

that she was writing for the young. We have noticed more errors than should have crept into a work of this character, the most important, perhaps, being that which makes Concord, Mass., and not Concord, N. H., the early home of Count Rumford.

THE STORY OF TURKEY.

The Story of Turkey. By Stanley Lane-Poole, assisted by E. J. W. Gibb and Arthur Gilman. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1888.

THE study of history is a serious matter—not because history repeats itself, as Dr. Arnold used always to be saying, or that a knowledge of Thucydides may be as useful to an American statesman as personal experience, or because, as Hegel remarked, an historian is a prophet turned round; but because the history of the past helps to explain to us the present. D'Haussonville says: "It is certainly not in the past that we must seek the key of the future. Events succeed one another after certain rules, and are not reproduced. Even when you are most tempted to find them nearly the same, you discover more difference than resemblance." But in knowing the chain of events which link the past to the present, in understanding how and in what way any nation or country has come to exist as it exists to-day, we have the key to the contemporary politics of that country. This is the point on which Freeman and the new school of historians lay great stress, either in so many words or by implication. But serious as it is when considered in this way, history can be made very entertaining, and be so flavored as to suit the lightest palate and the most delicate digestion. Certain historical periods are so wonderfully interesting that they can be written so as to be as amusing as a novel, or can even be easily described in novel-form. From this point of view, however, we are inclined to agree with Miss Mitford that the *mémoires pour servir*, the materials for history, are more amusing than the history written from them.

Unfortunately, the book before us is not of a kind to satisfy either those who read for instruction or those who read for amusement. It is not sufficiently detailed for the latter; and as for the former, its faults may easily be imagined from its title. At first sight, one thinks "The Story of the Nations" is not a bad idea; but on a moment's reflection one sees the danger of a lack of historical perspective—that the picturesque side, the story and not the history, will be given, and that each writer will so espouse his subject as to magnify the virtues, minimize the faults, and even conceal the crimes of the nation about which he is writing. All of these faults can be found in the present volume, which labors also under the difficulty that its chief author is an Englishman; and passion for or against Turkey or Russia has so taken possession of Englishmen nowadays that it is the hardest thing in the world for them to treat either country with impartiality. Mr. Stanley Lane-Poole is, we believe, a relative of the well-known Arabic scholar Lane, the author of "Modern Egyptians" and the translator of the "Arabian Nights." He is himself an Arabic scholar (which he shows too much here in preferring Arabic to Turkish spelling), and is an authority on Eastern numismatics; but apparently he had never occupied himself with Turkish history until, as his literary executor, he edited the biography of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, which naturally gave him a strong pro-Turkish bias.

As a history, the volume before us cannot for a moment be compared with two books of about the same size, the "Histoire de l'Empire

Ottoman," by Le Vicomte A. de la Jonquière—one of the historical manuals published by Hachette, an excellent, trustworthy, and entertaining book—or the "Ottoman Power in Europe," by Prof. E. A. Freeman, which, although in a certain way prejudiced, is the best book on the subject in English. Even as a story, it is below both of these books. It is made up chiefly from the "History of the Ottoman Turks," by Sir Edward Creasy, himself a condenser of Von Hammer's large history, and from the book of Knolles and Ricaut, published in 1680, of which Horace Walpole says: "Considered as history, it is a collection of fables; and as to style, it is the most tiresome book in the world, with periods a page long." Surely, there was no necessity for printing in black-letter a translation from Froissart; and if the book had to be made up of extracts, there were in the last century a number of men—to say nothing of Lady Wortley Montagu—who wrote amusing accounts of Turkish politics, life, and manners, although they might have to be translated from French, Italian, or even Russian. The chapter on the conquest of Constantinople is avowedly almost entirely quoted from Gibbon. It was probably the best thing that the writer could do, although modern scholars have corrected Gibbon's account in several particulars.

As to the illustrations, some, like the landscape views, the medal of Mohammed II. (pp. 102-3), the portraits of Suleiman (pp. 166, 180, and 192), and of Roxolana (p. 196) are excellent. Others, like the view of St. Stephen's Cathedral at Vienna (p. 228), and the mosaic of St. Sophia (p. 326), have nothing to do with the subject. Others, like a Turkish merry-making (p. 16), a Turkish meal (p. 66), the plan of Constantinople (p. 108), were probably interesting in the original size, but are here so reduced as to be unintelligible. Others, like the battle of Prince Jem (p. 142), may have been interesting when originally published, but, being neither contemporary pictures, nor based on a study of life at that time, are out of place. Others still are simply absurd.

As far as historical perspective is concerned, after taking out three chapters which will be considered later, there are 255 pages devoted to history, of which 204, or four-fifths, are given to the rise of the Turks; yet in all this space we are not told who or what the Turks really were, or why they rose so quickly. A picturesque episode like that of Prince Jem, to which in Hammer there are given about thirty pages of the whole eighteen volumes, and in Jonquière's about two pages out of 650, is here stretched out to fill a chapter, and is not well done in that. The part played by the Turkish navy, and especially by the great Khair-eddin Barbarossa, the understanding of which is necessary to any knowledge of Turkish history, is entirely omitted, in order to form a separate volume of the "Story of the Corsairs," which can be so easily abridged from the French of Jurién de la Gravière, or still better from the Italian of Guglielmotti. The story of the decadence of Turkey, which to us would be far more interesting than that of its rise, because it would explain to us the present condition of the Ottoman Empire, and why vigorous young Christian nations should be developed out of its ruins, is condensed into fifty pages. The author, in a simple-minded way, gives as a reason for this treatment that: "To tell the various stages of decay in detail would only weary the reader with a catalogue of defeats, varied by occasional reprisals" (p. 207). In the twenty-five pages called "The Sick Man," from 1812 to the present time, with the exception of the longish and rather unnecessary account of the diplo-

matic activity of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, there are almost more errors than sentences, some of them dragged in arbitrarily through dislike of Russia, as where it is implied that the victory of Russia in the last war was rather owing to bribing the Turkish commanders than to good fighting, or through suspicion of Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy.

Three chapters are contributed to this volume by Mr. E. J. W. Gibb, who is favorably known for his studies on Ottoman poetry, of which the chapter on Ottoman literature is practically a summary. He succeeds in showing us how feeble and uninteresting Turkish poetry is when compared with Persian; but he gives too little attention to the prose literature. He might well have inserted some remarks about the chronicler Vassiyf, and about Resmi Ahmed Effendi, who wrote a very amusing account of his embassy to Frederick the Great, as well as a history of the Turco-Russian war of 1769-1774, extracts from which appeared in *Macmillan's Magazine* for 1880. The chapter on Stambul is weak and wordy, although it endeavors to give a picture of life in the Turkish capital in the eighteenth century. That on Ottoman administration is a dry catalogue of the names of Turkish dignitaries in olden times, compiled from the well-known "Tableau Général de l'Empire Ottoman" of Mouradjea d'Ohsson. We get tired of hearing about the Kilar Kiyahyasi, or controllers of the buttery, of the Bostanji Bashi, or of the Top Arabaji Bashi. We do not care for more than a general description of the Sultan's household in early times, but we should like to know something about the real working of Turkish administration, and especially of provincial administration before the reforms of Mahmoud II. in the early part of the present century: why those reforms were necessary, what they were, and why they have not succeeded. We are put off with a catalogue of eunuchs, gardeners, pages, and cooks; but perhaps, if we look at it philosophically, we may find in this very catalogue a partial answer to our questions.

Western China. By Virgil C. Hart, B.D.
Boston: Ticknor & Co.

THE "Province of the Four Streams," or Sz-chuen, was once the largest of the eighteen provinces of China, and anciently contained the capital of the Empire. Though rarely visited by foreign travellers since Marco Polo's time, it is in many respects the most interesting of all the divisions of the Middle Kingdom. Its people are noted for their devotion to literature, religion, and art. Into it the Buddhist missionaries from India first came and began the propagation of their faith. In natural beauty and luxuriance, and in the evenness of distribution of the wealth of its inhabitants, it leads the other provinces. One obtains a good idea of the self-sufficiency of Chinese resources and civilization when he realizes that this western province, which is farthest from the ocean and from contact with the outside world, ranks with the best of the divisions of the Empire, and excels many of them in population and material and intellectual wealth. In its area of little less than two hundred thousand square miles it maintains a population of forty-five millions. Considering the large amount of land occupied by mountains and infertile tracts, in addition to the acreage devoted to the cultivation of the poppy for smoke, and millet and Indian corn for intoxication, the superiority of Chinese economy over that of the West is manifest.

The valuable portion of the soil is comprised within the four natural basins formed by the

rivers running north and south, and these occupy what is a rough eastern half of the area. Besides the Chinese inhabitants, the tribes of the Lolo people, with whom Mr. Baber has made us acquainted, live in those intervals and mountain-fastnesses of the western half of the province which are properly part of the high tablelands of Thibet. The feuds of centuries are still maintained, and the Chinese, unable, despite their forts and garrisons, to control these mountaineers, suffer from their man-stealing propensities, and considerable number of people in the valleys and lowlands are annually murdered or enslaved by the raiding Lolos. In addition to the abundant crops of every staple known in China, Sz-chuen is noted for its well-regulated supply of natural gas, which, after a flow of over eighteen centuries, seems inexhaustible. The "fire-wells," being near the great rock-salt deposits, are utilized to boil the kettles of brine pumped up from the strata, which are bored by native machinery of wood, bamboo, and iron.

In the municipalities of this, as of other parts of China, the habits of the people, the excess of the rapacious official class, the jealousy and intermeddling of the Government, and the lack of the proper corporations to levy taxes for the requirements and necessary expenses of city economy, tend to paralyze public spirit. Yet, despite all their discouragements and the defects of their political system, the people seem to take a noticeable pride in what we consider to be public works and ornaments. Foot-paths from village to village, broad roads wide enough for two teams and paved with flagstone between the cities, stone memorial arches and gateways, substantial bridges of masonry, colossal bronze images, and artistic metal work of an elaborate and imposing sort, testify to the local pride and artistic spirit of the inhabitants. Notable are the iron suspension bridges over torrents and high-banked streams. Mr. Hart describes the bridges as gems of native art, some of them having at one end a tablet recording the date of construction and giving the donors' names. Indeed, the number of pagodas, brick, stone, and metal structures and works of art in the province is surprising, and on and around Mount Omei, the great Buddhist centre, bewildering. It is of fascinating interest to study this primitive home of the Buddhism of Chinese Asia, and to recognize in the names of the various avatars and attributes the originals of Korean and Japanese developments. Some of the most recent phases of "Reformed" Buddhism in Japan claim to be but revivals of the ancient forms of the faith taught here.

The author, Rev. Virgil C. Hart, started from Hankow April 11, 1887, by steamer to I-chang and thence by native boat to Chungking in Sz-chuen province, to reestablish the mission of the American Methodist Episcopal Church, which had been so tragically closed by the riot of July, 1886. He describes the river voyage, incidents of travel, the great brine and fire wells, the historical monuments of the classic city of Chen-teu; and, after properly devoting three readable chapters to the great Buddhist monasteries, towers, pagodas, relics, and works of art on Mount Omei, winds up with a general description of his field of work and a survey of the missionary problem. A dozen illustrations, a map, and an index add to the reader's pleasure. The author's style needs brightening up, if he would win the readers he particularly desires to have; but all who are interested in China will hail this work as a positive addition to the first row of their books illustrating the great Empire. The telegraph wire is now stretched over many thousands of

miles in the long-isolated land, and the inevitable railway through mid-Asia to Europe cannot long be delayed. It is certain that the "Province of the Four Streams" will be the first of the western Chinese provinces to be tapped and traversed by iron rails. Mr. Hart's accurate monograph is, therefore, not only a pleasing record of travel, but a timely picture of one of the least known yet most valuable portions of the earth's surface. Students of Korean and Japanese Buddhism will find the volume of special interest.

Old Chelsea: A Summer Day's Stroll. By E. B. Martin. Illustrated by Joseph Pennell. London: T. Fisher Unwin.

FOR upwards of three hundred years the suburb of Chelsea has attracted more remarkable people than all the other suburbs of London put together. Mr. Martin has inadvertently revealed the secret of this attraction in giving the derivation of the name—from the Saxon *chesel*, meaning gravel, and *ea*, a bank. That wise man Sir Thomas More, who built himself a great house on the river in 1520, knew well the sanitary superiority of gravel to clay, and it is safe to assume that the same knowledge influenced Pepps, Addison, Smollett, Chesterfield, Walpole, Benjamin Franklin, and the host of other worthies, male and female, to whose dwellings in Chelsea Mr. Martin's text and Mr. Pennell's admirable illustrations introduce the reader. The book is brimful of historical and other information, and leaves on the mind the impression that all the most interesting English men and women since the days of Henry the Eighth have been in some way or other connected with Chelsea. As to American celebrities, we have, besides Franklin, Philadelphia, great-granddaughter of Wm. Penn, and named from the city of her birth, who married Lord Cremorne, and died in Chelsea in 1825. Probably very few travellers from the City of Brotherly Love who in times past visited Cremorne Gardens, suspected the existence of so curious an association between their quiet homes and the dubious splendor of that particular corner of Chelsea. The gardens have disappeared into the mist of an unregretted past, but the well-advised traveller of to-day will not fail to visit Chelsea, as being a part of old London but little damaged by the march of modern improvement; and in so doing, he will find this little book an indispensable companion.

How the Peasant Owner Lives in Parts of France, Germany, Italy, Russia. By Lady Verney. 8vo, pp. 234. Macmillan & Co. 1888.

THESE half-dozen papers, collected from the *Nineteenth Century*, renew the persistent war Lady Verney wages against peasant proprietorship. She continues, as in her previous publications, to spend her strength more in contemplating and narrating ills that have existed and still exist, than in investigating what may be the possible ways of improving matters. Even if her point of view were unquestionable, and it were admitted that the miserable conditions to be found in connection with land held in such small parcels that they cannot be properly cultivated, were due solely to such tenure of land, it is none the less certain that, as long as the size of holding is considered as outside the proper sphere of immediate legislation, the tendency to division and subdivision must increase or diminish precisely to the degree in which it will be in accordance with the general economic intelligence of the nations affected by it; and consequently the discus-

sion should turn on facts carefully chosen for their economic importance. Lady Verney is not very successful in this respect; and it is in rather a feminine tone that she expresses rather incoherent doctrines. But her writings are full of good feeling, if not of good sense.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Anster, J. Goethe's Faust. Illustrated by Frank M. Gregory. White & Allen. \$20.
 Arnold, Matthew. Essays in Criticism. Second Series. Macmillan & Co. \$1.50.
 Babbitt, E. H. An Introduction to German at Sight. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.
 Bartholomew, J. Handy Reference Atlas of the World. George Routledge & Sons.
 Bates, A. The Philistines. Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$1.50.
 Beriran y Bros. P. Rondallística: Estudi de Literatura Popular ab Mostres Catalanes Inédites. Barcelona.
 Bigelow, J. The Complete Works of Benjamin Franklin. Vol. X. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$5.
 Bright, J. F. A History of England. Period IV. Victoria, 1837-1880. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.75.
 Calceott, C. Cleanings from the Graphic. Geo. Routledge & Sons. \$3.
 Campbell, Helen. The American Girl's Home Book of Work and Play. New ed. Illustrated. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.75.
 Church, Prof. A. J. Three Greek Children: A Story of Home in Old Time. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.
 Connolly, C. Songs of the Celt. Baltimore: John Murphy & Co.
 Cooke, M. W. The Human Mystery in Farnham. Fords, Howard & Hulbert. \$1.
 Counter-Currents: A Story. Boston: Roberts Bros. 75 cents.
 Curme, G. O. Selected Poems from Premières et Nouvelles Méditations. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.
 De Leon, T. E. Cross Purposes: A Christmas Experience. Mobile: The Gossip Printing Co.
 Dickinson, E. B. Official Proceedings of the National Democratic Convention of 1888. St. Louis.
 Drayton, H. S. Nervousness: Its Nature, Causes, Symptoms, and Treatment. Fowler & Wells Co. 25 cents.
 English Illustrated Magazine. 1887-1888. Macmillan & Co.
 Ernst II., Herzog. Aus meinem Leben und aus meiner Zeit. Band II. Berlin: Wilhelm Hertz.
 Fawcett, E. Divided Lives: A Novel. Belford, Clarke & Co.
 Fraunce, R. E. A Christmas Rose: A Blossom from Seven Petals. Harper & Bros.
 F. Randolph, H. The Book of Later-Day Ballads. A. D. F. Randolph & Co. \$1.25.
 Freeman, A. C. A Treatise on the Law of Execution in Civil Cases. Vols. I. and II. 2d ed. San Francisco: Bauercroft-Whitney Co.
 Gogol, N. V. Taras Bulba: An Historical Novel of Russia and Poland. J. B. Alden.
 Haggard, H. R. Colonel Quaritch, V. C.: A Tale of Country Life. Illustrated. Harper & Bros.
 Hague, Parthenia Antoinette. A Blockaded Family: Life in Southern Alabama during the Civil War. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.
 Hale, E. E. The Man Without a Country. Illustrated. Boston: Roberts Bros.
 Hamilton, Count A. Memoirs of Count Grammont. Philadelphia: Gebbie & Co.
 Hamlen, G. Our Hotel. Boston.
 Harper's Young People. 1888. Harper & Bros.
 Hawthorne, J. The Professor's Sister: A Romance. Belford, Clarke & Co.
 Heilmann, W. Her Only Brother. Translated from the German by Jean W. Wyllie. Thomas Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.25.
 Hinman, W. N. Under the Maples: A Story of Village Life. Belford, Clarke & Co.
 Holbrook, Prof. M. L. Eating for Strength: or, Food and its Relation to Health and Work. M. L. Holbrook & Co.
 Hugo, V. Ninety-Three. New illustrated ed. 2 vols. George Routledge & Sons. \$6.
 Longfellow, H. W. Nuremberg. Illuminated and arranged by Mary C. and Amy Comegys. Philadelphia: Gebbie & Co.
 Macaulay, Lord. Lays of Ancient Rome. White & Allen. \$1.50.
 Memorial of Sarah Fugh: A Tribute of Respect from her Cousins. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.
 Norris, W. E. The Rogue. Rand, McNally & Co.
 Prevost, Abbé. History of Manon Lescaut. Illustrated by Maurice Leloir. Philadelphia: Gebbie & Co.
 Proctor, E. A. Old and New Astronomy. Parts VI. and VII. Longmans, Green & Co. 90 cents each.
 P. T. Barnum's Circus, Museum, and Menagerie. White & Allen.
 Richardson, G. P. American Literature. 1607-1885. Vol. II. American Poetry and Fiction. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.
 Rodd, R. Frederick, Crown Prince and Emperor. With an Introduction by the Empress Frederick. Macmillan & Co. \$1.25.
 Rogers, Prof. J. E. T. The Economic Interpretation of History: Lectures, 1887-8. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$3.
 Rosenbusch-Iddings. Microscopical Physiography of the Rock-Making Minerals. John Wiley & Sons. \$5.
 Scotch Caps. By J. A. K. Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.
 Service, G. P. Astronomy with the Opera-Glass: A Popular Introduction to the Study of the Starry Heavens. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.
 Shaw, W. J. Forward Forever. A Response to Tennyson's 'Locksley Hall Sixty Years After.' Fowler & Wells Co. 25 cents.
 Shedd, Prof. W. H. T. Dogmatic Theology. 2 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons.
 Soley, J. R. The Sailor Boys of '61. Boston: Estes & Lauriat.
 Stimson, F. J. First Harvests: An Episode in the Life of Mrs. Levison Gower. Charles Scribner's Sons.
 Stranahan, Mrs. C. H. History of French Painting, from its Earliest to its Latest Practice. Chas. Scribner's Sons.
 Tenney, Lilla M. The Pocket Gem Pronouncing Dictionary. Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers Co. 60 cents.
 The Book of Psalms. Printed in the Easy Reporting Phonographic Style of Pitman. Cincinnati: Phonographic Institute.
 The Pilgrim's Scrip: or, Wit and Wisdom of George Meredith. Boston: Roberts Bros. \$1.
 Van Fleet, Dr. W. Some Native Birds. Illustrated by Howard H. Darnell. Forest and Stream Publishing Co.