

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

The rapid increase of means of communication and the advent of great numbers of Chinese to our shores have attracted the attention of the public in an unusual degree to the great empire and its strange civilization, that has for so many years been at once a source of admiration and misunderstanding to Europeans and Americans, and the time has arrived when a thoughtful and carefully considered work by some writer who is sufficiently familiar with the Chinese habits and character to give the information that is needed is a necessity. Such a work is "The Oldest and the Newest Empire; or, China and the United States," by William Spier, D. D., now in press by S. S. Scoville & Co. of Hartford, Conn. Dr. Spier's attention was first attracted to China by the infamous opium war carried on by the British in the years 1840 to 1842, and in 1846 he was sent out as a missioner by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and stationed in the province of Canton. In 1852 his knowledge of the Chinese language, manners, and customs led to his selection as a missionary among the emigrants that were pouring into California, and he was the first to preach the Gospel in their own language to the Chinese arriving upon our shores. Dr. Spier has one of the first requisites for the production of such a work on China and the Chinese as the public needs at this juncture—a thorough knowledge of his subject. His long residence in China has inspired him with a cordial respect for the many excellent features of Chinese civilization, and at the same time with a thorough knowledge of its weaknesses; and in the preparation of this work he has evidently endeavored to write with impartiality, and to convey to his readers as exact an idea as possible of the actual condition of the Chinese and their relations with the people of this country. The subject is treated in all its branches with great ability, and the arguments of the author in favor of a liberal policy on the part of the Government and people of the United States towards China and the Chinese will commend themselves to the consideration of all thoughtful persons. Dr. Spier has produced a very interesting and a very valuable work, that will aid materially in extending our knowledge of the Chinese and their peculiarities, and the lucid and elegant style in which it is written will undoubtedly give it a great popularity.

From Porter & Coates we have received the following recent publications by D. Appleton & Co.:

"The Mother's Recompense" is the second volume of the new and uniform edition of Grace Aguilar's works. This story is a sequel to "Home Influence," and it will be read with much interest by those who have perused that fascinating narrative. This edition is neatly gotten up and will make a handsome appearance on the library shelf. It will be completed in nine volumes, at the low price of \$1.00 per volume.

"Caesar's Commentaries on the Gallic War," edited by Albert Harkness, LL. D., Professor in Brown University, is an excellent edition of a standard Latin text-book. The notes are judicious, and furnish just the kind of information the student needs for overcoming the difficulties of construction and idiom.

"The First Book in Botany," by Eliza A. Yomans, is an excellent treatise in which the elements of the science are set forth in a very plain and understandable manner. The plan of the book is one that has been tested by actual experience, and it appears to be well calculated to interest as well as instruct beginners, for whose especial benefit it is intended.

"A Race for a Wife," by Breezie Langton, is a lively and interesting novel of English life.

From J. B. Lippincott & Co. we have received Part VI of "The Universal Pronouncing Dictionary of Biography and Mythology," edited by J. Thomas, A. M., M. D. This important work has now reached the title "Louis Bourgeois." The value of this compilation becomes more and more apparent as it advances towards completion, and it fully sustains the promise made that it shall be the most complete work of the kind ever given to the public. Dr. Thomas has bestowed years of patient labor upon it, and the publishers are issuing it in a style appropriate to its importance.

John Campbell, No. 730 Sanson street, sends us the third number of "A History of the State of Delaware," by Francis Vincent. This number gives an account of the aboriginal inhabitants of Delaware, the discovery of the country, and the explorations of Hendrik Hudson.

From Turner & Co. we have received the thirteenth monthly part of Appleton's Journal, containing the weekly numbers for April; also Our Boys and Girls and Appleton's Journal for Saturday, April 30.

"Howard Paul's Jokes," published by Loring, Boston, is a collection of "ancient Josephs" that have had extensive circulation in their day, but that still may be able to raise a laugh in some quarters.

The Riverside Magazine for May is nicely illustrated, and is filled with pleasant reading for the young folks.

The Little Corporal for May, as usual, presents an attractive series of stories, sketches, and verses adapted to the tastes of juvenile readers.

The Nursery for May contains many things in the way of pictures, verses, and short stories that will please the large and important class for whom it is specially designed.

The April number of The American Exchange and Review presents an excellent list of practical and scientific articles by able writers. Published by Fowler & Moon, northwest corner of Fourth and Walnut streets.

The Technologist for April has a great

variety of interesting papers on engineering, manufacturing, building, and kindred topics, that will be appreciated by general as well as professional readers.

BURLINGAME.

The Affair with "Bully" Brooks of South Carolina—Personal Reminiscences of the Remarkable Episode.

Mr. J. W. Simonton, who held intimate personal relations with Mr. Burlingame at the time he accepted the challenge of Preston Brooks, writes to the San Francisco Bulletin, giving the details of that remarkable episode of our political history. After recounting the assault on Mr. Sumner, which aroused the indignation of Mr. Burlingame, Mr. Simonton refers to the speech of June 20, 1856, which brought out the challenge from Brooks:—"Always an eloquent and impressive speaker," says the writer, "on this occasion he surpassed himself. Never shall I cease to hear his clarion voice as it rang through the hall that day in denunciation and invective poured from a full breast."

"Having briefly stated the facts of the outrage, he stepped suddenly forward a pace or two towards the chairman, and in tone and manner earnest, dignified, and electric, said:—"Sir, the act was brief, and my comments on it shall be brief also. I denounce it in the name of the institutions it violated; I denounce it in the name of the sovereignty of Massachusetts, which was stricken down by the blow; I denounce it in the name of humanity; I denounce it in the name of civilization, which it outraged; I denounce it in the name of that fair play which bullies and prize-fighters respect! What! Strike a man when he is pinioned—when he cannot respond to a blow! Call you that chivalry? In what code of honor did you get your authority for that? God knows my heart. I desire to speak with kindness. I speak no sort of revenge. I do not believe that member has a friend who must not in his heart of hearts condemn the act. Even the member himself, if he has a spark of chivalry and gallantry attributed to him, he himself must loathe and scorn the act."

Mr. Brooks sent a demand, within a few hours, for a withdrawal of the above language or a personal encounter. Mr. Burlingame declined a withdrawal, and expressed himself ready to meet any consequences which might follow. Friends of both parties labored to prevent a meeting. Mr. Simonton, himself, among others, urged on Mr. Burlingame the principles of New England which he would set at defiance by a duel. He did not deny this, but thought the occasion was exceptional. Southern men needed an example, showing them that it was not a lack of physical courage which made Northern men less reckless of life than themselves. When reminded of the political prospects he was sacrificing, he said, "Whether I fail in political life or fall on the field, my personal sacrifice will be nothing, if the cause we have at heart prospers; and I have an abiding faith that it will profit by my sacrifice." The friends who acted for Mr. Brooks suggested an explanation of his language in debate. Mr. Burlingame at last assented to a memorandum, stating in substance that he had, in his remarks, no purpose to insult or degrade Mr. Brooks. At least, this was the view of its meaning presented by Mr. Brooks' friends when urging a peaceful settlement of the difficulty by exchange of notes between the principals. By this proceeding the friends of Mr. Brooks achieved a diplomatic triumph. They had saved their principal from exposure to the rifle of Mr. Burlingame, which they had meantime discovered was not apt to miss its mark—its owner having become very expert with it during his early life in the West. The writer says that a steadier hand or truer eye with a rifle had never been his fortune to see. Mr. Brooks' friends could not conceal their exultation, and within a few days there was a general understanding at Washington that Mr. Burlingame had "finched," and had "retreated" the objectionable language in order to escape the alternative of accepting a challenge from Mr. Brooks. Mr. Burlingame's name became sensitive and impudently under this discipline. He saw that while this status prevailed, his decided stand in publicly rebuking the assault upon Mr. Sumner, and indicating a readiness to accept all the personal consequences of such denunciation, had produced precisely the opposite effect to that which he intended. Finally he obtained definite and positive evidence that some of Mr. Brooks' immediate friends were engaged in the work of misrepresenting and distorting his conduct.

At once his course was determined, and he wrote a card briefly and modestly stating the revision of his memorandum, and adding:—"But, inasmuch as attempts, not altogether unnecessary, have been made to pervert its true meaning, I now withdraw it. And that there may not be any misapprehension in the future, I say explicitly that I leave my speech to interpret itself, and hold myself responsible for it, without qualification or amendment." "In regard to this letter," says Mr. S., "he did me the honor to consult me. Finding in renewed efforts to induce him to abandon all idea of accepting a challenge, I consented to go with him to the office of the National Intelligencer, with whose editor I was acquainted, to secure the publication of his card. The desirable editor, Colonel Seaton, having read the paper, reminded Mr. Burlingame, that if published, Mr. Brooks would be compelled to challenge him peremptorily. Mr. Burlingame, in rejoinder, asked Colonel Seaton to say frankly and candidly whether the card was clear, explicit, unmistakable, and would place himself precisely in the position which he occupied before the opening of any correspondence with Mr. Brooks. Colonel Seaton replying in the affirmative, Mr. Brooks said, "Then, sir, that is all I desire, and I beg you to publish the card in to-morrow's Intelligencer."

A peremptory challenge followed from Brooks. Rifles were indicated as the weapons by Burlingame's friends, and Clifton, Canada, as the place of meeting. Mr. Burlingame himself objected to the place, fearing that Mr. Brooks might object to go there, and expressed himself willing to go to South Carolina. It was pointed out, however, that if the duel occurred within the United States the laws of Massachusetts would disenfranchise him, and so end his political career if he survived. Mr. Brooks' friends, as is well remembered, declined to travel "several hundred miles across the enemy's country"—Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York—to keep the appointment which they had themselves invited.

A reprint of the Frankfort edition of 1858 of "La Famuse Comedienne; or, History of La Guerin, the Wife and Widow of Moliere," has appeared in Paris. M. Jules Bonassies adds a preface, notes, and citations of other editions.

M. Amedee Roux is the author of a new work entitled "Histoire de la Littérature Italienne Contemporaine." There is, however, room for a more complete and careful work on the subject.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

ON AND AFTER SUNDAY, 17TH April, the SPRUCE AND PINE STREETS PARADES, at 11 o'clock A. M., will be held at No. 14 S. SIXTH STREET, on THURSDAY, the 6th day of May next, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of organizing said track and electing officers and directors.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE subscribers to the Capital Stock of "THE PROGRESSIVE BANK," that a meeting will be held at No. 14 S. SIXTH STREET, on THURSDAY, the 6th day of May next, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of organizing said track and electing officers and directors.

CAMDEN AND AMBOY RAILROAD AND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY. OFFICE: TRENTON, N. J., APRIL 11, 1870. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company and an election for officers and directors will be held at 11 o'clock A. M., at the Company's Office, on THURSDAY, the 11th of May, 1870, at 12 o'clock M., for the election of seven Directors to serve for the year ending 31st Dec. next, at 11 o'clock A. M.

GOOD SPRING RAILROAD COMPANY. OFFICE: No. 227 S. FOURTH STREET. PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 11, 1870. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company and an election for officers and directors will be held at 11 o'clock A. M., at the Company's Office, on MONDAY, the 24th day of May next, at 11 o'clock A. M.

NORTHERN LIBERTIES AND PENN. TOWNSHIP R. R. CO. OFFICE: No. 227 S. FOURTH STREET. PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 11, 1870. The annual meeting of the Stockholders of this Company and an election for officers and directors will be held at 11 o'clock A. M., at the Company's Office, on MONDAY, the 24th day of May next, at 11 o'clock A. M.

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