

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

LIFE OF DANIEL WEBSTER, by George Ticknor Curtis. Volume I. Philadelphia Agent: George Gebbie, No. 730 Sanson street. For sale by subscription only.

Daniel Webster died on the 24th of October, 1852, and within less than ten years from that time the great national crisis that he foresaw and endeavored to avert overtook the nation, and with the firing of the first gun upon Fort Sumter a new era was inaugurated. The four years of civil war as effectually divided the times of Webster, Clay, and Calhoun from to-day as if a century had intervened. These men are as much historical figures as Washington, Adams, and Jefferson; and it would seem at the first glance that the present is as good a time as any for giving to the world a standard biography of the great orator and statesman who for so many years held a foremost place in the Senate, and who enjoyed a personal popularity not surpassed by any public man of his times. The ideas on the slavery question, however, have changed so radically since the Rebellion, and the feelings engendered by the great conflict are so strong, that it is doubtful whether the American people are yet in a fit frame of mind to review with judicial impartiality the political career of such a man as Daniel Webster. We read the story of the great anti-slavery struggle by the lurid light of an overwhelming national calamity, and there is a strong disposition in some quarters to deal harshly with the memories of statesmen like Daniel Webster, who labored to avert the evil day that they clearly saw was coming on, instead of advancing to meet it.

To us the various compromises with the pro-slavery party appear to have been at once cowardly and impolitic. Whether the record will be so read a hundred years hence is a question. The anti-slavery faction was weak and unpopular, and the slave-owners strong, arrogant, and with the law upon their side. Time was required for the development of public opinion in the direction of freedom, and it was reserved for the pro-slavery men to precipitate the conflict that resulted in their destruction.

Among the great changes wrought by the Rebellion, none is more remarkable than the loss of prestige sustained by Daniel Webster and Henry Clay. Before the war their names were cited on every occasion, and were always received with shouts of applause; now they are seldom mentioned, and seldom even thought of. Their fame has been obscured by the mighty events and the new men that have come before the public since their day; and with regard to Mr. Webster, especially, there is a strong disposition to disparage his genius and to represent him as vain, shallow, and insincere. We are convinced that such a view as this of Mr. Webster's character is unfair, and that the time will come when his career as a statesman will receive impartial judgment at the hands of the American people, without undue laudation and without prejudiced disparagement. Before the Rebellion he was a sort of demi-god, and since then he has been as harshly depreciated as he was previously too highly exalted. With all his faults, he was a great man, a great statesman, and an orator that is entitled to rank with the greatest the world has produced.

Mr. George Ticknor Curtis is particularly fitted for the position of biographer of Mr. Webster. He is the last of his literary exponents, and he has been able to amass a mass of materials such as would not be accessible to any other writer. The volume before us comes down to 1838, when the question of the annexation of Texas was beginning to be a matter of serious contention. It covers the most active and interesting period of his career, when he was a commanding figure in the Senate, and when he did more than at any subsequent period to establish the reputation that made him, next to Henry Clay, the most popular man in the country. Mr. Curtis has executed his task with discretion, and with an evident desire to be as impartial as possible. The work is illustrated by a number of interesting letters and documents never before published, and it is valuable not only as the most perfect biography of Mr. Webster yet written, but as giving at least a partial inside view of our national politics during the period when the anti-slavery struggle was becoming the all-absorbing topic. The book is handsomely printed and bound, and it is embellished with a fine steel portrait of Mr. Webster from the portrait by Healy, and with a number of vignette wood-cuts.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF JOHN B. GOUGH. Published by H. C. Johnson. Sold by subscription only. Mr. Gough is a born orator, and he is consequently one of the most popular lecturers now before the public. He has the rare faculty of securing the sympathies and attention of his audience, and of holding them spell-bound by his manner rather than by his matter. Mr. Gough's discourses are often extremely trivial in subject when they come to be read by the sober light of criticism and when away from the fascination of his presence. They are made up of well-used materials, and display but little originality in style or arrangement. When he is speaking, however, all this is forgotten, and the public listens to the often-told anecdotes and jokes with as much zest as if they were brand-new coinages of the lecturer's brain. As might be expected, the autobiography of Mr. Gough loses much of the fascination of his spoken efforts, and the actual events of his life are not in themselves sufficiently interesting or important to fill up the bulky volume of 652 pages before us. The book is, therefore, largely composed of padding, which, however, will be no objection to the majority of readers into whose hands it will fall. Mr. Gough tells the story of his life in a straightforward manner, and he tells it well. He makes no great pretensions to literary style, and that is well also. The book is one that will be read with interest by many who are anxious to know what the great temperance orator has

to say for himself, and it will have a positive value as an encouragement to those who are struggling in life against temptation and adversity. The autobiography is an amplification of a work written twenty-five years ago, and it covers the quarter of a century that has elapsed since then. It is illustrated with an excellent steel-plate portrait of Mr. Gough, and a number of wood-cuts.

—From A. H. Hubbard, No. 400 Chestnut street, we have received "Bible Lyrics," by Rev. John A. Murray. This is a series of metrical versions of those portions of the Old and New Testaments that appear to be particularly suited for such treatment. The author has endeavored as far as possible to preserve the exact language of the Scriptures, and he has succeeded in a majority of instances in giving very clever adaptations, many of which appear to be admirably suited for congregational hymns. The most ambitious, and the least successful, feature of the book is an attempt to cast the Book of Job into a dramatic form. It is evident that Mr. Murray has no very clear idea of what a drama really is, and his versifications of the speeches of Job and his friends fall very far short of the simple grandeur of the original. There is much that is commonplace in the other portions of the work, but the lyrics are generally spirited, and the work is one that more fully represents the poetry of the Bible than any that has hitherto been published. It is the kind of a book that thousands of readers will wish to possess, and it is admirably adapted for a holiday gift. The work is handsomely printed and bound in elegant style, and it is illustrated with a number of Dore's Bible designs, copied by Osborn's photolithographic process. For sale only by subscription.

—From Claxton, Remsen & Haffelinger we have received "Twisted Threads," by Mrs. M. D. Nauman. This is a new novel by the author of "Sidney Elliott," published about a year ago. It shows considerable improvement over that work, and it is a pleasantly written story of life and manners, in a vein that, if not very original, is at least attractive and healthy.

The same house sends us "Nancy's Christmas," an interesting story for children, with a good moral to it.

Claxton, Remsen & Haffelinger also send us "Historical Sketches of the Reign of George Second," by Mrs. Oliphant. Published by Little & Gay. These sketches were originally published in Blackwood's Magazine and in Little's Living Age, where they attracted much attention. They are graphic word-pictures that give us a view of English society at a most interesting period, and they are well worthy of a perusal. Sketches are given of Queen Caroline, Sir Robert Walpole, Lord Chesterfield, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Alexander Pope, The Young Chevalier, John Wesley, Commodore Anson, Bishop Berkeley, Samuel Richardson, David Hume, and William Hogarth.

—From Turner Brothers & Co. we have received "Our Boys and Girls Magazine" for December 18.

—Our Schoolboy Visitor for January, published by Daughaday & Becher, No. 424 Walnut street, commences the fourteenth volume. The contents are up to the usual standard of excellence. The publishers offer a handsome steel engraving, entitled "Help Me Up," to subscribers for the year 1870.

—Demorest's Monthly for January has a steel-plate portrait of Mr. and Madame Demorest; fashion plates and patterns, with directions for all kinds of fancy work. The literary contents present an entertaining variety of reading matter that will please the patrons of the magazine.

—The November part of the Engineering and Mining Journal, published by Western & Co., New York, gives an interesting and valuable series of articles on engineering subjects, with descriptions of some of the recent and most important inventions. This periodical contains a vast amount of information, and it is well deserving of the esteem in which it is held by practical and scientific men.

TRUE EPISCOPACY.

To the Editor of The Evening Telegraph. "Episcopacy set forth by the Apostles of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit of Truth, is to be acknowledged 'the Ordinance of God.'"

Such is the title of a sermon preached by the Rev. Daniel Washburn before the Schuylkill and Lehigh Convocation, and published at their request. The subject does not admit of much novelty of treatment. The truth of the proposition can be demonstrated only by proof drawn out of "Holy Scripture and ancient authors." We do not remember to have seen a more concise and lucid collation and use of the principal testimonies that bear on this question. While the sermon is thoroughly outspoken on what the reverend author believes (and proves it too) to have been the primitive structure of the Church of Christ, it is truly charitable and catholic in its spirit towards those who have departed from the Apostles' fellowship. The conclusion of the discourse is easier for believers in ministerial purity to scoff at than it is to refute.

Disowning the fictitious and now offensive non de plume—"The Episcopalian"—I beg to subscribe myself, truly, AN EPISCOPALIAN.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

The City Amusements. AT THE CHESTNUT COLONEL FITZGERALD'S Irish drama of Patrick will be performed this evening.

AT THE WALNUT the drama of Mary Warner will be performed this evening, with Miss Bateman as the heroine.

AT THE ARCH the scenic comedy of The O'Connell Run will be represented this evening.

AT THE BROADWAY the opera of The Virginia Mummy will appear this evening.

AT THE EDVENTH STREET OPERA HOUSE the new burlesque of The School for Scandal and Mary Warner will be repeated this evening.

SIGNOR BELTZ and his son will exhibit some of their most remarkable feats of magic this evening at the Assembly Buildings.

OPERA DI CAMERA.—To-morrow afternoon Mr. J. Hutchinson Fairbank will produce his opera of The School for Scandal at the Chestnut Street Theatre. The cast will include a number of well-known and popular singers, and a large orchestra and chorus will be provided for the purpose of rendering the work in effective style. Tickets can be procured at Trampier's.

CARL WOLFFSOHN will give his second matinee of the season on Friday next, at the Royal of the Academy of Music.

THE "STAR" COURSE OF LECTURES.—The concluding lecture of the first course of the Academy of Music, by Wendell Phillips. Subject:—"Daniel O'Connell."

To-morrow afternoon Mr. Paul B. Du Chailly will lecture to the young folks on his adventures "Among the Cannibals."

FINANCIAL.

THE CENTRAL RAILROAD OF IOWA.

SEVEN PER CENT. GOLD FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS, Chicago, Danville and Vincennes. Free of Government Tax. At 95 and Accrued Interest.

MANY PERSONS ARE SELLING THEIR GOVERNMENT BONDS WHILE THE PREMIUM IS STILL LARGE (as the Treasury has promised to buy thirteen millions in December), AND INVEST IN THE FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS OF THE CENTRAL RAILROAD OF IOWA, WHICH PAY ABOUT ONE-THIRD MORE INTEREST. THE TIME TO MAKE SUCH REINVESTMENT is while the Treasury is buying, and Governments are at a premium.

THE ROAD DOES NOT RUN THROUGH A WILDERNESS, where it would have to wait years for population and business, but through the most thickly settled and productive agricultural counties in the State, which gives each section a large traffic as soon as completed. It runs through the great coal fields of Southern Iowa to the North, where coal is indispensable and must be carried. It runs from the great lumber regions of the North, through a district of country which is destitute of this prime necessity. The mortgage is made to the Farmers Loan and Trust Company, of New York, and bonds can be issued only at the rate of \$1,000 per mile, or only half the amount upon some other roads. Special security is provided for the principal and for the payment of interest.

First Mortgage Bonds for so small an amount upon a road running through such a rich and already well-settled part of Iowa, can well be recommended as a perfectly safe as well as very profitable investment. Pamphlets, with map, may be obtained, and subscriptions will be received, at THE COMPANY'S OFFICES, No. 32 PINE STREET, NEW YORK, and at the BANK OF NORTH AMERICA, No. 44 WALL STREET, and in Philadelphia by

BOWEN & FOX, Merchants' Exchange Building, N. W. Cor. THIRD and CHESNUT STs.

DE HAVEN & BROTHER, Dealers in Government Securities, etc., No. 40 South THIRD Street, Philadelphia. Having personally examined this entire line of road, finished and projected, as well as the country through which it runs, we offer these Bonds with every confidence in their full worth and soundness.

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THE FIRST MORTGAGE SINKING FUND.

7 PER CENT. 40 YEAR GOLD BONDS, Chicago, Danville and Vincennes. RAILROAD COMPANY. Total amount to be issued, \$2,500,000 on 140 Miles of Road.

(Extending from Chicago through Eastern Illinois to the junction with the Evansville and Terre Haute Railroad, with which it forms the shortest TRUNK LINE to Louisville and the South), making the average of Bonds about \$15,000 per mile, and it is expressly guaranteed that the bond issue shall not exceed that sum.

The Road traverses a country that assures a large and profitable business; is built and equipped from Chicago to Moline, a distance of 55 miles, and UPON THIS PORTION OF THE LINE ONLY WE NOW OFFER THE BONDS FOR SALE. These Bonds are protected with extraordinary care by registration and otherwise; the interest upon them will be paid out of one-third the net earnings, and the Sinking Fund, created and set aside, will provide ample means for their redemption. They are Officially Registered and Transferred by the Union Trust Company.

It is a CAPITAL ADVANTAGE of these Bonds that they bear 7 per cent. gold interest for 40 years; and compared with 6 per cent. gold bonds, the additional 1 per cent., at compound interest, for thirty years, would give the owner of this Bond a profit of \$61.25, and for forty years, \$200.43. Government Bonds might be exchanged with this result:—\$10,000 would buy \$12,000 of these bonds, payable in gold, yielding a profit in hand, and besides THE GAIN OF \$200 PRINCIPAL AND THE ANNUAL 6 PER CENT. THEREON, WOULD, AT MATURITY, NET THE BUYER \$24,041.16 ADDITIONAL PROFIT IN INTEREST.

Prices at present, 95 and accrued interest from October 1.

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