

was on my way to a patient near by at the time). 'The love of CHRIST constraineth me; my time is short; I must be about my FATHER'S business!'"

"I wish I could convey to you," said a friend the other day, "one peculiarity of Summerfield—his *physical feebleness*, and how much it was *his strength*. He seemed almost a spirit—and his message was always a message of love."

"I don't know if there are many in the city now who will recollect hearing Summerfield in John Street one cloudy Sunday morning—I think it was in the month of March. He took his text, repeated it, looked at the audience, went to place his handkerchief in the right-hand leaves of the large Bible,

when it dropped. He stooped down behind the desk to pick it up, and when his face appeared above the pulpit, it shone like the face of an angel! Turning over the leaves of the Holy Book with his *whole hand*, instead of *fingering* it, as many do, he replaced his handkerchief in the book, and looking around on *all* his audience (who can forget that look?) he said, in a low, soft, solemn voice:

"*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*"

Summerfield has gone, long since, to his "great reward;" but of those who heard him at the church in John Street, on that Sunday morning, how many have "entered into that 'rest' which remains for the People of God!"

Literary Notices.

The Literary Life and Correspondence of the Countess of Blessington, by R. R. MADDEN. (Published by Harper and Brothers.) The sketch of the career of this brilliant celebrity in the world of fashion and literature, contained in our last number, enabled the reader to anticipate the attractive character of the present volumes. In addition, however, to the piquant reminiscences concerning Lady Blessington herself, they afford a rich variety of anecdote and personal gossip in regard to many of her distinguished contemporaries, including persons of eminent rank both in the political and literary world. Deprived, to a great degree, of the society of her own sex, she courted the acquaintance of scholars, artists, and men of letters, making her house the centre of intellectual réunions, which will long be remembered among the most striking social features of her day. A liberal selection from her correspondence with a number of well-known public characters is given in these pages. At the head of these persons, in the order of time, stands the name of Sir William Gell, the famous antiquary and classical amateur. Lady Blessington made his acquaintance during his residence at Naples, commencing an intimacy which terminated only with his life. A number of curious details respecting this eccentric scholar and virtuoso are given by the editor. His house at Naples, during the latter years of his life, was a perfect museum. In one moderately-sized apartment, forming his drawing-room, library, studio, and menagerie, were collected a store of rarities such as the world never saw before—old folios in vellum, illustrations of modern topography, splendidly bound books of travel, caricatures, charts, maps, drawings, musical instruments, model dogs, and every species of nondescript, brought together in bewildering confusion. An Epicurean in principle and temperament, Sir William Gell preserved a sublime indifference to the common objects of human pursuit, content with the cultivation of his refined and scholar-like tastes, and regarding health, ease, and fine weather as the constituents of happiness. His letters in this collection are characteristic and amusing. Thrown off in the familiarity of confiding friendship, they are free from all restraint, abounding in mischievous satire, agreeable, off-hand descriptions, acute critical remarks, and racy personalities. Of a still higher order of interest is the correspondence between Lady Blessington and Walter Savage Landor, including a

copious and charming selection of letters from both parties. Already at an advanced age, the veteran sexagenarian grows young again under the wreathed smiles of his fascinating interlocutor. Of all the literary men with whom she was acquainted there was none who shared more fully in her admiration, esteem, and affectionate regard than the author of "The Imaginary Conversations." The letters of Landor that are given are spiced with genial humor, fine touches of sarcasm, and bold and original comments on the literary productions and the public affairs of the day. We have also several characteristic extracts from the correspondence of our countryman, N. P. Willis, with the modern Aspasia, which we presume were never intended for the public eye. These were written at different intervals from 1834 to 1848, but throughout exhibit the same enthusiastic homage to the beauty and genius of his benignant friend. "There are few," says Willis, "I ever loved more, and none whose remembrance I more covet when I am absent." "You must look upon every thing I have done since I first knew you as being partly your own creation, for never was a mind so completely impressed upon another as yours on mine." Almost equally effusive and touching are the letters of Bulwer, Disraeli, and Dickens, showing the penchant of poets, philosophers, and novelists for the tender blandishments of female friendship.

Kate Aylesford: A Story of the Refugees, by CHARLES J. PETERSON. (Published by T. B. Peterson.) The model on which this tale of the American Revolution is founded is evidently the fine romances of Cooper relating to the same period, and it must be pronounced a very successful imitation of that school of fiction. Not that the writer follows servilely in any beaten track—he is, perhaps, unconscious of the attempt to reproduce the creations of a favorite novelist—nor is he destitute of marked individuality of conception, or native force of diction. The heroine of this story is a pure and beautiful creation. She constantly wins upon the heart of the reader by her sweet feminine graces. The other personages in the plot are, for the most part, sustained with considerable effect, leaving a distinct and salient impression on the imagination. We notice several excellent passages of descriptive writing, among which the personal conflict between Major Gordon and Aylesford, the revel of the outlaws in the refugee's hut, the

pursuit by the blood-hounds, the fire in the woods, and the death of Arrison, possess singular merit for their graphic vigor and animation.

Getting Along: A Book of Illustrations. (Published by J. C. Derby.) The main plot of this vigorous story is complicated with too many collateral issues for consummate artistic symmetry, or even the greatest popular effect. In composing the narrative, the writer seems to have aimed at the delineation and development of character, rather than to enchain the attention of the reader by a series of exciting outward incidents. The materials employed in the construction of the plot are sufficient for half a dozen novels. Such a profuse outlay on the part of the writer indicates a consciousness of power, of a rich store of resources—but not the talent for organization which is essential to the success of a great imaginative work. Still, we regard these volumes as the production of no ordinary intellect, and of a profound experience of life. They are founded on a deep vein of reflection, rare insight into character, and accurate habits of observing external objects. The style is always sinewy and masculine, often highly picturesque, though occasionally falling into awkward and incorrect expressions. The evolution of thought is doubtless a matter of far greater importance with the author than mere elegance or propriety of diction. For ourselves, however, we much prefer the robust and well-compacted phraseology of this work, animated as it always is by the workings of an original and active mind, to the soft and polished sweetnesses of many of our fashionable sentence-makers. Among the characters which are admirably hit off in this story, are Leighton, the moody, contemplative student, half lover and half misanthrope—Stella Cammon, vibrating between religious enthusiasm and romantic affection—Falcon, the pure-minded, earnest, but dreaming philanthropist—and Susan Dillon, the noble, self-sacrificing idealist, wisely attempting to solve the mystery of life by the performance of duty—to say nothing of a number of subordinate personages, scarcely less peculiar and significant. The death of old Dillon, the fisherman, is an admirable piece of word-painting.

Travels in Europe and the East, by SAMUEL IRENEUS PRIME. (Published by Harper and Brothers.) The author of these comprehensive volumes is well-known to a large circle of readers as the editor of one of the leading religious journals of this city. His name gives assurance of the sound morality, devout spirit, and cultivated sense of all the productions of his pen. In this work, although he meets his readers on comparatively new ground, they will not fail to discover the prevailing characteristics to which they have been accustomed in his writings. Mr. Prime entered upon the tour, of which we here have the record, with a view to the improvement of his health by a sojourn in foreign lands. His hopes were not disappointed, and he recruited with every month of travel. There is no trace of the invalid in these volumes; but, on the contrary, they are written with a spirit and vivacity that betray a keen sense of enjoyment, as well as an alert mind and an observing eye. England, of course, was the country that most warmly attracted the sympathies of the traveler. He soon finds himself at home on English soil. One of his most interesting chapters is devoted to an account of the haunts of distinguished men, describing the places where Bacon, Johnson, Milton,

Coleridge, and other celebrities resided in London. The British pulpit naturally was an object of peculiar interest with the writer. Among the eminent divines of London, he listened to Melville, Cumming, Hamilton, Duff, and Noel. The former of these preachers made a very favorable impression on his mind. The personal appearance of this excellent man was striking. With quite gray hair, high cheek-bones, and large mouth, tall and slightly bent with the weight of years, he exhibited the marks of blended benevolence and thought in his expressive face, giving a decided impression of personal goodness, if not of great intellectual powers. His eloquence almost seemed to be seaphic. Dr. Cumming preaches in an obscure place, and in a mean building. He is a smooth, polished, good-looking man of forty-five, with a voice of musical softness and flow, a rich imagination, and great fertility of illustration. With the celebrated Baptist Noel the writer was much disappointed. He found him a fluent speaker, with a courtly manner, and a polished style, but with little intellectual vigor, and quite a narrow range of ideas. His popularity is decidedly on the wane, and from having been the idol of aristocratic circles, he has sunk into comparative obscurity. After visiting the principal objects of curiosity on the European Continent, including Athens and its environs, Mr. Prime extends his travels to Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, and Egypt, and gives many valuable memorials of his experience in those countries. He devotes a good deal of space to an account of the American Missions in the East—recording his decided testimony to the wisdom of their management, and the value of their influence. In the little village of Abeil, perched on the side of Mount Lebanon, and near its summit, Mr. Prime found an old college class-mate in the person of one of the devoted missionaries of that station, the Rev. S. H. Calhoun. The residence of this excellent man is in a romantic locality. The village commands a wide view of the Mediterranean. Mr. Calhoun lives in a house at least a hundred years old, whose simplicity and antique appearance give it a peculiar fitness for the abode of an Oriental missionary. The description of the meeting of the ancient college-friends, after a long separation, is not a little touching. In the secular portions of his work, Mr. Prime gives a lucid and impartial statement of his observations in different countries of interest, his narrative usually flows with an agreeable facility, and his collateral remarks are almost always suggestive and informing.

Frank is the title of the latest issue of *Harper's Story Books*, one of Mr. JACOB ABBOTT'S most successful efforts for the benefit and amusement of the juvenile reader. It is intended to illustrate the philosophy of tricks and mischief, as exemplified by thoughtless young persons who are a source of great annoyance to their companions and elders, through a certain reckless spirit of merriment, rather than from a malicious or unkind disposition. The story is one of deep interest throughout, and will not be read less eagerly by parents into whose hands it falls, than by their children, for whom it is expressly designed.

A Long Look Ahead; or, The First Stroke and the Last, by A. S. ROE. (Published by J. C. Derby.) The tone of unpretending modesty in which this story is written, will not conceal its uncommon merits from the appreciative reader. Without any flourish of trumpets, it presents a series of pictures

of New England life which, for their fidelity to nature and effectiveness of delineation, are not surpassed by any production of the kind in recent American literature. The scene is laid principally in a rural neighborhood of Connecticut—the characters of the story are taken from the every-day walks of society, including the substantial country gentleman, the village clergyman, and the rustic beauty, as well as the industrious farm-laborer, the honest mechanic, and the genteel loafer from the city, who poisons the purity of the mountain atmosphere by his corrupt presence. No domestic romance was ever written with less ostentation of materials, or produced a deeper impression by such an artless and homespun narrative. The secret of its power lies in its exact truthfulness, reproducing scenes and incidents resembling those with which we are all familiar, and making an ineffaceable impression of reality. Comparatively little use is made of the comic element, which one might suppose would inevitably make its appearance in the description of New England village society; but the sudden touches of pathos and illustrations of generous feeling which often startle the reader in the progress of the quiet narrative, constantly keep curiosity alive, and prevent a single page from being hurried over with indifference. The name of this author is favorably known to the public by some previous specimens of fictitious composition. The present work, however, bears the palm among all his efforts, and can not fail to establish his reputation as one of our most natural and effective delineators of American character.

Botany of the Southern States, by Professor JOHN DAREY. (Published by A. S. Barnes and Co.) In this treatise a complete outline of the science of Botany, in its most important relations, is presented in a simple and convenient form, together with a full descriptive survey of Southern Botany. It bears the character of an original production, and not of a compilation from other works on the subject, most of the facts and principles set forth by the author having been the result of personal observation. The volume is primarily intended as a text-book for the Colleges and High Schools of the Southern States; but its thorough execution and judicious arrangement commend it to the attention of teachers in general.

The History of Connecticut, by G. H. HOLLISTER. (Published by Durrie and Peck, New Haven.) Since the standard work of Dr. Trumbull on the History of Connecticut, no writer has undertaken to furnish a separate and integral account of the annals of that State. Dr. Trumbull relates the succession of events to the close of the last French war, but does not enter upon the interesting field of Revolutionary narrative. The work before us—of which only the first volume is now issued—embraces a longer period, extending from the first settlement of the colony to the adoption of the present Constitution. During this space of time the historical topics that are presented are full of interest to the antiquary, and are here treated with the fullness and accuracy which their importance demands. Among other prominent events, they embrace the early colonization of the Valley of the Connecticut, the succeeding Indian wars, the establishment of the first American Constitution, the retreat of the regicides, and the war with France. Many curious details are given concerning the early manners and customs of the Connecticut people, and the religious opinions and usages that prevailed from the

primitive settlement of the Colony. The work bears the marks of careful research. No accessible source of information appears to have been neglected by the writer. Although indulging an evident enthusiasm for his subject, he shows no symptoms of partiality, and, as we should judge, has given an unbiased statement of historic truth. Copious and coherent in his narrative, he presents a luminous view of the complicated course of events, skillfully avoiding the confusion which is almost inevitable with such a variety of details. His style is flowing, animated, and often eloquent, though occasionally too ornate for the dignity of historical composition. A rigid pruning of his metaphors, which are now too luxuriant for the theme, would prove a benefit to future editions. Unless a writer combines rare literary culture and a classic severity of taste with imaginative tendencies, it is dangerous to indulge the flights of fancy in this grave department of intellectual labor.

Foster's First Principles of Chemistry (published by Harper and Brothers), is intended as an elementary manual of practical chemistry, adapted to the use of pupils in the science, without involving the expense of an extensive apparatus. The subject is presented in an intelligible and attractive manner, and so illustrated by simple diagrams and experiments as to be within the comprehension of every class of students. Each of the experiments contained in the volume has been performed by the author in various ways, but the most direct and convenient methods alone are explained. A great number of new diagrams have been introduced, enabling the learner to obtain a distinct idea of the various decompositions and combinations described in the text. As a practical treatise on the rudiments of chemical science, the volume claims the attention of those devoted to the cause of education, and will amply reward examination.

Another seasonable educational work, issued by Harper and Brothers, is *An Introduction to Practical Astronomy*, by Professor LOOMIS, giving a description of the instruments required in the outfit of an observatory, and explaining the methods of employing them, with the computations growing out of their use. The volume is designed especially for amateur observers who have in their possession astronomical instruments which they wish to employ to the best advantage; for practical surveyors, engineers, and astronomers, and for the conductors of expeditions of discovery, whether by land or sea; and, finally, for young men who are engaged in a course of liberal education. The materials for this treatise have been collected from a great variety of sources, including astronomical journals and the annals of observatories, as well as the usual standard authorities on the subject. Every page of the work evinces the indefatigable care of the author, especially the tables, many of which have been computed entirely anew. The great experience of Professor Loomis as an instructor, no less than his high scientific attainments, is a guarantee for the practical adaptation, accuracy, and thoroughness of his work, and it will doubtless at once take a distinguished rank among our most valuable text-books.

Cosas de España, or Going to Madrid via Barcelona. (Published by Redfield.) The descriptions of Spanish travel in this volume are aromatic as the atmosphere which has inspired the writer with such exuberant gaiety. His narrative flows like

a stream of limpid oil, and is as fresh and fragrant as a vineyard in full blossom. As a luscious *bonne bouche* for the dainty railroad traveler, or to while away a lounge of a delicious May afternoon, commend us to the fascinating fancies and facts of our anonymous humorist.

Tri-colored Sketches in Paris during the years 1851-2-3 (published by Harper and Brothers) forms an agreeable addition to the numerous American works of foreign travel now before the public, and will be read with interest, especially by those who would gain a clear view of the workings of French politics since the accession of Louis Napoleon to the Presidency. The volume consists of articles originally written from Paris for one of the daily journals of New York, without any intention of publication in another form. For this reason, they have a truly popular character, and are adapted to interest a larger class of readers than more formal and elaborate essays. A complete history is given of the birth, cradling, and consecration of a new Empire, at this moment one of the most imposing in the civilized world—extending her influence to every intellectual and polished circle of society from St. Petersburg to San Francisco. The political narrative is diversified with numerous lively portraits of Parisian manners, sketches of eminent public characters and literary men, and an abundant store of personal gossip. The writer has a turn for the comic, and never fails to present the humorous aspect of affairs, for which there is no lack of opportunity in the materials at his hand. With all its variety of amusing details, the volume is not to be classed with those which are devoted exclusively to light reading; but on the contrary, it is full of substantial information—information which can not be so readily and pleasantly obtained from any sources with which we are acquainted. The text is illustrated by a number of pictorial embellishments, which greatly enhance the interest of the volume.

LIEUTENANT STRAIN desires us to state that since the completion of the Account of the Darien Expedition he has had an interview with Mr. Winthrop, whose separation from the main body of the Expedition was noticed in the first paper of the series, with an intimation that the separation was intentional. Lieutenant Strain is now fully convinced that there was no intention on the part of Messrs. Winthrop and Holcomb to desert him; but that, on the contrary, they made every exertion in their power to rejoin him, and subsequently to overtake and relieve him and his party. From a mutual misunderstanding, growing out of the peculiar character of the country, each supposed that the other had caused the separation.

Mr G. CORNEWALL LEWIS, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, has in press a two-volume work on the Credibility of *Early Roman History*. In consequence of the nomination of Mr. Lewis to the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, he has resigned his post as Editor of the *Edinburgh Review*, which is now under the charge of Mr. HENRY REEVE.

The *Athenæum* waxes merry over Mr. PARTON'S Life of Horace Greeley, which is, "on a rough calculation, about twenty times as big as the *Agricola* of Tacitus; nearly twice as big as the whole Twelve Cæsars of Suetonius, and occupies about half the space which Dr. Johnson found necessary for his

Lives of the Poets. Mr. Greeley has no reason to complain," it adds, "but we can not say as much for the reading public, which ought to have been consulted in the matter as well as Mr. Greeley." The custom of writing biographies of living men is compared to the fashion prevalent among the Chinese of presenting each other with an ornamented coffin-lid, in readiness for the time when it may be wanted.

Two biographical works, which promise to be of more than ordinary interest, are announced for immediate publication. Mr. JAMES SILK BUCKINGHAM, the schemer, traveler, and lecturer, is about to favor the world with his autobiography, in which he promises that his voyages, travels, adventures, speculations, successes, and failures shall be frankly and faithfully narrated; he will also give characteristic sketches of the public men with whom he has had personal intercourse during a period of fully half a century. The veteran adventurer can not well fail to produce from such material a readable and gossipy volume. Of still higher promise is the *Life of Sydney Smith*, by his Son, a few of the early sheets of which have reached us in advance of its publication. From these we venture to predict a racy biography, worthy of the reputation of the witty founder of the *Edinburgh Review*.

Mr. THACKERAY has declined the nomination proffered to him of the Presidency of the Associate Societies of the Edinburgh University. "The office," he says in his letter, "is hard for any one to fill who succeeds Sir Bulwer Lytton, and I myself am obliged to decline the flattering proposal which you make me, as, in all probability, I shall be in America during the next winter and spring."

Under the fantastic title of *Mountains and Molehills*, Mr. FRANK MARRYATT, a son of the celebrated novelist, has published an account of his adventures during a two years' residence in California, in 1850, '51. Notwithstanding the failure of sundry plans in which he embarked for making a fortune, Mr. Marryatt writes with the utmost good-humor. He had the penetration to see the elements of a well-ordered state of society which lay concealed beneath the rough exterior which California life presented during the period of its transition from a Mexican to an American State. The work is full of racy and vigorous sketches of life, manners, and character, and is beyond doubt the best book on California that has yet appeared.

The discovery, in the town of Zwickau, of the manuscript works of Hans Sachs, one of the most celebrated minstrels of the middle ages in Germany, has excited the greatest interest in that country. The manuscripts form thirteen volumes, and comprise a copy of the complete works of the minstrel. The copy is not in his handwriting, but it is corrected by him, and is evidently that which he used. It contains several pieces which have never been published.

Paris papers announce the death of a M. Sainte, the oldest actor in France, aged ninety-four; of M. Bouchot, Professor of History in one of the Paris colleges, and author of a *History of Portugal*, and other esteemed works; and of M. Nell de Bréauté, corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences.

YOUNG AMERICA IN TOWN.



YOUNG AMERICA IN THE COUNTRY.

