

which is as positive and as dogmatic a creed as either of the others. And there is the fourth, of letting the question entirely alone. But what are you going to do with this ominous silence? You cannot argue with it, for it is irrational to pick a quarrel with a man who is peaceable and says nothing. It remains, then, as a system which adapts itself to known facts, and has neither belief, nor disbelief even, about an unknowable. Hence there is one case in which logic is not the Nemesis of Faith.

The Standard Cantatas: Their Stories, their Music, and their Composers. By George P. Upton. Chicago: A. C. McClurg. Pp. 367. 1888.

MR. UPTON has added another to his very useful musical handbooks. It is arranged on the same plan as his 'Standard Operas' and 'Standard Oratorios,' the first named of which is already in its fourth thousand. In the historic introduction he calls attention to the different senses in which the word cantata is used. He himself uses it in the widest sense, and includes in its such works as Berlioz's "Faust" and "Romeo and Juliet." In the case of the classical composers, who were very prolific in this kind of composition, only a selection could, of course, be made, and of Bach's 480 cantatas, for instance, only the four which are most frequently performed are analyzed. Besides describing the plot of the texts, Mr. Upton always calls attention to the best musical numbers, avoiding technical terms as much as possible. A large number of cantatas by American composers are included in the list.

We hope that Mr. Upton will not rest on his laurels, but will prepare another handbook that would prove very useful. Every observer of concert-hall audiences must have noted that many pay much closer attention to a piece if they know something regarding its origin and the pictorial idea that may have been in the composer's mind when he conceived it. Nor is this curiosity at all to be condemned; for the mind's eye being given some scene to fix upon, we are enabled the more easily to forget the artificial surroundings in a concert hall. Moreover, people like to talk about the pieces they have heard, and it is much easier to talk about the biography of a composition than about the music itself. Now, if Mr. Upton would select a few hundred of the symphonies, overtures, etc., etc., that are most frequently played, and explain their meaning, pictorial or biographic,

with some æsthetic remarks on form and feeling, he would do a service to all concert-goers. And concert-givers would find it an advantage to get the author's permission to reprint on their programmes such of his notices as might be desirable.

Half-Hours with American History. By Charles Morris, author of 'Half-Hours with the Best American Authors.' Vol. I. Colonial America. Vol. II. Independent America. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1887.

MR. MORRIS aims to present the story of the nation by selections from the works of leading historians upon the most important topics. These selections are chronologically arranged, divided into periods, and connected by brief outlines of intermediate events supplied by the author. History does not so readily lend itself to this mode of treatment as do other branches of literature, and we miss especially the continuity and unity so important to the complete presentation of a subject, and which cannot be supplied by connecting notes. On the other hand, there is value in the emphasis given by the method to events of particular importance, and in the variety of treatment. Taken in connection with some standard history, the work will also do good service by interesting its readers in the authors represented in the selections. The difficult task of culling has been executed with much skill by Mr. Morris. One is glad to find that while liberal, but not excessive, use is made of such writers as Bancroft and Parkman, local historians have not been neglected. While we must wish that more frequent use had been made of contemporary writers, yet the selections, on the whole, seem judiciously chosen for the purpose in view. The notes, which are simply condensed statements of fact, are in general correct; but the author is not entirely free from errors, as in the slip which makes him say that Alexander Hamilton was one of the defenders of popular rights at the time of the negro plot in New York. The reference is to Andrew Hamilton.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Gérard de Nerval. *Sylvie. Recollections of Valois.* George Routledge & Sons. \$1.
Goodwin, Mrs. H. B. *Our Party of Four: A Story of Travel.* Boston: Cupples & Hurd. \$1.
Guiney, Louise Imogen: *The White Sail.* Boston: Ticknor & Co.
Hale, E. E. *The Life of George Washington Studied Anew.* G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.75.
Hall, S. C. *The Book of British Ballads.* Illustrated. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.

Harris, H. Christophe Colomb et Savone. Verzel-luo et ses Memorie. Genoa: A. Donath; New York: F. W. Christern.
Harris, H. Le Quatrième Centenaire de la Découverte du Nouveau Monde. Genoa: Donath; New York: F. W. Christern.
Henry Ward Beecher: A Memorial. Brooklyn: Plymouth Church.
Huebisch, S. Volapük: A Guide for Learning the Universal Language. New York.
Hutton, R. H. Essays on Some of the Modern Guides of English Thought in Matters of Faith. Macmillan & Co. \$1.50.
Heron-Allen, E. The Suleide of Sylvester Gray. Belford, Clarke & Co.
Hornaday, W. T. Free Rum on the Congo, and What it is Doing There. Chicago: Woman's Temperance Publication Association.
Howells, W. D. April Hopes. Harper & Brothers.
Jastrow, M. A Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babil and Yerushalmi, and the Midrashic Literature. Part II. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.
Jubilee and Plantation Songs, Sung by Hampton Students, Jubilee Singers, and others. Boston: Oliver Ditson & Co.
Kendall, May. Dreams to Sell. Longmans, Green & Co. \$2.
Kirkup, T. An Inquiry into Socialism. Longmans, Green & Co. \$1.50.
Larcom, Lucy. The Cross and the Grail. Chicago: Woman's Temperance Publication Association.
Lawless, Hon. Emily. The Story of Ireland. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.
Life's Problems, Here and Hereafter: An Autobiography. Boston: Cupples & Hurd. \$1.25.
Lillie, Lucy C. The Colonel's Money. Harper & Brothers.
Lockyer, Prof. J. N. The Outlines of the Earth. Macmillan & Co. 60 cents.
Madan, R. Rough List of Manuscript Materials Relating to the History of Oxford. Arranged with an Index. Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan & Co. \$3.50.
Mahaffy, J. P. Greek Life and Thought from the Age of Alexander to the Roman Conquest. Macmillan & Co. \$3.50.
Mahaffy, J. P. The Principles of the Art of Conversation. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 75 cents.
Mahaly Sawyer, or, Putting Yourself in her Place. Boston: Cupples & Hurd. \$1.25.
Martin, Frances. Elizabeth Gilbert and her Work for the Blind. Macmillan & Co. \$1.75.
May, C. Moly: A Book of Poems. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.
McNemar, Miles. Prince Coastwind's Victory. Belford, Clarke & Co.
Molesworth, Mrs. Little Miss Peggy: Only a Nursery Story. Illustrated. Macmillan & Co. \$1.25.
Morgan, Mary. Poems. Montreal: J. Theodore Robinson.
Muir-Carnegie. Practical Chemistry: A Course of Laboratory Work. Macmillan & Co. 80 cents.
Murray, Prof. J. Elocution for Advanced Pupils. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.
Neubauer, A. D. Mediaeval Jewish Chronicles. [Anecdota Oxoniensia.] Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan.
Nicholas, G. A. The Biddy Club: and How its Members Grappled with the Troublesome Servant Question. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.25.
Noel, Lady Augusta. Hithersea Mere. Macmillan & Co. \$1.
O'Donnell, Jessie F. Heart Lyrics. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.
Ohora, L. M. The Angel of the Village. Boston: Cupples & Hurd. \$1.25.
Palgrave, W. G. A Ulysses; or, Scenes and Studies in Many Lands. Macmillan & Co. \$3.50.
Pattison-Slater. Elementary Chemistry. Macmillan & Co. \$1.25.
Personal Remembrances of Sir Frederick Pollock. In 2 vols. Macmillan & Co. \$5.
Plummer, C. Elizabethan Oxford. Clarendon Press.
Pomeroy, J. N. A Treatise on the Law of Riparian Rights, as the same is Formulated and Applied in the Pacific States. St. Paul: West Publishing Co.
Purdy, T. H. Legends of the Susquehanna, and Other Poems. Illustrated. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.
Randolph, H. F. Fifty Years of English Song. Selections from the Poets of the Reign of Victoria. In 4 vols. A. D. F. Randolph & Co. \$5.
Wood, H. Natural Law in the Business World. Boston: Lee & Shepard. 30 cents.
Wood, J. J. A Child of Genius: A Sketch. C. T. Dillingham. 30 cents.

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