

ently, and that 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' "wrote itself." Mr. Saltus's literary training and habits of mind serve to increase this impression of arbitrary choice and cool calculation of effects and artistic values. He is the author of a work on the 'Anatomy of Negation,' and has been called "a scientific pessimist"—until one's mind refuses to be deceived into taking the story for anything more than the ingenious calculation of a trained intellect. Yet it purports to be a study of passion.

The author of 'Daddy Dave' explains in her preface that the main if not the only incentive in preparing the book for the press was to pay a tribute of affection to a faithful and beloved family servant. This may do well enough; but on no other grounds is the existence of the sketch justifiable for a moment. It is fragmentary and unfinished to the last degree, and affords one more example of the truth that realities do not of themselves either create interest or make a narrative seem natural. In view of the broader and all-important questions which were settled by our civil war, too, one cannot avoid a slight feeling of impatience with the sentimental regret in which the author indulges, notwithstanding her reiterated protestations of resignation and acquiescence.

Mrs. Bertron, however, writes her novel for its own sake. It is true that it is not a great novel, or even an unusually good one; but one must admire the evident enthusiasm and earnestness of it. The interest is not concentrated enough to sustain itself evenly or sufficiently throughout, and one believes that if the author had attempted less, she would have accomplished more. Yet she need have no reason to feel discouraged, for there are many points in 'Edith' which indicate the ability as well as determination to do good work.

In order to realize how entirely modern are the forms of literature embraced by the novel, it is only necessary to call to mind the number of stories which take up in one shape or another the study of some phase of religion, and consider it abstractly—merely, that is, as the growth of an institution. Mr. Tourgee, who, it is safe to surmise, will never write a novel without touching on some movement or development of the body politic, has attempted a very mild and inexhaustive study of the origin of Mormonism in his tale of 'Button's Inn.' The few pages of his preface, however, really contain more on this subject than all the rest of the book, and without these perhaps many readers would have failed to see in the Mormon chapters anything more than their bearing on the story. For the story of itself really has a genuine and wholesome interest, and one follows the fortunes of Dotty Button and her two worthy, generous lovers with a feeling which grows to be personal and warm-hearted. The success in life of the hero is not phenomenal nor undeserved, and there is no one who has the true American spirit that

will think any the less of him for attempting and achieving it. In fact, the modern spirit all over the world considers a man who does not want money as materially defective, and would vote Plutarch's words in praise of Coriolanus, that "it is the higher accomplishment to use money well than arms; but not to need it is more noble than to use it," entirely obsolete.

What Plutarch would have thought of 'The Great Bank Robbery' is more of a mystery than the robbery itself was to the detectives. Not that the story is particularly remarkable, as detective stories go, but that the whole class of literature to which it belongs is, in its conception of life and the relations of mankind, so entirely modern. Mr. Julian Hawthorne is fitted to make the best out of such material, and it is not often that one will meet with more clever, telling work than his opening chapters here. It is not until he gets in the midst of affairs, when facts and art refuse to go together without straining, that the true aspect of the effort as a concession to popularity becomes apparent. It is not much to say of such a tale that it is absorbingly interesting, for the same may be said of almost every story of a similar nature. Yet when that is said, all is said, and perhaps the continually rushed and overworked Americans should be thankful for anything that can break the tedium of a railway journey.

As one might easily judge from the title, 'Jill and Jack' is a light, superficially written novel. It is hastily constructed, sufficiently amusing inasmuch as it is short, and built on a plot improbable enough to be striking in spite of its triteness. The love-affair of Jill and Jack is quaintly pleasant from the self-deceit which they both practise; but that of Gaston and Miss Morton, which really furnishes the mechanism of the story, is too heavily loaded therewith to be either natural or entertaining.

A more delightful satire than the first paper of Mr. Benjamin's collection of a yachtsman's facts and fancies is, of necessity, rare. The hero of the tale, who is a Scotchman and a member of Parliament, is shipwrecked on a tropical island. After four years of solitude a Boston lady, who had become a citizen of New York, is sent by fate to be his companion. For a long time they live on terms of the merest acquaintanceship, communicating chiefly by means of notes. When they have finally fallen in love in the most approved fashion, they philosophically lay aside their scruples, and, changing from Episcopalians to Presbyterians, they are married according to the laws of their respective States by declaration—notwithstanding the fact that she has turned out to be his deceased wife's sister. In Parliament he had often spoken against the bills to allow such marriages. In order to secure their children from the danger of dying without the rite of bap-

tism, they at last become Baptists, when they feel that they can safely postpone the rite until the children are grown. Nothing else in the book compares with this tale, which, with a single exception, is the only one that has not already been printed in the magazines.

For a thoroughly depressing novel 'A Game of Chance' is to be recommended. A more vivid portrayal of the ugliness of respectable poverty, or a more complete collection of unworthy characters, would be, in every respect, undesirable. While the picture of Charley Melrose and his unlovely family may be a true enough one in its way, it serves no good purpose in being painted. Poverty is not necessarily degrading; nor is it true that every one who is poor, yet who is capable of appreciating the benefits of wealth, is continually longing after the fleshpots, and resisting but faintly the temptation to speculate and rob.

## BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Abbott, W. J. Blue Jackets of 1812: A History of the Naval Battles of the Second War with Great Britain. To which is Prefixed an Account of the French War of 1789. Illustrated. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$3.  
 Baldwin, J. Elementary Psychology and Education: A Text-Book for High Schools. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.  
 Ballads of Romance and History. Illustrated. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. \$2.50.  
 Bamford, Mary E. The Look-About Club and the Curious Live Things They Found. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. \$1.50.  
 Bacoock, K. Tax the Area: A Solution of the Land Problem. J. W. Lovell Co. 20 cents.  
 Brooks, E. S. The Story of the American Indian. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. \$2.50.  
 Browning, R. Lyrics, Idylls, and Romances. From his Poetic and Dramatic Works. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.  
 Bruce, W. Old Homestead Poems. Illustrated. Harper & Brothers.  
 Byner, E. L. Damen's Ghost. Boston: Ticknor & Co. 50 cents.  
 Campbell, A. Captain Macdonald's Daughter. A Novel. Harper & Brothers.  
 Crawford, S. W. The Genesis of the Civil War: The Story of Sumter. 1860-1861.  
 Ebers, G. Richard Lepsius: A Biography. Wm. S. Gottsberger.  
 Ford, H. The Theory and Practice of Archery. New ed. Revised by W. Butt. Longmans, Green & Co.  
 Foreman, A. Big Wages and How to Earn Them. Harper & Brothers.  
 Foster, W. Reports of Decisions Rendered by the Supreme Court of the Hawaiian Islands. Vol. V. Honolulu: Gazette Co.  
 Fouqué, La Motte. Sutram and his Companions. Aslauga's Knight. Cassell & Co. 10 cents.  
 Frey, A. R. Sobriquets and Nicknames. Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$3.  
 Froebel, F. The Education of Man. (International Education Series. Vol. V.) D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.  
 Gilkes, A. H. Boys and Masters: A Story of School Life. 2d ed. Longmans, Green & Co. \$1.25.  
 Harper's Young People. 1887. Harper & Brothers.  
 Harrison, W. J. A History of Photography. Scovill Manufacturing Co. \$1.  
 Hawthorne, J. An American Penman. From the Diary of Inspector Barnes. Cassell & Co. \$1.  
 Holmes, Margaret. Recitations for Christmas. Indianapolis: Charles A. Bates. 25 cents.  
 Jamison, Mrs. C. V. The Story of an Enthusiast, told by Himself. Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$1.50.  
 Johannot, R. Stories of Our Country. D. Appleton & Co.  
 Keller, O. Thiere des Classischen Alterthums in Cultur-geschichtlicher Beziehung. Innsbruck: Wagner'schen Universitäts-Buchhandlung.  
 Kluge, Prof. F. Etymologisches Wörterbuch der Deutschen Sprache. 4th ed. Strassburg: K. J. Trübner.  
 Lashbury, Mary A. Twelve Times One. Illustrations of Child Life. Worthington Co. \$1.75.  
 Laughlin, J. L. The Elements of Political Economy. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.  
 Laughton, J. K. Studies in Naval History: Biographies. Longmans, Green & Co. \$3.50.  
 Lea, H. C. History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages. In 3 vols. Vol. I. Harper & Brothers. \$3.  
 Lewy, W. N. Magyar Songs; or Selections from Modern Hungarian Poets. Samisch & Goldmann.

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