

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.

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 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.
 Connelly, C. C. Songs of the Celt. Baltimore: John Murphy & Co.
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 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.
 Fraillon, 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.
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 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 Comeskey. Philadelphia: Gebbie & Co.
 Macaulay, Lord. Lays of Ancient Rome. White & Allen. \$1.50.
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 Proctor, E. A. Old and New Astronomy. Parts VI. and VII. Longmans, Green & Co. 90 cents each.
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 Soley, J. R. The Sailor Boys of '61. Boston: Estes & Lauriat.
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 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.
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