

ple, or chemistry, physics, astronomy, geology, or biology.

In the ways above indicated, the University of Michigan, in its department of literature, science, and the arts (the professional schools, of course, are not here taken into account), has endeavored to secure the acknowledged benefits of a free election, and to guard against its worst dangers. The results so far attained have been highly satisfactory, though the avenues of improvement are not yet closed. In one direction, it is true, an important step in advance has already been taken. I refer to the opportunity that the more ambitious or the more mature students, whose attainments warrant the Faculty in granting them the privilege, have of completing the last year and a half or two years of their college course, on conditions even more favorable to the development of individual taste and talent than the simple elective system in itself contemplates. It would make this letter too long to describe in detail the "university system," as we call it here; it is an interesting outgrowth or extension of the elective system, and one that promises good results in the future, if wisely administered. Neither is there room for any notice of the marking system or of the question of voluntary attendance at recitations. These topics may perhaps be taken up in a future communication.

W. H. PETTEE.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, May 1, 1886.

Notes.

THE 'Q. P. Index Annual for 1885' (Boston: Cupples, Upham & Co.) is now ready—forming the fifth in its own series, the nineteenth in the general. Some fifty periodicals are selectively indexed by Mr. Griswold's ingenious system of numbering. The authors are placed in a list by themselves, each with a numerical designation by which ready reference is made from his proper article.

Charles Scribner's Sons will issue in the early autumn the second volume of the 'Cyclopædia of Painters and Paintings,' edited by John Denison Champlin, jr., and Charles C. Perkins. The first volume, now ready, contains 105 outline views of the important pictures of the older masters, 182 portraits, and 212 signatures, besides twelve full-page photogravures (mainly) after works of the modern school. The arrangement of painters and pictures is under a single alphabet. There are to be four volumes in all, quarto, and the limit of copies is 500.

Cassell & Co. publish immediately 'Representative Poems of Living Poets,' the selection involving eighty English and American writers, and nearly three hundred selections made by the poets themselves. Mr. George P. Lathrop furnishes an introduction.

Thomas Whitaker will issue next week 'The Church Revived,' a full account of parochial mission work in England and America, by the Rev. J. W. Bonham.

William S. Gottsberger publishes this week 'The King's Treasure-house: a Romance of Ancient Egypt,' translated from the German of Wilhelm Walloth by Mary J. Safford.

Henry Holt & Co. have nearly ready 'Whom God Hath Joined,' a *Tendenz* novel, by Mrs. Elizabeth Gilbert Martin, which has appeared serially in the pages of the *Catholic World*; and 'Children of the Earth,' yet another novel, by Miss A. R. Macfarlane.

Prof. Arthur Sherburne Hardy's new novel, 'The Wind of Destiny,' is about to be issued by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. They also announce for their Riverside Paper series 'The Cruise of the *Alabama*,' by P. D. Haywood; 'Not in the

Prospectus,' by Park Danforth; 'Burglars in Paradise,' by Miss Phelps; and 'The Man Who Was Guilty,' by Flora Haines Longhead. Further, a new volume of poems by Mrs. S. M. B. Piatt, entitled 'In Primrose Time: a New Irish Garland.' (Can the time of Beaconsfield be thus indicated?)

'The Mystery of Pain,' by James Hinton, M.D., is in the press of Cupples, Upham & Co., Boston.

Ginn & Co. publish during the next two months 'The Practical Elements of Rhetoric,' by Prof. J. F. Genung, of Amherst; and 'The Beginner's Latin Book,' by W. C. Collar and M. G. Daniell.

A series of monographs on education, in preparation by D. C. Heath & Co., Boston, will begin with a 'Bibliography of Pedagogical Literature,' compiled by Prof. G. Stanley Hall.

The second volume of the "Olden Time Series" (Boston: Ticknor & Co.) is 'Days of the Spinning Wheel,' but, like its predecessor, its contents are better covered by the general than by the specific title. Under whichever designation, one may be edified by reading the calm contemporary newspaper report of the Boston Massacre; a sumptuary regulation in that city, in 1788, forbidding (shade of Samuel Sewall!) scarfs, gloves, rings, and liquors at funerals; correspondence relating to a fire charity, collected and brought over by Whitefield in 1764; advertisements showing the activity of the slave market before the Revolution, or telling of cows on Boston Common as late as 1788, or proving the existence of mahogany furniture as early as 1759, to the confusion of certain colonial antiquarians who have held this to be a heresy. Here, also, one may be reminded that as far back as 1762 they were making 40,000 pairs of shoes annually in Lynn, Mass.; that in 1775, in Salem, one could listen to a popular scientific lecture on electricity, "every evening in which the air is dry," at a pistareen a lecture; that there was lively celebration of Guy Fawkes's Day in the last century, and that (*teste* the author) even last year, near Marblehead, a bonfire on that date was a genuine survival; finally, that at New Hackensack, Dutchess County, N. Y., in 1789, mysterious rappings and moving of furniture, etc., attended a young girl in a respectable family, and perplexed investigators.

Harper & Bros. take advantage of the interest in the Irish question to republish Miss Edgeworth's 'The Absentee,' in their Handy Series.

Ginn & Co., Boston, have brought out a new edition of the late Keith Johnston's 'School and College Atlas of Ancient Geography,' much improved in every respect, and enlarged by a summary exhibit of ancient geography from the pen of Prof. W. F. Allen, of the University of Wisconsin, whose name is a guarantee of scholarly accuracy. While the maps as such are not remarkable specimens of cartography, they are distinct and free from overcrowding. There is an index, in which the modern name accompanies the ancient, and throughout the pronunciation is carefully indicated. Altogether, the work seems to us second to no other available for English-speaking students.

Rarely does one meet with more beautiful maps than those which compose the first instalment of the second edition of Dr. Richard Andree's popular 'Allgemeiner Hand-Atlas' (Leipzig: Velhagen & Klasing; New York: Westermann). The execution is in admirable taste as to lettering, tint, etc., and is only objectionable on the score of extreme fineness in the more crowded portions. A magnifier would almost be necessary to save the eyes. Many of the plates are quite novel in their selection and division, and will be a substantial addition to maps which subordinate the districts in question. There are to be twelve *Lieferungen* with 120 map-plates (against 96 in the former edition). The wonder is that they can be furnished for two marks each.

'Common Sense in the Nursery' (Chas. Scribner's Sons) belongs to Marion Harland's series of common-sense books, and its name is well given. Babies are necessary in families, and care corresponding to this teaching is necessary for the babies.

During 1883 more than one-quarter of the deaths occurring in Philadelphia were of children under one year of age. In the census year 1880 nearly one-half of the deaths in the United States were of children under five years of age. This mortality and the suffering connected with it, to say nothing of the suffering, physical and otherwise, incidental to illness not mortal of which children are the subjects, are appalling. A certain amount of disease, but a very small amount according to our present light, is necessary; very much of it should be preventable and prevented. Dr. Arthur V. Meigs, in a study of 'Milk Analysis and Infant Feeding' (Philadelphia: Blakiston & Co.), remarks with great truth: "It is melancholy to think how many children die year after year simply because those who are most anxious for them to live do not know what to give them to eat." Dr. Meigs's little book has the advantage of intelligent theory corrected and confirmed by considerable experience.

One might as well expect to find a new treatise to point out the superiority of steam over horse power for locomotive purposes, as to have written at this late day a book to show the influence of vaccination in preventing smallpox. Yet such is the senseless clamor which very noisy and not very intelligent men are making against this most beneficent agency, that some positively require to be reminded of its value. Dr. W. A. Hardaway's 'Essentials of Vaccination' (St. Louis: J. H. Chambers & Co.) points out how and why this life-saving operation should be done. It is not a cyclopædia, it is an epitome of the correct teachings about vaccination.

American publishers of school-books would do well to look at the dainty little volumes just issued from the Clarendon Press, Oxford, containing 'Les Femmes savantes,' by Molière, and 'Cinna,' by Corneille (New York: Thomas Nelson & Sons). The material execution is excellent though simple, and the books open perfectly and remain open just where they are wanted—a rare merit in these days of wire-stitched school-books. The editor, M. Gustave Masson, has given very little of his own in the introductory notices to the plays. His notes are good, though he freely indulges in quotations in them, not hesitating to give half a page of Greek to illustrate a passage of Corneille. This he leaves untranslated as well as his numerous Latin quotations—an indolent process, which will not tend to make the notes easy reading to learners of French, or to some teachers, perhaps. The short glossary at the end of each play is very carefully made.

M. Henry Attwell speaks very modestly of his little book, 'French-English Pseudo-Synonyms' (London: Hachette; Boston: Schoenhot). He says it is merely a list transferred from a schoolmaster's note-book. It is a very interesting short monograph on words which are often the source of great blunders not merely to learners of French, but to the translators of French books. It seems a very elementary remark to say that *large* in French never means 'large,' that *injurier* is not 'to injure,' *monnaie* is not 'money,' *éditeur* is not 'editor,' or to call attention to the fact that *prétendre* generally means something very different from 'to pretend'; yet, in view of some of the current translations of recent French novels, such information seems not to be general among those who translate. The use of M. Attwell's volume might prevent a number of recurring mistakes, especially if the author makes it more complete in a new edition by inserting other words which are stumbling-blocks

from their similarity in form to English words which do not translate them—such as *alteration*, *emphase*, *contrée*, *grief*. Some of these and others omitted by Mr. Attwell may be found in a very good little collection of exercises called "The Bridge," compiled by Mr. Oliver Straightways (London and Paris: Hachette; Boston: Schoenhof).

In *Shakspeariana* for April Prof. J. D. Butler shows curiously, from an examination of Liddell and Scott, to what an extent Shakspeare has been used by these editors to illustrate meanings in their Greek lexicon. No fewer than seventeen Greek authors are explained by quotations from as many of Shakspeare's dramas; and "did they all betoken undesigned coincidences with any one single Greek, they would," says Prof. Butler, "demonstrate that he wrote Shakspeare more conclusively than anything in 'Promus' indicates the Baconian authorship of any Shakspearian play."

In *Science* for May 7, Alice C. Fletcher discusses some composite portraits of American Indians which are shown on an accompanying plate. She made the very interesting experiment of causing three full-blooded Dakota or Sioux young women to sit for their photographs, from which, following a certain order, a composite was derived in the usual manner. Then, in the same order, the three sitters were taken directly upon one negative, at short exposures in rapid succession. Theoretically the two composites should have agreed. In fact, they were totally different, one face "ruling" in one, another in the other. The causes of this are not apparent, but it seems probable that the larger the number of subjects, the slighter would be the divergence in the types resulting from the two processes.

Mr. Joseph Thacher Clarke's article on a proto-Ionic capital found by him on the summit of Mount Chigri will hold the attention of the reader who begins it, in vol. ii., No. 1, of the *American Journal of Archaeology*. This "most primitive memorial of the Greek Ionic style yet brought to light," belonging to a ruin twenty-two centuries old, as is estimated, is convincingly cited as a link in the development of the form from the Assyrian construction in wood, which Mr. Clarke traces with his accustomed thoroughness. Rams' horns, snakes, and all other à-priori surmises as to the original models of the volutes, disappear before the palm. The article is unfinished. Prof. Merriam continues his text, translation, and commentary of the law code of the Cretan Gortyná, in which we observe that the condition of the children did not always follow that of the mother, who might have some free and some slave. Exceptional attention will be given to the clear report on the recent archaic sculptural finds of the Acropolis excavations at Athens, by Mr. Walter Miller, of the American School. As usual, the *Journal's* news department is full and varied, and the number is well supplied with plates and cuts.

We have before us the fourteenth annual reports of the two parallel public-spirited associations in Philadelphia—the Zoölogical Society and the Fairmount Park Art Association. The latter contains heliotype views of the Silenus and Infant Bacchus of Praxiteles, and of the Wrestlers of the Royal Gallery in Florence, both reproduced in bronze. Similar views of animals might not unprofitably have adorned the Zoölogical Society's report, from which we learn that we owe to perfidious Albion and her machinations in the Sudan the deficiency not only in our supply of gum arabic, but also in that of the wild animals which are regularly hunted for menageries in the wilds of Central Africa.

A fairly pictorial look is given to Mr. Carroll D. Wright's seventeenth annual report of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor by

the frontispiece, a steel portrait of the late Henry K. Oliver, the first head of the Bureau—this by way of memorial; and by a heliotype portrait of the late Henry Wilson, a photo-etching of Mr. Dana Estes, the publisher, and a process engraving of some actress, cantatrice, or "English beauty"—these in order to illustrate the chapter on "Art in Industry." A gushing and extravagant sketch of the life of General Oliver (a musician, also, and composer of the hymns "Federal Street," "Merton," etc.) almost covers up the modest excellence of the man—a kinsman, we remark, of Dr. Holmes and Wendell Phillips.

Dr. Theodore Baker, who, a few years ago, enriched musical science with an original monograph on the music of North American Indians, has made another valuable addition to musical literature by making an excellent translation of Dr. Oscar Paul's "Manual of Harmony" into English. Dr. Paul is professor at the Leipzig Conservatory, and well known as author of a musical dictionary and a history of the pianoforte, and as translator of Boethius's "De Musica." Some years ago he attempted to overthrow the tradition that the first efforts at harmony by Hubald and others, some eight centuries ago, were the ugly sequences of fourths, fifths, and octaves printed in histories of music; his contention being that these intervals were not sung simultaneously, but successively. The best evidence, however, is against Dr. Paul's emendation. The fact that he was not afraid to attack so venerable a doctrine, shows him particularly qualified to deal with musical theory, in which there is so much that needs sifting and throwing overboard. Dr. Paul is not an original investigator, like Riemann or Helmholtz, but he is a clear writer and his "Manual of Harmony" is superior to other's, not only in respect of perspicuity, but in being more abreast of the times, by embodying the researches of Hauptmann, and the recently gained knowledge of the harmonic principles of Bach, on which the best modern music is based.

It would be decidedly unjust that the short Easter season should put a limit to the vogue of the very tasteful designs in color published as Easter cards by Raphael Tuck & Sons, of London, and No. 298 Broadway, in this city. Many of these are conscientious studies of famous pictures, reduced with real skill to the proportions of a miniature. The Ecce Homos of Guido and Dolci, never excelled, are among them, better copied than on the porcelains which rich travelers bring home from Dresden; and there are flower studies, azaleas, jonquils, and "Mary's lilies," which would do credit to reputable flower-painters, and deserve to be signed.

The summer course in Entomology and General Invertebrate Zoölogy at Cornell University is announced to begin June 21, and continue for ten weeks. Application should be made before June 10 to Prof. J. H. Comstock, Ithaca, N. Y.

—Mr. Nathan Haskell Dole, the translator of Tolstoi's "Anna Karenina," sends us a letter taking exception to our recent review of his version. We extract the passage which controverts our allegation that "it was made directly from the French, not from the Russian, and the proofs begin in chapter two." Mr. Dole says: "Now it happens—and I can bring affidavits of the fact—that I had not seen the French paraphrase until I was far beyond the second chapter. Indeed, had I seen it, I might gladly have chosen the word *peignoir* instead of *jersey* for *koftotchka*. I claim that I made a perfectly justifiable use of the French version as an assistance in doing the work. . . . That my good faith as to what I said in the preface might have confirmation, I made no pretence upon the title-page of having done the work from the Russian." Mr. Dole cites

"an unsolicited letter from a Russian living in New York," congratulating him upon his success.

—The *Century* war papers for May begin with a sketch by General McClellan of the opening of the campaign of South Mountain and Antietam in September, 1862. His death prevented the completion of the paper, but in the merely introductory part which he wrote there are two or three important statements of fact which are not to be found in the official records. One is that General Halleck had assured him, both orally and in writing, that the command of the whole army in front of Washington, including Pope's and Burnside's, as well as the Potomac army, should be confided to him. It will be remembered that General Pope has declared that Halleck had expressed the purpose himself to take the field with the united command when McClellan's army should arrive. Another important statement is, that, after the second battle of Bull Run, both President Lincoln and Halleck reiterated the conviction that Washington was lost, and that it was impossible to save the city. Still another, and in some respects the most surprising, is, that his (McClellan's) assignment to command having limited him to the defences of Washington only, excluding any moving column beyond the works, and this not having been altered, though requested by him, his marching at the head of his army against Lee at South Mountain and the Antietam was, in fact, unauthorized, and, by strongest implication, contrary to his orders. It needs no argument to show how these allegations complicate the already tangled history of that period. The story of the battle of South Mountain by the ex-Confederate General D. H. Hill will perhaps first strike those who have been familiar with his reports made during the war, as being in interesting contrast of tone with those, highly colored documents. That D. H. Hill can write of the national armies and their officers as he now does, is among the startling proofs how far from the war we are. His paper is a valuable one, pleasantly written, clear and strong in description. He presents the campaign from the Confederate point of view, and strongly emphasizes the opinion that, with the "lost despatches" of Lee in the national commander's hands, a much more vigorous strategy was possible, and that the Confederate army was ruinously compromised had full advantage been taken of the situation. His details of the engagement are necessarily faulty from his lack of personal knowledge of affairs within the Union lines, but he gives much new information of the movements on the other side. Mr. Goss's "Recollections of a Private" contain a general criticism of the campaign, and the amusing experiences of a "high private" under circumstances of confessed "demoralization." In the "Memoranda," Gen. W. F. Smith presents strong documentary evidence tending to show that General Grant's unfavorable criticisms of him were not founded upon his military character or career, but probably upon personal reasons.

—Mr. David A. Wells usually wears a pair of achromatic glasses, and he has been looking at Mexico through them. From the first two of the series of articles which he is publishing in the *Popular Science Monthly*, under the title, "An Economic Study of Mexico," we are led to expect from him the most illuminating discussion of our trade relations with Mexico that has been made public. Thus far his work is mostly preliminary. He sketches broadly but in firm lines Mexico's physical geography, her race inheritance, political history, social condition, and present government. Mr. Wells ought to be warned, however, that his exceedingly matter-of-fact way of looking at things will make him

no friends among the Mexicans. We notice that the New Orleans correspondent of the *Monitor Republicano* refers to his articles with great indignation, as being most insulting to Mexico. "What a way to write the history of a great people," exclaims this correspondent, "to say that they live in adobe houses, that the dress of many of them is only cotton sheeting, that few of them wear shoes, that they use no stoves, plough with a crooked stick, and eat corn as the staple of their diet!" It is, indeed, something of a departure from the method of the traditional writer on Mexico, in whom the practical has been subordinated to the picturesque; but, remembering that the object of Mr. Wells is to arrive at the present and prospective value of Mexican commerce, he cannot be so greatly blamed.

—Some of his statements on minor points are not altogether exact. For example, he says of President Diaz that "he is free from the suspicion that has attached, and probably with justice, to so many of the Mexican Presidents, of using his power, through contracts and expenditures, to enrich himself illegitimately." But it cannot be denied that the bold charges of corruption brought against General Diaz by his political opponents, and the fact that he entered the Presidency in 1876 with no property but his sword and retired from it in 1880 in possession of estates in Oaxaca estimated to be worth a million dollars, are enough to create "suspicion." In fact, one of the grounds of comfort which Mexican business men found in his reelection was that he had already provided for himself in his former Administration, and now might be expected to give some attention to the needs of the country. Mr. Wells speaks guardedly of the "personal popularity" of Maximilian. This is one of the fictions of the Church press and historians. Domenech, in his character as champion of the Intervention, made much of what he asserted to be the spontaneous public welcome accorded the Archduke on his arrival in Mexico. In response to similar assertions by the Church organ, *La Voz de Mexico*, the Government recently caused to be published copies of some most interesting documents in the Treasury archives, showing the truly spontaneous nature of Maximilian's welcome. They were in the shape of warrants drawn on the national Treasury, in 1865, for sums expended in Vera Cruz, Córdoba, Orizaba, Puebla, and Mexico for fireworks, illuminations, triumphal arches, etc., amounting in all to \$115,000. Perhaps Napoleon III., an expert in securing popular demonstrations in his own favor, had instructed the unfortunate Prince in this short and easy way of proving himself the people's choice. We can but repeat that we look forward to the remaining parts of Mr. Wells's work with high anticipations. If anything could justify Congress in delaying to carry out the terms of our reciprocity treaty with Mexico, it would be the desire to wait until the opinions of this trained and careful publicist are before them.

—A special interest attaches to the report of the State Geologist of New Jersey for the past year. Prof. Cook discusses the changes in the eastern coast line with the aid of tradition, history, and the earliest maps, and draws the general conclusion that the Atlantic beach now, as a rule, represents a sand deposit of wind and wave on former marsh land, and that the loss of margin is absolute, while the gain is only relative. Sandy Hook is delineated from various surveys made during the last two centuries, and is shown to have increased its area in length and breadth some four times. The lighthouse built in 1764 near the point is now about a mile south. Five-mile Beach, on the east shore of Cape May, is

likewise shown to have doubled its size since 1772, with great changes of outline. In this instance a whole sea-side town has been laid out over the ocean of 1772. The report has also a chapter on forestry, from which we learn that a little less than one-half the total area of the State is wooded, and that from the nature of the soil a large part of this must ever remain so. Cultivation, however, will probably claim half the existing pine area, or about a third of the woodland. The wasteful and unscientific treatment of these forests still yields \$5,000,000 a year, and this product might be doubled. On the other hand, forest fires, largely caused by locomotive sparks, destroy annually a million, and only the generosity of nature in this State prevents the account from running steadily behind. One railroad has devised a plan of keeping 100 feet on each side of the track free from combustible vegetation—an end which, by the way, in the case of a Southern railroad some forty years ago, was sought to be attained by scythes attached to the axles; until the expedient naturally resulted in the loss of human life. New Jersey now ranks first of the States in railroad mileage, having one mile to every 3.95 square miles. The thirty-fifth State in size, she is the nineteenth in population, and has during the past thirty years increased at a more rapid rate than adjacent States similarly circumstanced, and at about the national rate. She does not lose by emigration. We notice finally in this valuable report a detailed account of the various maps of New Jersey.

—Volume xx of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' ninth edition (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons; Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1886), embraces titles extending from "Prudentius" to "Rostoff." It will apparently prove to be a twenty-fourth, or, including a supplement, a twenty-fifth part of the whole work. In Webster's Dictionary the titles from "Prudent" to "Roster" form one-sixteenth of the volume. In Appleton's 'American Cyclopædia' four hundred pages—that is, less than one-thirty-second part of the whole—are devoted to "Prudentius—Rostock." It will thus be seen that the 'Britannica' has managed to keep up a tolerably even tenor in its articles, undisturbed by the pressure which generally overtakes editors of cyclopædias when approaching the end. Compared with the earliest volumes, condensation and brevity are, of course, almost everywhere perceptible. The largest contribution to the volume, "Rome" (ancient history by H. F. Pelham, mediæval and recent by Prof. Villari, topography and archaeology by J. H. Middleton), though embracing 107 pages, is rather small compared with "France" (181 pp.); and such important subjects as "Pyramid," "Quakers," "Rationalism," "Red Sea," "Roman Catholic Church," "Roman Literature," "Pyrenees," "Rhodes," and the Richards would have received a more extensive treatment if the initials of the titles were not P, Q, or R. But comparatively enough room, it appears to us, is given to "Psychology" (49 pp., by J. Ward), "Railway" (32 pp., by four authors), "Reformation," "Religions" (by Prof. Tiele), "Renaissance" (Symonds), "Reproduction" (Geddes and Vines), "Reptiles" (40 pp., by Drs. Günther and Mirvart), "Rimini," "Roads and Streets," "Romance" (28 pp.), "Romance Languages" (Prof. Storm), and the book of "Revelation" (Prof. Harnack). Prof. Robertson Smith's "Psalms" we should like to see longer, on account of the excellence of the work. "Romans" is from an equally good pen, that of Prof. Schürer. Much less satisfactory, because pedantically dry and historically uninteresting, are the rabbinical articles "Rab," "Ramban" (without an explanation of the title), "Rashba," "Rashbam," "Rashi,"

and "Riph," all by one pen, obviously selected to represent a denomination. Biography is well cared for in the notices of Prynne, Pym, Pythagoras, Rabelais, Racine, Raleigh, Raphael, Rembrandt, Ricardo, Robert Bruce, Robespierre, Robusti, Rossetti, Ptolemy the geographer, etc., but we can hardly excuse the omission of all the Egyptian Ptolemies, for "Egypt" may contain all that is needed concerning their reigns, but not the details of their individual lives; the extensive article "France," *e. g.*, does not render notices of the Lewises superfluous. As specimens of slips we may mention "Hesse-Nassau" (p. 2) as referring to the duchy annexed by Prussia in 1866, and not to the Prussian province, embracing Electoral Hesse and the Duchy of Nassau, formed after the annexation; and the spelling of Polish names with *v*, which does not exist in the language, on pages 218 and 298.

JOEL BARLOW.

Life and Letters of Joel Barlow. By Charles Burr Todd. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1886.

We have in biographical dictionaries and in magazine articles all of Joel Barlow's story that is furnished in this volume—all and more—for Mr. Todd has omitted some interesting particulars which he possibly thought might damage his hero's reputation. The letters to Mrs. Barlow and to Robert Fulton give us here and there a glimpse of exciting times, but there is nothing in them to throw any new light on Barlow's character or career. This is a disappointment. No part of our short history so abounds in amusing social and political details as the period between 1783 and Madison's administration—exactly Barlow's time. McMaster has worked this vein profitably, but there was still a grand opportunity for the right man.

Mr. Todd expresses surprise that an ungrateful country has hitherto taken so little notice of the "poet, philosopher, patriot, and friend of humanity" he celebrates. The reason is not far to seek. Barlow's poetry is of the kind that neither gods nor men can tolerate long. The "Hartford Wits" were the first to manufacture native American verse, and were honored accordingly, especially in their neighborhood. There was not a spark of genius in the group. The poetry they turned out was an imitation of the English poets in fashion at the time: Butler, Pope, Gray, Goldsmith, etc. It looked like the original, but lacked the flavor. It was "wooden nutmeg poetry"—in that respect, "a genuine product of the Connecticut soil." Trumbull was the cleverest of the party. His "McFingal," an adaptation of Hudibras to the politics of America, was quoted by everybody. Barlow's epic, the "Columbiad," an enlargement or a dilution of the "Vision of Columbus," a youthful work, occupied his life. We may safely say that it was unreadable even to his contemporaries. The only genuine verses Barlow published are to be found in "Hasty Pudding." Homesick in Savoy, and cheered by the sight of a dish of *polenta* that reminded him of Connecticut, he wrote them from his heart. When serving as chaplain in the army, Barlow wrote occasional war-songs to encourage the soldiers. "He was one of the *Minnesingers* of the Revolution," Mr. Todd tells us. After the war Barlow was employed by the General Association of Connecticut to correct and enlarge the psalms of Dr. Watts. The new version provoked the following just criticism from a brother rhymester, Oliver Arnold:

"You're nothing but a sinful creature;
You've murdered Watts and spoiled the metre."

It was soon laid aside for another by Dr. Dwight.

Mr. Todd makes no allusion to a stirring lyric composed by Barlow, and sung by him at a festive gathering in the worst days of the French