

traffic might be brought to an end. That this letter reached her Majesty, the Chinese, after an ominous silence, were informed by the British Minister through whom it had been transmitted, but that no answer had been made, and he added that none might be expected. "To the everlasting shame of the British nation," writes one of the Queen's Counsel, "no answer was ever made." Mr. Holcombe describes one of the literati whom he saw at an open-air meeting with a tiny jar in his hand and the stain on a finger which betrays slaves to narcotic poison, who soon turned away with a scowl, muttering, "Take away your opium and then talk of your Jesus."

In Mr. Holcombe's view, there can be no partition of a people who number a fourth part of the human race, who have no geographical lines of cleavage, and who, against such an atrocity, are united like one individual soul. Nor can they fail of a grand development, being in no element moribund or decadent, but of most perdurable toughness. They will gridiron their empire with railroads as swiftly as they have just forested it with telegraph-poles. They cannot long be held in leading-strings, and will shake off shackling fetters. The masses are not opium slaves. Their business firms have never tolerated opium-eaters, and governmental reform will start by holding the use of that poison to disqualify for appointment to any public office.

If wicked outsiders will not cease from troubling, let them beware lest Mr. Holcombe's forecast prove true:

"The Chinese is not in love with the European, and there is no reason whatever to expect that he could be easily brought to call him master. One thing he might do. He might take somewhat readily to the profession of arms, for he possesses all the natural qualities of a good soldier. He might submit to all the drill and study involved in the modern science of war until expert with the sword, and then, when in his judgment the time had come, thrust it into his instructor and oppressor" (p. 348).

Mr. Holcombe has seen as fine a body of men under arms in China—saying only the lack of officers—as can be found elsewhere (p. 129).

Songs of Modern Greece. Edited by G. F. Abbott. Cambridge (Eng.) University Press; New York: Macmillan.

This is an attractive little volume of lyrics well chosen and edited on a sensible plan. Each song is provided with an introduction and sufficient notes, explanatory or etymological, and is accompanied by a literal translation. The result is, that any student of ancient Greek will find here an excellent introduction to the vernacular in which the ballads are written, and will soon discover that most of the words, though strangers at

first sight, are really old friends slightly disguised or transformed. Many, indeed, are as old as Homer or Hesiod, for a traveller in the Levant may hear a boatman, for instance, apply to his tackle some designation as old as the Odyssey. The fact is well brought out in these selections that the main bulk even of the vernacular is solidly based on the ancient tongue, and is but slightly disguised even in the colloquial speech. There are little lyrics every word of which is absolutely pure classic Greek, with the verbal forms but slightly altered, while in others the vocabulary is mingled with Italian, Arabic, and Turkish—that is to say, the language is alive, and carries signs of the various soils in which it has grown. The more popular ballads flit rapidly about from one end to the other of the Greek world, and in their travels soon lose definite traces of local color and of dialectic peculiarities. "The Greek language," says Mr. Abbott, "is so elastic that provincial idioms and expressions can easily, and, so to speak, unconsciously, disappear without in the least altering the sense or the rhythm of the original." This vital process must have gone on in the past when the rhapsodists carried the Homeric poems from island to island and from shore to shore; it is a factor that must be reckoned with in any analysis of the Homeric language, and it is evidently a shifting and elusive factor, which nullifies, in the main, attempts like Fick's to recover after thirty centuries the original dialect, "on the assumption that the present form is the result of systematic redaction."

However, these selections are quite too charming to waste their sweetness on the scholar who is seeking merely a philological appendix and commentary on the classical Greek. The poems have a piquant national and characteristic flavor quite their own, and certainly most seductive. Though the selection is made up largely of the editor's own gleanings, and is designed not to trench on previous publications in Western Europe, it offers a surprising freshness, variety, and delicacy of sentiment, sprightliness, exquisite fancy and naïveté, and occasionally a fine lyric frenzy expressed with perfect directness and simplicity. The melancholy fact is, that these unknown improvisers show more genuine poetic gifts than most of the modern versifiers whose names are known in Athens. Mr. Abbott is only a gleaner after Fauriel and Passow; yet we should feel loath to exchange his little volume against the bulky 'Parnassos' of 1,000 pages that appeared in Athens about 1880. Even to the 'Parnassos' we say, *macte virtute*, which may be rendered, Hibernicé, "More power to you." For, if we look at home, and subtract from Mr. Stedman's 'American Anthology' the contributions of three or four real poets, what have we to boast of, hitherto? We have no

wild flowers to compare with the blossoms of this native Grecian flora.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Amery, L. S. *The Times History of the War in South Africa.* Vol. I. London: Sampson Low, Marston & Co.; New York: Scribners. \$25 per set of 5 vols.
- Aron, Joseph. *Canada Transvaal.* New ed. Mont-rouge (Seine): J. Aron. 2 fr.
- Beames, John. *A Translation of Glanville.* Washington: John Byrne & Co. \$3.
- Beckman, Mrs. William. *Backsheesh: A Woman's Wanderings.* San Francisco: The Whitaker & Ray Co. \$1.50.
- Chamberlain, A. F. *The Child: A Study in the Evolution of Man.* London: Walter Scott; New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
- Cunningham, W. *An Essay on Western Civilization in its Economic Aspects.* London: C. J. Clay & Sons; New York: Macmillan. 4s. 6d.
- Davidson, John. *Commercial Federation and Colonial Trade Policy.* London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co.; New York: Scribners. \$1.
- Dodge, N. N. *Christus Victor: A Student's Reverie.* 2d ed. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.
- Ellis, Miriam A. *The Human Ear: Its Identification and Physiognomy.* London: Adam & Charles Black; New York: Macmillan. \$1.75.
- Elshebus, L. M. *Sweetbrier.* Abbey Press. \$1.
- English Satires. London: Blackie & Son; New York: Scribners. \$1.50.
- Gardens Old and New. *The Country House and its Garden Environment.* [Country Life Library.] London: Country Life; New York: Scribners. \$15.
- Hamer, Mary. *Easy Steps in Latin.* American Book Co. 75 cents.
- Hart, A. B. *National Expansion, 1783-1845.* (Vol. III. of *American History Told by Contemporaries.*) Macmillan. \$4.
- King, J. R. *Demosthenes's Speech against Meidias.* Henry Frowde. 3s. 6d.
- King, Maude E. *Studies in Love.* London: J. M. Dent & Co.; New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.50.
- Launt, F. A. D. *The Bartered Birthright: Forty Brief Expository Addresses on the Life of Jacob.* E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.50.
- Laut, A. C. *Lords of the North.* J. F. Taylor & Co. \$1.50.
- Little, W. J. K. *A Manual of Devotion for Lent.* E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.50.
- Morse, C. J. *Bridge Whist.* London: L. Upcott Gill; New York: Scribners. \$1.25.
- Morey, W. C. *Outlines of Roman History.* American Book Co. \$1.
- Myers, Gustavus. *The History of Tammany Hall.* New York: Published by the Author.
- Paine, P. M. *Monday Sermons: Twenty Newspaper Essays.* Syracuse: Published by the Author. 50 cents.
- Prichard, Hesketh. *Where Black Rules White: A Journey across and about Hayti.* Scribners. \$2.
- Ritschl, Albrecht. *The Christian Doctrine of Justification and Sanctification.* New ed. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark; New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
- Schlicher, J. J. *The Origin of Rhythmical Verse in Late Latin.* Chicago: Published by the Author.
- Sherman, P. T. *Inside the Machine: Two Years in the Board of Aldermen (1898-9).* Cooke & Fry.
- Simonsen, Gustave. *A Plain Examination of Socialism.* London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co.; New York: Scribners. \$1.
- Silver Series of English and American Classics: (1) Ruskin, *Sesame and Lilies*; (2) Goldsmith, *The Traveller*, and *The Deserted Village*; (3) Tennyson, *Lancelot*, and *Elaine*; (4) Arnold, *Sohrab and Rustum*. Silver, Burdett & Co. 25 cents each.
- Silver Series of Modern Language Text-Books: (1) Loiseux, L. A., *An Elementary Grammar of the Spanish Language*; (2) Loiseux, L. A., *An Elementary Spanish Reader*. Silver, Burdett & Co.
- Sohm, Rudolph. *The Institutes: A Textbook of the History and System of Roman Private Law.* New edition. Henry Frowde.
- Thwaites, Reuben Gold. *Travels and Exploration of the Jesuit Missionaries in New France, 1610-1791.* [The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents.] Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers.
- Warner, R. T. *Winchester.* [Handbooks to the Great Public Schools.] London: George Bell & Sons; New York: Macmillan. \$1.50.
- Watertown Records, Comprising the Third Book of Town Proceedings and the Second Book of Births, Marriages, and Deaths; also Plan and Register of Burials in Arlington Street Burying-Ground. Watertown (Mass.): Published by the Historical Society.
- Watson, Chalmers. *Encyclopaedia Medica.* Vols. 5 and 6. (12 vols.) Longmans, Green & Co. \$6 per vol.
- Watson, T. E. *Thomas Jefferson.* [Beacon Biographies.] Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. 75 cents.

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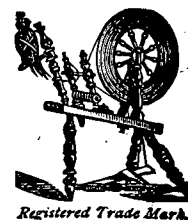
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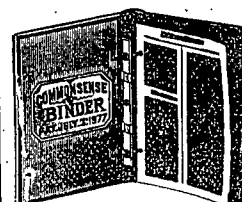
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