Several of the native legends are interwoven with the narrative portions of the work, and heighten the effect of the descriptions by their striking examples of Indian fancy and sentiment. The engravings with which the volume is embellished are from drawings made on the spot, and form a beautiful port-folio for the illustration of the manners and habits which prevail among the sons of the forest. (Published by Lippincott, Grambo, and Co.)

Scotia's Bards, is the title of a neat volume issued by R. Carter and Brothers, containing a variety of specimens of favorite Scottish poetry. It includes selections from the most celebrated poets, extending over the period from Thomson to Alexander Smith, together with concise biographical sketches of the several writers. The work is judiciously edited, and is brought out in a style worthy of its contents.

Charles Scribner has published the first volume of a series of *Juvenile Tales*, translated from the German of NIERITZ, by Mrs. H. E. CONANT. It is entitled *The Little Drummer*, and is remarkable for its simple pathos and excellent moral tone.—*Sparing to Spend*, by T. S. ARTHUR, is a tale designed for practical utility, issued by the same publisher.

Lady Lee's Widowhood. This intensely interesting story, from Blackwood's Magazine, is published in their "Library of Select Novels," by Harper and Brothers.

Goupil and Co. have published a spirited engraving of LEUTZE's *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, executed by GIRARDET with admirable success. We are glad to see this great national picture thus brought within the reach of every American citizen.

The new novel by THACKERAY, of which we published the first three chapters in our last Number, has been received with an enthusiastic welcome by the London press. It promises in every respect to equal the best productions of its distinguished au-

thor, and to merit the cordial greeting which has been given to its opening chapters. *The Spectator* says:

"Thackeray's new book—a phrase and an anticipation pleasantly familiar for the last few weeks—is here before us. The first number brings us acquainted with several characters; re-introducing Pendennis, who, in mature age, is writing in the first person of the days of his youth, and the immortal Costigan. It clearly belies the prophecies of the croakers, who would have it that the 'most respectable family' must be but a new form of the Baker-street 'snob.' Clive Newcome, the future hero, as yet a stripling, and the high-hearted unsophisticated gentleman, his father, Colonel Newcome, just returned from India, stand in the first rank. Then come retrospective sketches of Thomas Newcome, the founder of the family, a worthy Englishman and prudent man of business; his wealthy wife, the Non-conformist 'Bishopess of Clapham'—an admirable portrait, in which the charitable and dutiful heart is seen through the rind of narrow formalism; her two sons, the Colonel's 'most respectable' half-brothers; a French countess, his old flame, ardent and honorable; his sister-in-law, seemingly a 'good kind of woman,' with a spice of shrewdness; and her brother, a rhetorical divine, always in pecuniary difficulties, and always on the eve of fortune, with one's assistance—who promises gloriously. To all this a quaint medley of old fables, telling of pretense, flattery, and falsehood, serves as 'overture,' and interprets the symbol on the cover; but the author's kindly and reconciling philosophy is indicated too. The style is the true Thackerayan of 'Vanity Fair' and 'Pendennis'—which is praise enough—with some distinct points of that artistic polish and easy elaboration which added a charm to 'Esmond.'"

In a still warmer vein is the commendation of the *Leader*, weekly newspaper, one of the best critical authorities in literary matters of which the English press can boast. That journal remarks of *The Newcomes*:

"It has all Thackeray's excellences, and gives better promise than either *Vanity Fair* or *Pendennis* gave at starting. There is such easy strength, such power without effort, in the writing and in the painting of character. The satire is so delicate, so true, and yet so without bitterness. Any one else would assuredly have made the Bishopess of Clapham a personification of bigotry: he has made her bigoted, domineering (as all bigotry is), stern, ridiculous, and yet kind, conscientious, and womanly. Her tending her step-son is as true as her distribution of tracts, especially indicated by that detail of her never hinting a reproach when her own sons took the fever. Clapham has overshadowed, it has not killed, the woman. Charming suggested is the sanguine and improvident curate, who only wants 'this chapel to make his fortune'; and although it is calling for too much credulity to ask us to believe in such extreme innocence as that exhibited by the Indian officer, the indignant protest of that officer at the obscenity (that 'blaspheming against the divine beauty of life,' as Shelley says,) which offends him in the Cave of Harmony, is a manly and well-timed reproof. The Frenchwoman's letter is French to the dots over the i's, and the crossings of the t's. Indeed there is an abiding verisimilitude, which is an abiding charm in Thackeray's writing; and we look for twenty months of very peculiar gratification."

The reprints of American books appear to be con-

stantly gaining in popularity with English readers. For perusal by the masses, we are told that publications from this side the ocean are decidedly carrying the day. *The London Examiner*, which usually shows a severe and discriminating taste in its criticisms, has kindly notices of one or two recent works by American authors. We subjoin the following:

"Mr. Eliot's *History of the Early Christians* occupies two well-filled volumes, which are likely to be very serviceable in conveying general ideas to a large section of the public that hears much about the Early Fathers and the Primitive Christians, and would be glad to have a brief and readable connected history of the beginnings of the Church. Though written with pains, and the result of study, Mr. Eliot's is not a learned work, nor does it attempt to usurp the place of learning with a show of pedantry. His view of the condition and progress of Christianity in the early ages is no doubt superficial; there is no close analysis of evidence, and, though there is here and there a shrewd as well as philosophical discrimination of the meaning of events, his plan does not call for its exercise on any extended scale. Mr. Eliot's, in short, is not a book for the student, but it is a book which the general reader may accept with pleasure as a very useful contribution to the stores daily provided to his hand.

"*The Old House by the River* is a one-volumed novel, in the form of pleasant thoughtful sketches, full of gentle feeling, and much delicate and graceful writing. Some little affectation there is in the manner of the book, but it is very pleasant of its kind.

"The children's tales written for the imaginary audience at *Tanglewood*, by Mr. Hawthorne, as his second wonder-book, are very clever, and admirably suited to delight the young as well as to amuse the old. They are old classical stories, of the Minotaur, the Pygmies, the Golden Fleece, &c., told in a fresh romantic way, as they might be told by a man of genius in playful humor, taking as much satisfaction as he gives over his pleasant undertaking. There are very good pictures added to the little book, which is a child's book and a man's book, and a book over which wives and daughters may also discreetly entertain themselves."

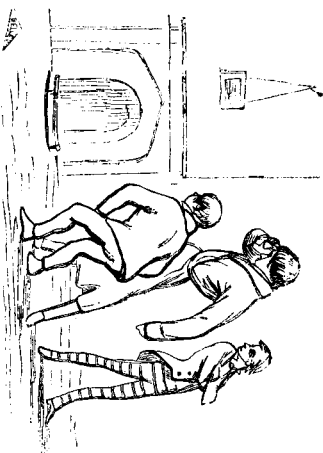
A new volume of Ruskin's *Stones of Venice* has been issued in London, completing that original and vigorous work. *The Spectator* speaks of it in the highest terms of encomium. It says:

"*The Stones of Venice*, of which we here take leave, is a solemn book; the production of an earnest, religious, progressive, and informed mind. The author of this essay on architecture has condensed into it a poetic apprehension, the fruit of awe of God and delight in nature; a knowledge, love, and just estimate of art; a holding fast to fact, and repudiation of hearsay; an historic breadth, and a fearless challenge of existing social problems, whose union we know not where to find paralleled. Most of these qualities may be discovered co-existing as fully elsewhere; their equal application to art, nowhere within our knowledge. The work may furnish examples of dogmatism and partiality; but the dogmatism is laborious observation expressed by conviction, and the partiality is often the impatient assertion of truth."

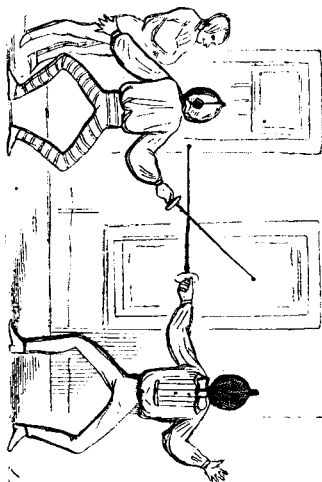
The Queen has granted a literary pension of £100 a year to Sir FRANCIS HEAD, the lively sketcher of incidents of travel.

Comicalities, Original and Selected.

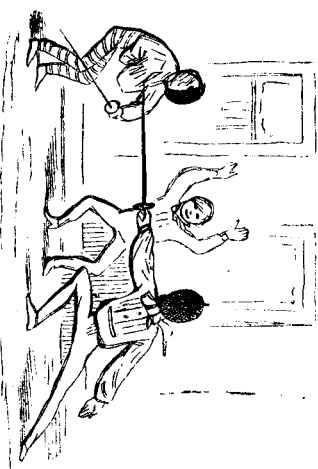
SCENES IN BACHELOR LIFE.



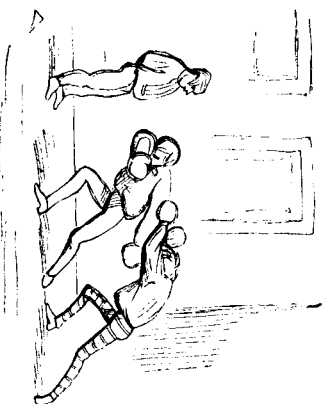
Messrs. Briggs, Brown and Bangs admire their apartments and anticipate "Great Times."



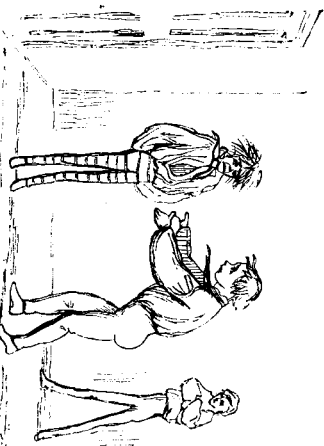
Mr. Brown proposes a turn with the Foils to get up an Appetite. Mr. Bangs agrees to it.



Mr. Bangs fences remarkably well : but is no match for Mr. Brown.



Mr. Bangs proposes a bout with the Gloves, and "polishes off" Mr. Brown in the style.



Mr. Briggs explains the Cross-Buttock ; but Mr. Bangs thinks he won't try it.



Mr. Brown "Don't mind trying, though he knows he shall get a fall ;" but gets a lift first.