

stucco and canvas, portions of which remained till 1841. In 1661 another, also on canvas, was executed. That of 1688, being of masonry covered with intonaco (plaster) and painted according to designs by Ercole Graziani, remained, more or less damaged, until the commencement of the present work. New projects for the restoration were being brought forward from 1823 until 1859. The present design is the result of competitions which continued until 1867, when the final decision of the commission accorded it to De Fabris.

The work as uncovered May 12 must be pronounced on the whole a splendid success, and worthy of the church which it completes. Its radical fault, that it is neither basilical nor tricuspidal, is due to the fact that De Fabris designed it as tricuspidal, but was compelled by the general force of public opinion to leave out the minor cusps after the façade had been carried up to the point of preparation for them, leaving a central gable with square shoulders, corresponding neither with the pitch of the roof nor with the vault of the aisle. To my own taste it is better than if the cusps had been added, but it remains a compromise. There is a slight crudity in the general color effect, and most critics complain of the violence of the contrast between the white and deep green, almost black; but time will remedy this by toning the white and graying the green. The general effect of the sculpture is admirable, hardly surpassed by anything in Gothic architecture. The central door, especially, is pronounced by Prof. Babcock, a competent critic, certainly one of the most perfect things of its kind in the range of Gothic architecture. The general plan of decoration of the façade is in accordance with similar works of Tuscan Gothic. Over the great door in the tympanum is seated the Madonna, and all the figures in the façade form part of one general design, in which all the personages of the Old and New Testament, and figures symbolical of letters, fine arts, useful arts, science, works of beneficence, figures illustrative of the Commune of Florence and of the church, render honor to the Madonna. An upper line of half-figures represent historical personages of the epoch in which the church was constructed; and across the entire façade, immediately under the cornice, the twelve Apostles stand in niches—six for the nave and three for each aisle—while in niches on the four piers, on a level with the tympanums of the smaller doorways, are four seated Bishops. These statues are all executed by the leading Italian sculptors of the day, larger than life, being awarded in competitions, and paid only for the cost of the marble and workmanship. As single statues, they represent the best qualities of modern Italian sculpture, but they agree in one notable defect as members of an architectural whole, viz., not being calculated for the position they are seen in, so that they seem squat in the fore-shortening.

Decorative details are borrowed from the old work to a great extent, and the chromatic and sculptural ornamentation throughout as closely as possible follows that in the body of the church. The tympanums and spaces over the doorway are filled with mosaics designed by leading Italian painters and executed by the Murano company. Not the least noteworthy fact, and illustrative of the present condition of art in Italy, is the cost of the work, which, extending over a period of fifteen years, involved the expense of only one million francs—two hundred thousand francs less than the original estimate. There are over thirty full-length statues, and nearly as many bas-reliefs and half figures.

W. J. STILLMAN.

## Correspondence.

### THE GOETHE SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Referring to the note in No. 1145 of the *Nation*, permit me to remind your readers that by the Weimar Committee I was appointed agent of the Goethe Society for the United States, and that, on payment of \$3.25, I can issue members' certificates and supply the publications of the Society, duty paid and free of all forwarding charges to members in this country, as I do now to some thirty members here. If this accommodation stands in the way of keeping alive the public sentiment against the barbarous tariff on books, it saves members the trouble of direct application and remittance and the possible loss of mailed matter, and is a means of delivering the valuable books issued by the Society in a fitter condition than mail transportation allows of.

Respectfully,  
ERNST LEMCKE  
(B. Westermann & Co.).

NEW YORK, June 9, 1887.

### THE BEVERLY INCIDENT ONCE MORE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: For the statements of my note of last week (save as to the tax estimate) I can only refer your Beverly correspondent to the official reports of the two committees of the Legislature, and the testimony before them as printed and published.

As to the tax estimate, I have not yet met a summer resident who expected a lower tax rate. If a fair adjustment of the existing debt was not provided by this year's bill, it should be in next year's.

If it is true, as your correspondent alleges, that this year's vote was due to the power of money alone, the bill this year certainly met a deserved fate.

OBSERVER.

### HOW TO KEEP AN INN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I am a woman, and I have grievances that I appeal to you to make known as the first step towards redress.

I have had occasion this last week to be, for several days in some of the smaller towns, and my soul has been stirred within me by the utter discomfort of the hotels. As a practical woman, accustomed to keep house on a moderate income, I have been considering in what ways the hotels and the hotel service may be changed so as to give more comfort with no greater outlay. Why are the ceilings of the rooms so high? No room can seem comfortable when its length, breadth, and height are equal. If the ceilings were lower, it would be possible to reach the gas burners to regulate the supply of gas, and the light would also fall better on the book or sewing when it is needed. The windows, also, would be more manageable; it would be possible to lower the upper sash at night when ventilation is needed. The windows need sash-curtains across the lower half to secure privacy from over-looking windows, but they should never have thick draperies that will hold the odor of the possible cigar of the previous occupant.

Do statistics show that most travellers in America take private parlors? and if they do, why are there so many parlors that have been turned into bedrooms? I object to sleeping on a pine cot in one corner of a large salon furnished in damask or plush. I object still more to sleeping in a bed that has been turned up into a bookcase during the day. Hotel beds at the best are not aired enough. I protest against their being

hermetically sealed except when I am in them. Nor do I like to wash at what looks like a writing-desk, and arrange my hair at an *étagère*. I am not a sham, but I feel like one when I emerge from such a pretentious, comfortless room; and the two or three mirrors that reflect my mortification and disgust are an aggravation instead of a consolation.

Why is not the table linen better, and better looked after? It is disgusting to have a cloth badly ironed, and covered with spots of iron mould. You view your coffee and eggs with a prejudiced mind when you have been obliged to reject two napkins that have been brought to you as clean, but that are stained and torn and only half dried. Why is there no competent housekeeper to see that things are taken care of? No gorgeousness of frieze and cornice in paper reconciles one to a grate that is red with rust; nor does a carpet made more expensive by a border blind your eyes to the fact that it is not swept often enough.

If a town is small, let it have a small, plainly-furnished, comfortable inn, but let it be well looked after. Such inns are to be found in small towns in England—why not here? I am American to the core, and I have enough respect for American men and women, whether they work in shops, travel for commercial houses, or live on the incomes coming from the labors of their ancestors, to think that they would choose comfort instead of show, and neatness instead of tawdriness.

What I therefore demand, and shall continue to demand, is, that the inn or hotel shall be proportionate to the size of the village or town. If the landlord's income is small, don't force on him a house too large. Spend less for furnishing the house, and more for keeping it clean. Leave off the mirrors unless you are sure the proprietor and servants intend to live up to them. Make the ceilings lower. Build more chimneys and put open grates in them. Have halls wider and better lighted. Provide a closet of good size for each room; and the carpenter should be made to understand that women are not six feet tall, and that it tires them to reach far above their heads for a shelf or a peg. Provide some place for women to write letters; and when it is sufficiently cool for an open fire in the smoking-room, I assert it is cool enough for such a fire in the writing-room. Have simpler curtains and carpets, but see that they are kept clean. Have simpler furniture, and, let it be cane-seated, instead of something that will hold dust and make rooms stuffy. Call a bed a bed and make it look like one. Go back to washstands instead of set-bowls in dark closets; but if there is a set-bowl, provide a receptacle for the water one uses for one's teeth. Have a table in each room large enough to write at and to hold a few books. Have a housekeeper to see that the maids attend to their work, and that the towels, tablecloths, and napkins are of better quality and kept in better condition. See that there is less show and more comfort. Make it possible, in short, to "take one's ease in one's inn."—Very sincerely,

M. N. S.

NEW BEDFORD, June 13, 1887.

## Notes.

J. B. LIPPINCOTT Co. have nearly ready 'Nineteenth Century Sense: The Paradox of Spiritualism,' by "John Darby" (Dr. James E. Garretson); and 'Thekla,' a story of Viennese musical life, by William Armstrong.

A 'New High-School Music Reader,' by Charles E. Whiting of Boston, is in the press of D. C. Heath & Co.

Ginn & Co. announce 'The Eastern Nations and Greece,' by P. V. N. Myers, President of Belmont College, being Part i. of an Ancient History for Colleges and High Schools. Part ii., 'Rome,' will be from the pen of an equally competent scholar, Prof. W. F. Allen of the University of Wisconsin. Both parts will be illustrated and furnished with colored maps, and be bound together or sold separately. The same firm will publish during the summer a thoroughly revised edition of Dr. Albert S. Cook's translation of Sievers's 'Grammar of Old English,' and, later, Zupitza's 'Old and Middle-English Reader,' translated by Prof. G. E. MacLean of the University of Minnesota.

The Scribners will at once put their imprint on Marion Harland's 'Judith: a Chronicle of Old Virginia,' which they have lately acquired.

The Anti-Rent Riots of New York will be the theme of the second number of the series of monographs on Political Economy and Public Law, edited by Prof. E. J. James of the University of Pennsylvania. The subject has been investigated by Mr. E. P. Cheyney, Instructor of History in the institution just named.

A German publisher in Cologne announces a translation of the 'Life of Leo XIII.,' by Dr. B. O'Reilly of this city, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Pope's admission to the priesthood. There are also in the press French, Dutch, Italian, and Spanish translations of this work.

On condition of taking the second volume of I. G. Icazbalceta's 'Bibliografía Mexicana del siglo xvi.,' or a complete bibliography of books printed in Mexico in the sixteenth century, the first is now to be had through B. Westermann & Co. The edition is limited. Numerous titles, etc., are reproduced in facsimile.

We should think that Del Mar's 'Classified Business Directory of Mexico, Central and South America, Cuba and Porto Rico' (New York: Spanish-American Commercial Company), would be of great use to those engaged in or contemplating trade with Spanish America. Certainly it has been compiled with industry and thoroughness, and, with the exception of a few misspelled names, is highly accurate, so far as we are able to test it. Its English, too, is on the whole excellent, though an occasional turn of phrase, such as "all the American mercantile enterprises which have advented in those countries" (p. 365), betrays the writer's foreign birth. The book is not without instruction for the general reader, also, since it shows conclusively (all the more conclusively for doing it indirectly) that the fatal barrier to trade with South America is our tariff. After all the reasons given for the astonishing smallness of the commerce of the United States in its natural market—lack of knowledge on the part of American exporters, lack of enterprise, failure to cater to the native taste, want of direct steamship lines—the author has to acknowledge, believer in the policy of protection that he professes to be, that, if they were all absent, our system of duties would suffice to make a South American trade next to impossible.

The Oxford Historical Society is exhibiting a remarkable degree of enlightened zeal and industry in its publications. It is only three years old, and we have its sixth volume before us, and one not inferior to any of its predecessors in value and interest ('Magdalen College and King James II., 1686-1688. A series of documents collected and edited by the Rev. J. R. Bloxam, D.D.' Oxford: The Clarendon Press). It is a bi-centenary, devoted to the famous Magdalen College case, exactly two hundred years ago. A well-written introduction, of thirty pages, by Rev. H. R. Bramley, gives a brief and clear history of the case, and the rest of the volume is filled with

the three hundred and eleven documents, together with index and such other explanatory matter as is found desirable. It is a model of serviceable historical work, and will be indispensable to all students of the English Revolution, and especially of the interesting episode of which it treats.

Of the miscellaneous papers that make up the sixth volume of the Virginia Historical Collections—a handsome product of the Richmond press—the most curious is the charter of the Royal African Company, 1672, whose traffic was in slaves, and among whose incorporators were the Duke of York; Prince Rupert; Anthony, Earl of Shaftesbury, Sir George Carteret, Ferdinando Gorges, and several ladies—Mrs. Dorcas Birkhead, Dame Priscilla Ryder, etc. This document is introduced by a disappointing note by Mr. R. A. Brock, who endeavors to relieve Virginia of the odium of establishing slavery on her own soil, but ends by praising her manufacture of African savages into (Liberian) Christians. This is as antiquated as the colonization authority on which he relies for the growth of the anti-slavery sentiment at the North. The Gilmer papers, military and political, belong to the Revolutionary period, and have much local and some general interest. The orderly-book of Capt. George Stubblefield's company during four months of 1776; the history of the *Merrimac* (alias *Virginia*) in the civil war; and a memorial of the Federal prison on Johnson's Island, Lake Erie, 1862-64, fill out the volume, and give it a decided value.

Mrs. Charles D. Deshler of New Brunswick, one of the leading historians of New Jersey, has made public for the first time an interesting series of letters, parts of correspondence between four Newark lads, John Croes, Ashbel Green, Alexander C. Macwhorter, and Zadock Squier. The correspondence is between three of them who went to Princeton College, then known as Nassau Hall, in 1782, and Croes, who remained in Newark. They are interesting not only for their graphic picture of college life one hundred years ago, but because of the prominence three of the young men afterward reached. Ashbel Green, the grandfather of Governor Green, became President of Princeton College; John Croes was the first Episcopal Bishop of New Jersey; and Alex. C. Macwhorter became one of the most prominent New Jersey lawyers, and, as one of the founders of the *Institutio Legalis*, exerted a wholesome influence on his successors.

Dr. Marvin R. Vincent, in his 'Word Studies in the New Testament' (Charles Scribner's Sons), has attempted to combine in one a sort of enlarged Trench, a reduced lexicon, a condensed concordance, and snatches of a commentary. His success in producing a readable compound has been considerable, and his patient use of the best authorities, and high degree of accuracy, it is pleasant to note. If he sometimes errs in pressing classic usage as interpretative of New Testament Greek, he does it in good company. Trench set that fashion too brilliantly to be superseded speedily, though the best scholarship has shown, we think, the Septuagint to be the true dictionary of the New Testament. We must doubt if Dr. Vincent will succeed in his declared aim of giving to readers ignorant of Greek a sense of the force of Greek idioms, tenses, word-metaphors, etc. Many such, at least, he will bewilder and mislead as much as he will enlighten; in fact, we very much fear that his book will cause to reappear in certain pulpits those allusions to "the exact force of the original" which the Revision bade fair to exterminate.

Dr. F. H. A. Scrivener has just issued from the Cambridge (England) press a beautiful third edition of his well-known 'Novum Testamentum Textus Stephanici, A. D. 1550,' in which, in ad-

dition to the various readings of the second edition (1876), are inserted those of Westcott and Hort, and of the Revisers of 1881, prepared by Mr. W. F. Shilleto, A.M. While making this further concession to the progress of textual criticism, Dr. Scrivener characterizes the text of the Revisers as "Westcott-Hortii placitis forsanimis arcte consanguineum," and that of Westcott and Hort as "splendidum peccatum, non *κατὰ εἰς δει*"; and he thinks that, while following Lachmann's rules, they have erred from the truth even further than Lachmann himself. One who has devoted himself for fifty years to the study of the text of the New Testament, has earned the right to express his opinion, but the world moves and revolutions never go backwards. Dr. Scrivener has also added to the inner margin of this edition the numbers of the Ammonian sections and Eusebian canons, a table of which is prefixed, and to the outer margin a copious list of parallel passages. In other respects the pages correspond exactly to those of the second edition, which is a convenience to the student.

The attention of those interested in coöperative schemes may be called to 'Social Solutions' (Lovell Co.), a translation of the work of M. Godin, the founder of the celebrated Familistère at Guise. The mixture of wild theory with practical sense is not unprecedented, and it is to be found in this volume. Those who have the patience to rake off the chaff will be rewarded by the discovery of a good deal that is valuable regarding the construction and management of a "Palace of Industry."

The book of an invalid is possibly not the best reading for invalids, but in Fannie Nichols Benjamin's 'Sunny Side of Shadow' (Boston: Ticknor & Co.), there is an attempt to brighten the hours of convalescence by telling the reveries of the author in that state. It deals much in excellent quotation, and there is a mild purity in its spirit which wins the consideration of the reader.

'An Index to the Works of Shakspeare, Giving references, by topics, to notable passages and significant expressions; brief histories of the plays; geographical names, and historical incidents; mention of all characters, and sketches of important ones; together with explanations of allusions and obscure and obsolete words and phrases,' by Evangeline M. O'Connor (D. Appleton & Co.), is a volume completely described by its title. It is a compilation, from obvious sources, of much information in regard to the plays and cognate subjects, and contains mention of most things for which any ordinary reader would have occasion to consult a book of reference about Shakspeare. But its treatment of these topics is inadequate. It is a very incomplete concordance and dictionary; it contains a few quotations from Coleridge, Dowden, Gervinus, etc., in respect to the leading characters; and altogether is a scattering compendium. Its notes, it must be added, are slight and touch only the surface of Shakspeare literature; greater fulness would have swelled the volume indefinitely. Scholars and special students have no need of it; but school libraries and others which cannot afford the more expensive works that cover the ground scientifically and thoroughly, will find this convenient, well-printed, and useful.

The 'Shakspeare-Bibliographie, 1885 und 1886,' by Albert Cohen, just issued, is a separately printed portion of the twenty-second volume of the *Shakspeare-Jahrbuch*, the organ of the German Shakspeare Society. Its compiler shows the same extraordinary diligence and skill in collecting the materials for his work from the most varied sources as in his former issues. The larger part of the fifty pages is, of course, taken up with English and American titles. The



veteran scholar, Mr. Halliwell-Phillips, is credited with eleven publications, and the contents of volumes two and three of *Shakespeariana* are given, as well as articles appearing in papers like the *Gazette*, Lawrence, Kansas. From the ten pages given to Germany, it is evident that her scholars still preserve their interest in the study of the English dramatist. The most curious part of the bibliography is the page devoted to Icelandic translations, made within the past few years, of four of the plays, "Hamlet," "King Lear," "Macbeth," "Othello," and two of the "Tempest," together with selections from three others. There is only one Russian translation, but there are four in Greek. The final entry is the most interesting of all, "The Two Gentlemen of Verona, translated into Singhalese, and arranged for the native stage by the insertion of verses to be sung in chorus. Ceylon? 1884 or 1885."

A foreign observer may well believe that the year 1886, commemorated in the *Annual Register* just published (London: Rivingtons), marks for Great Britain the beginning of the greatest constitutional revolution of the century. The incoming of the Gladstone Ministry and its downfall on the Irish question were the outward incidents of the change which we cannot yet forecast. As usual, in this *Register*, non-British countries are summarily treated, with much the effect that comes of half-closing one's eyes on a landscape, or of the camera image. The United States is thus reduced to President Cleveland's messages, the fisheries dispute, the Cutting affair with Mexico, the strikes and the Anarchist riot in Chicago, the Henry George and Roosevelt candidacies. The *Register* presents its customary *Chronicle* or diary of public events for the year; its review of literature, science, and art; and its necrology. No state documents and no *causes célèbres* are put on record. The volume extends an invaluable series.

Five more numbers in the pocket "National Library," edited by Prof. Henry Morley (Cassell), include Coventry Patmore's "Angel in the House," De Quincey's "Murder as a Fine Art, and English Mail-Coach," "Trips to the Moon" (Dr. Thomas Francklin's translation from the Greek of Lucian), the second volume of White's "Selborne," and another batch of Plutarch's *Lives*—Cato the Younger, Agis, Cleomenes, the Gracchi.

The last pair of the six volumes of the Riverside edition of Robert Browning's Works—so contrived, by the way, that each volume can be had separately, and the order of the set is indicated only within—combines lyrics and dramatic idylls, translation and transcription from the Greek, the French "Red Cotton Night-Cap Country," the Italian "Pacchiarotto," the Oriental "Ferishtah's Fancies," the cosmopolitan "Parleyings with Certain People of Importance in Their Day," and finally some fragments that have hitherto escaped collection. In a word, these two volumes show all sides of a poet who, by dramatic instinct, prefers blank verse to rhyme, and ruggedness to limpidity. Here he challenges in all ways those who hold him in light esteem because, as he says in "The Inn Album,"

"he neglects the form:  
But ah, the sense, ye gods! the weighty sense."

Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., in this handsome American edition, have not "neglected the form."

The contents of the first volume of *Scribner's Magazine* are surely fresh in the minds of our readers. Gov. Washburne's "Siege and Commune of Paris," the French diary of Gouverneur Morris, J. C. Ropes's portrait-studies of Napoleon and Cæsar, Thackeray's inedited letters, Prof. Shaler's Earth and North American Forests, are some of the successes which may be

recalled here, without prejudice to divers other contributions of great merit and interest. The illustrations are of a high order. The binding has been very happily conceived and executed.

"Arithmetic in Primary and Grammar Schools" (Boston: Damrell & Upham) is the title of a pamphlet containing the remarks made recently on this subject by Gen. F. A. Walker in the Boston School Committee. He takes vigorous exception both to the amount of time given to the study by the younger scholars, and also to the character of much of the teaching. This, he holds, "is largely made up of exercises which are not exercises in arithmetic at all, or principally, but are exercises in logic," and fitted only for maturer minds. He fortifies his position by quoting similar views on this point by several prominent educators.

Volume vi. of the fourth edition of Meyer's *Konversations-Lexikon* (New York: Westermann) is now completed, and the seventh volume has advanced to the article Glass, one of the many, industrial and economic, which are carefully prepared for this standard work of reference. France, Florence, and Frankfurt-on-the-Main are the leading geographical articles, all accompanied by maps. Under the first there is a fairly objective estimate of the French character, a particular account of the French military establishment, and a full history of the Third Republic, coming down to Boulanger's push to the front. The chapters on French literature and language are also noticeable. In biography, Goethe leads out of sight with more than seventeen pages, and one may learn what is needful of the Goethe Museum and Gesellschaft. Gladstone is allowed two and a half pages. Froude is justly estimated. American biographies are usually executed with discernment, as in the case of Fillmore and Grant. Garfield's claims as a Presidential reformer are decidedly overrated. Under Franklin, one finds mention of the newest edition of his works—Mr. Bigelow's. The woman question fills four pages; but neither the movement in England nor that in the United States has been rightly grasped. Especially is the independent genesis of the latter quite disregarded. It is erroneously asserted that several States have granted the suffrage to women.

From the same firm come Parts 14-17 of the "Geschichte der Deutschen Kunst," which conclude the two departments of architecture and statuary (*Plastik*). The series is now about two-thirds finished, wood and metal engraving having yet to be treated of, and promising to furnish as beautiful an array of illustrations as have distinguished the chapters on painting, the builder's and the sculptor's art. Of the *Allgemeine Naturkunde*, Westermann & Co. send us Parts 73-82, which deal with plant-life. Dr. Kerner von Maxlaun of the University of Vienna is the author of this section, and his name is a guarantee of high quality in the text. The chromo illustrations are partly from water-color sketches made by naturalists, and these have a decided charm. As usual, woodcuts in great number are interspersed with the letter-press.

An interesting "epoch study" of the Empress Elizabeth Petrovna, forming a part of the unfinished History of Russia by N. I. Kostomarov, has just been published from his posthumous papers.

Horner's large etching of Broadway north from Canal Street in 1836 is well known to all who busy themselves with the pictorial antiquities of this city, and has often been copied by photographic reduction. Messrs. James A. Webb & Son, 165 Pearl Street, merchants for whom the print has a special interest, have had it reproduced at scale in facsimile, and from them we receive a copy. The intervening half century has spared hardly a vestige of the house depicted in this plate, which abounds, besides, in curiosities

of vehicles, dress, and customs now alike extinct—such as a canvas-covered ice-cart on two wheels; the Greenwich and Wall St. bus; a wood-sawyer cumbering the street with his logs and sawhorses, etc.

—The first number of the "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War" (The Century Co.) shows how a subscription book ought to be made. The De Vinne Press and the corps of artists who serve the *Century* have coöperated in producing a most inviting and beautiful reprint of the war papers which have had such vogue in that medium. It is something more than a reprint, as this instalment shows, for in the original series the Sumter episode was not discussed. Other similar gaps the editors, Messrs. R. U. Johnson and C. C. Buel, discovered when it became a question of making a connected whole of the contributions—Northern and Southern—to the magazine. These have accordingly been provided for, so that the purchaser of the work will get a complete military history of the war. This history, we need hardly say, is really "materials to serve," but not raw materials. The narrative of the actors, great and small, in the desperate struggle is thoroughly readable, and it can be read on both sides of Mason and Dixon's line without bitterness and even without feeling. The conception which gave birth to it was a happy one, and the widest circulation which this great pictorial record can have will be all to the common interest of the citizens of our reunited republic.

—The first edition of "Shakespeare Outlines," by Halliwell-Phillips, was a thin volume. But its author has more divining power than any wielder of witch-hazel for detecting living fountains where others can see only a waterless desert. So the "Outlines" have grown year by year till the fifth edition had 637 pages, and the sixth last year showed 784. The seventh edition, which came out the last week in May, is still sixty pages more ponderous. Yet Mr. Phillips's pages never show those marks of easy writing which Sheridan declared with an oath to be hard reading. Regarding this last issue, he writes as follows to an American friend:

"The last winter's work was about the hardest I have ever had. The brief annex to my 'Outlines' is the result of several months' incessant labor. The subjects newly considered are the Charleote traditions and the poet's religious opinions, both requiring a careful study of the contemporary law. The statute law is, as a rule, easily interpreted, but it is most difficult in many cases to get at the practice of the ancient common law, and you would, I think, have been amused could you have seen me day after day imbedded amidst black-letter law-books, of which, fortunately, I have a large collection. You will perhaps remember that when you were last here at Hollingbury Copse, in November, 1884, seeing a deed with the autograph of Sir Thomas Lucy, the poet's *Justice Shallow* in 'Merry Wives,' This deed was without a seal. A few months ago, by a piece of great good fortune, I obtained a fine and perfect deed, not only with Sir Thomas Lucy's signature, but with a perfect example of the *three-luces seal*, a great curiosity that I am not a little proud of. The only other specimen, as I believe, to be found in private hands belongs to the Marquis of Bute."

—In the June *Macmillan's* the Rev. Canon Ainger has an interesting study of Coleridge's poem "Dejection," in which he finds some biographical matter. This ode originally appeared in the *Morning Post* of October 4, 1802, six months after it was written, and was afterwards revised and included in the "Sibylline Leaves," 1815. October 4, 1802, was the day of Wordsworth's marriage. There is among the Beaumont papers the earliest draft, which is addressed to "William"; in the second or *Morning Post* version "William" becomes "Edmund"; and in the 1815 volume "Edmund" is exchanged for the "Lady" whose existence is a poetic fiction. That

"Edmund" means Wordsworth is also made clear by a letter of Charles Lamb, who writes to Coleridge in Latin, which Canon Ainger freely renders—"I am awfully glad to receive your account of the marriage of Wordsworth (or perhaps I should rather say, of a certain *Edmund* of yours)." Furthermore, this earlier version contains definite and strong lines of friendship which are omitted from the ode as we now have it. It was at this time that Coleridge was coming to a perception of the power and effect of the opium habit, though he had not made his friends acquainted with this cause of his dejection. Canon Ainger goes on to argue that Wordsworth's poem upon the Leech Gatherer was his reply to this tribute and hopeless appeal of Coleridge; and though nothing very definite is shown, it is very likely that such was the case—certainly the stanzas have a remarkably apposite application to Coleridge's individual character and his circumstances. The identification of Wordsworth as the person whose nature really called out Coleridge's ode, the relation between the two poets thus illustrated, and Wordsworth's response to his friend, then entering into the dark shadow of his life, make up a moment of literary history well worth remembering and setting forth. It is not improbable that the divergence of the two friends in later life accounts for Coleridge's changes in the poem. A correspondent in the last *Academy* points out that Canon Ainger was anticipated by Prof. Brandl last year, in his (German) Life of Coleridge.

—The May number of *Les Lettres et les Arts* (Scribners) contains one of Pierre Loti's Oriental sketches similar to those which appeared a few months ago descriptive of Kioto and of Obock. This time he writes of a little territory on the Malabar coast, "Mahé des Indes," which has been French since 1727. With his usual felicities of expression, always surprisingly simple in language and in form, but representing extremely subtle and complicated impressions, he relates the three expeditions he made to the shore during the first three days of January, 1885, when his ship was anchored off the coast. The paper is accompanied by numerous sketches, by Félix Régamey, of this region of India and its people. As a writer, Loti does not lend himself to illustration by another; the vision he brings before the mind is itself too vivid and complete to allow it. There is an excellent paper by M. Gustave Masson, editor of *Les Lettres et les Arts*: "J.-L. Gérôme et son œuvre." The story of the artist and his work is well and simply told, and is illustrated by several of his most characteristic pictures. M. Germain Bastet writes with enthusiasm concerning "Le Bureau de Louis XV," now preserved in the Musée du Louvre, and which has been called "le plus beau monument du xviii<sup>e</sup> siècle." M. Bastet himself had the good fortune to discover in the National Archives the Memoir containing all the details of construction of this "merveille de l'ébénisterie française." "Aux Affaires étrangères," of which the first part is given in the present number, is a story so extremely cold and naked that it seems rather a collection of facts. The author, M. Paul Hervieu, is much inclined towards this very arid style of fiction, which seems to have great fascination for some of the most promising of the younger writers of the day, M. Guy de Maupassant at their head. But M. Hervieu has just written in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* (May 1 and 15) one of the most imaginative and dramatic of psychological stories, "L'Inconnu," which shows that his great powers of observation and of analysis may some time be put to more attractive uses than heretofore.

—Mr. G. B. Airy contributes to *Nature* (April 14, 1887) a communication "on the establishment

of the Roman dominion in Southeast Britain," the special value of which consists in the identification of the localities of the campaigns of the Roman general Plautius. An interesting showing is that the Romans made a road from Camulodunum (Colchester) due west, "the great western road," by Marks Tey, Coggeshall, etc., to Stortford, and then afterwards the road to London, which is proved by the fact that the London road from Colchester branches off at a considerable angle at Marks Tey (this is shown by any good map of England). The latter part of the article, however, exhibits a curious confusion, in connecting the events of A. D. 60 (Boadicea's revolt) as directly following the occupation of the province in 43. Mr. Airy repeatedly mentions Plautius in connection with this revolt, although Dio Cassius, his authority, calls the governor Paulinus. He further attributes the revolt to exactions by Claudius, who had now been dead six years; what Dio Cassius says is that Claudius had given certain sums to the principal men of the Britons, and that now they were demanded by Catus (not Calus) the procurator. Mr. Airy questions the statement of Dio that the governor was absent in *Mōva* (Anglesea), as it is "very improbable that, in such a state of affairs, Plautius [Paulinus] would have gone, by a difficult march, to such a distance." Tacitus, however, in his nearly contemporary account (in his life of Agricola), twice mentions Paulinus's expedition against the island of Mona (chaps. xiv and xviii) as caused by its giving aid to his enemies—exactly the reason why Cæsar invaded Britain itself, B. C. 55.

—Count L. N. Tolstoi's interest in the education of the people and the production of suitable literature for their use has led him to try his powers in a new field, that of dramatic writing. The result cannot fail to amaze those who have the courage to brave the peculiarities of language and subject. How far it may answer its purpose and inculcate good morals in the peasants, remains to be seen. The title is, "The Kingdom of Darkness; or, Stick in a Claw and the whole Bird will Perish." In accordance with the author's theory, announced in a previous work, that the peasant always talks good Russian, while the cultivated man does not, he has couched his drama in language which is as unpleasant to read, and, it is safe to say, as far removed from refinement, as any author of note ever indulged in. The dialect is so rough, the commonest words so distorted, the expressions so coarse, that there would be but little pleasure in reading it, even if the plot were less intolerably repulsive than it is. Blood-curdling is the only fitting term to apply to it. The actors are all peasants; the chief ones are an old, wealthy, and sickly muzhik, his sixteen-year-old daughter by his first wife, his second wife and her daughter, aged ten, his hired man, the young fellow's parents, and an orphan girl of twenty-two. The action is extremely slight, mostly consisting in the crawling on and off the oven by several of the characters. One of the exceptions proves that the author actually expected his drama to be produced on the boards. A stage direction orders that Nikita, the young hired man, shall, "if possible, enter on horseback." "Oedipus in the village" is what a Russian critic calls this drama. There was some thought of putting it on the stage in St. Petersburg, but at the preliminary reading the actors refused to undertake it, and it has now been officially prohibited.

—M. Hector Pessard, formerly *directeur* of the *National*, and, since the change of politics of that paper, of the *Petite République Française*, has just published in a volume the very interesting articles which have appeared in recent numbers of the *Revue Bleue*, under the title 'Mes

petits papiers: Souvenirs d'un journaliste, 1860-1870' (Paris: Calmann Lévy; Boston: Schoenhof). In these he relates, with that gift for picturesque and dramatic narration which is so general among Parisian writers for the press, not only his own literary beginnings, but also those of many of the young journalists and *avocats* of twenty-five years ago, who have since become very important personages in the political world. Among the "jeunes gens d'avenir" whom we meet throughout M. Pessard's 'Souvenirs' are Jules Ferry, Charles Floquet, now President of the Chamber of Deputies; Adrien Hébrard, now Senator and *directeur* of the *Temps*; Clément Duvernois, in its later years one of the ministers of the Empire which he began by opposing, and who, in the various aspects and fortunes under which his friend presents him, suggests some hero imagined by a writer of romance, a kind of Beaumarchais of the nineteenth century. There are, too, several picturesque glimpses of Gambetta in the early days, when he was still an unknown young *avocat*.

—In 1866 M. Pessard became one of the collaborators of *La Liberté*, which Émile de Girardin had just purchased. From this time his *petits papiers* become even more instructive and entertaining than before. Besides the great journalist himself, both Émile Ollivier and the Emperor enter upon the scene and act the chief parts to the end, giving to the last half of the volume a special importance which might easily be overlooked at first in the enjoyment of M. Pessard's delightful and unfailing good humor and gaiety. All the famous men of the Liberal or Republican Opposition under the Second Empire pass by in the pages of M. Pessard, and the political history of the period is related from the writer's point of view at the time, modified by his present opinions. The men are presented under novel conditions sometimes, and the events are related so as to show quite as novel possibilities of interpretation; but it all appears to be done with fairness, and even generosity. The worst accusation that has been brought against M. Pessard seems to be that his facts, correct in themselves, are often shown in a fantastic light. This is probably true, but then any light but one's own always appears fantastic to an opponent.

#### ADMIRAL BLAKE.

*Admiral Blake.* By David Hannay. [English Worthies. Edited by Andrew Lang.] D. Appleton & Co. 1886. 12mo, pp. 194.

No name stands with better right in the list of English worthies than that of Robert Blake; and perhaps no Englishman of equal greatness is less known in the present generation. That he was the soldier of Parliament and the Commonwealth has probably stood in the way of his fame in two ways—by subjecting his name to the same depreciation as that of Cromwell, until the change of sentiment in the present century; and, since then, by the exaggerated emphasis placed upon Cromwell personally and the civil history of England during this period. Mr. Hannay has, he says, found but scanty materials, and he has made but a thin book as compared with others of the same series. It is a book of unquestionable merit, and deserves to be widely read. We think, however, that he might have made it larger, even with his scanty materials, and that without undue diffuseness or padding. Blake's life, if not a very long one, was full of incident and adventure, and his biographer seems to us to have yielded so far to the demand of the day for "small books" as to omit matters that would be really interesting and valuable. To take one