NEW PUBLICATIONS.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

The annual volume of "Sermons preached at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle," published by Lawrence Kehoe, presents an ample testimony to the zeal and vigor with which the fathers of that religious house are devoted to the inculcation of the Catholic faith in a form adapted to the feelings and wants of the passing age. Without departing from the ancient ground of Roman tradition, these discourses are remarkable for their freedom from scholastic subtleties, for the practical character of their teachings for their plain dealing with the prevalent vices of the day, and for the freshness and abundance of their popular illustrations. The Paulist missionary fathers appear to be deeply impressed with the idea of the fitness of the American character and institutions for the influence of a profound religious faith. They believe that living truth should be held forth from living lips to living souls. They aim to vivify the forms and conceptions of the past with the fresh light and strength of the generation now on the stage. Hence their preaching is marked by a peculiar unction, glowing with a sacred fervor of spirit, gentle and affectionate in its appeals to the heart, though terrible in its denunciations of sin, plain and straightforward in its application to individual cases, and vital with the eloquence of earnest purpose and strong conviction. The enterprise in which they are engaged is an experiment of no little interest, as one of the many agencies for the conservation and improvement of society, and though without immediate claim on the sympathies of a large portion of our population, the ability and temper with which it is conducted cannot fail to command the respect of the public.

"The Draytons and the Davenants," is a new story suggested by the civil wars of England in the seventeenth century, by the author of "Chronicles of the Schonberg-Cotta Family," published by M. W. Dodd. It purports to consist of a series of recollections, a part of which were preserved in the journal of one of the Puritan maidens of New-England, while others were suggested to her memory by incidents in her later experience, the whole being wrought up into an interesting narrative of the religious and social life of England, during the historic period in which the scene is laid. The quaint, antique style of the volume gives it a strong flavor of those eventful times, while the tact and fidelity with which prominent historical circumstances are interwoven with the fictitious incidents of the plot impart to it an air of autonomous hardly inferior to that of a contemporary chronicle. The author of this work, who is understood, we believe, to be Mrs. Charles, the wife of a Baptist clergyman in England, possesses a happy gift of transporting herself back to remote times, catching their spirit and peculiar features, and reproducing them with delicacy and beauty of coloring, without courting extreme effects by vague and fanciful exaggeration. She is especially at home in the quiet delineation of rural scenes, presenting the character of the landscape by a few suggestive touches, rather than oppressing the imagination by a burden of details. No less striking is her skill in representing the religious and domestic life of a nation. With a curious instinct, she seizes upon the heart of different epochs, incorporating it in her descriptions with equal faithfulness to the truth of history and of human nature. The present volume will confirm the esteem which she has widely gained in this country by her previous historical portraitures.

A condensed view of the course of National Legislation, and of the policy of President Johnson, together with a full discussion of the questions of Constitutional law, which they involve, is presented in "The Powers of the Executive Department of the Government of the United States," a little volume by Alfred Conkling, published in Albany by W. C. Little. The argument is conducted in the light of general principles without passion, and without party spirit, and sets forth numerous suggestions that are equally opportune and instructive at the present moment.

We have received from W. M. Swayne, a copy of the Messrs. Black's edition of "Waverley," containing all the author's latest corrections, notes, and introductions.

Harper & Brothers have published Laboulaye's "Fairy Book," translated from the French by Mary L. Booth. They are collected from the tales which the brilliant author has been in the habit for several years past of contributing to different periodicals of the day, and bear the stamp of his exquisite fancy and inimitable powers of expression. The volume is introduced with a delightful preface by the author addressed to his young friends in America, and expressing the warmest sympathy with the American people both old and young. We have not the slightest doubt that it will meet with the warmest welcome at the happy firesides, which have been so deeply indebted to M. Laboulaye for his words of friendly and noble cheer during the darkest period of our late momentous struggle. Miss Booth has laid the juvenile readers of our land as well as their seniors, under new obligations to her unwearied pen by bringing this fascinating volume to their acquaintance.

The latest issue of Harper's "Library of Select Novels" is "Lizzie Lorton of Greyrigg," by E. Lynn Linton.

A new edition of "Knowledge is Power," by Charles Knight, and edited by David A. Wells, giving a view of the productive forces of modern society, and the results of labor, capital and skill, is published by Gould & Lincoln. In spite of the prodigious advance in the discoveries of physical science, and their application to the useful and economical arts within the last ten years, we find no change in this volume from the edition of 1856.

"The American Gardener's Assistant," by Thomas Bridgeman, in a new edition, revised, enlarged and illustrated by S. Edward Todd, is published by William Wood & Co. It contains full practical directions for the cultivation of vegetables, flowers, fruit trees, and grape vines.

An edition of "Father Tom and the Pope," a story founded on some extraordinary incidents in the life of an eccentric Irish Catholic Clergyman, originally published about thirty years ago in "Blackwood's Magazine" has been brought out in Philadelphia, by John Penington & Son. It is a racy specimen of rollicking Irish humor.

E. P. Dutton & Co. have published a volume of original "Hymns," by Harriet McEwen Kimball. They combine great tenderness of feeling, and an exalted spirit of devotion with more than ordinary poetical merit. The author, we believe, is attached to the Episcopal communion, but her poems express the prevailing faith of the Christian Church without sectarian partialities.

A new volume of the "Sunny Hour Stories," entitled "Chincapin Charlie," by Nellie Eyster, is issued in Philadelphia by Duffield Ashmead.

Among the recent juvenile publications of James Miller are "The Little Trapper," by W. Heard Hilliard; "Lucy's Half-Crown;" "Paul Blake," a reprint of an English story of a boy's perils in the Islands of Corsica and Monte Cristo, by Alfred Elwes; "Tom Randell," by Alfred Oldfellow; and a charming collection of tales by Hans Andersen. The above-named volumes are brought out in neat holiday style with numerous pictorial embellishments, but not overloaded with fantastically extravagant decorations. Parents in perplexity for nice Christmas remembrances will find appropriate and substantial gifts for their young folks in these handsome volumes.

The latest issues of Dick & Fitzgerald's inexhaustible contribution to the collateral branches of "popular education," comprise "The Play Room," a collection of in-door games for boys and girls; "De Walden's Ball-Room Companion," containing full directions for dancing the most fashionable drawing-room dances, and all the figures of the "German;" "Marache's Manual of Chess," the newest American authority on the subject, by the chess editor of "Wilkes's Spirit of The Times;" and "Cribbage Made Easy," by George Walker; a complete treatise on the game including Anthony Pasquin's scientific work on five-card cribbage.

"Outward Bound; or Young America Afloat," is the first issue of a new series of stories of travels and adventure, by William T. Adams (Oliver Optic,) published in Boston by Lee & Shepard. It describes the voyage across the Atlantic of the Academy ship "Young America," explaining the plan of that novel educational institution, and giving a full account of its routine and discipline at sea. In connection with a slight story, the ordinary manœuvers on ship-board are described in a manner adapted to the comprehension of landsmen, together with many of the exciting incidents and experiences belonging to "life on the ocean wave." The succeeding volumes of the series will relate the adventures of the juvenile crew on their visit to the principal ports in Europe.

"The Transactions of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers" for 1865-66, from the press of John Wilson & Son, contains a variety of reports and other documents with regard to the different branches of the wool business in the United States. It is full of valuable statistical and agricultural facts, and forms an important and useful book of reference on a leading department of American industry.

A volume of "Poems," by Mary E. Tucker, published by M. Doolady, is apparently of Southern origin, and derives a certain interest from its expression of Southern feelings during the war, and its allusions to the sufferings of the South since the restoration of peace. At the same time, it is not intended to exert a sectional influence, much less to nourish the sentiment of contempt and hate for the lovers of the Union, a feature which is justly complained of in a recent collection of poetry of the war by Mr. Gilmore Simms. Nor is any considerable portion of its contents devoted to themes of local interest, but on the contrary, they are drawn from the general experience of life, and depict the emotions which arise from its vicissitudes in a mind of more than ordinary sensitiveness. The poems are the effusions of an excitable nature, with an ear attuned to the melodies of rhythm, and an experience familiar with the gradations of sorrow and joy. They do not pretend to be the exponents of deep thought, or to have been prompted by the highest impulses of the imagination. With their modest claims, they need not be brought to the test of an austere judgment, and their frequent sweetness of versification, and their pleasant, if not brilliant fancies, entitle them to a respectable place in the poetry of feeling and aspiration.

T. B. Peterson & Brothers have issued a new novel from the prolific pen of Mrs. Emma Southworth. It is entitled, "The Bride of Llewellyn," and in the conception of the plot and the style of execution is perhaps not at all inferior to her former widely read productions.

"Eastward," a new collection of poems of consolation, is issued in superb holiday style by A. D. F. Randolph. The contents, which are drawn from a great variety of sources, both ancient and modern, are arranged under the rubrics of "Heaven," "Death and Resurrection," "Immortality," and "Reveries and Retrospections." Many of the pieces are gems in their kind, being rarely found in collections of religious poetry, and marked by great imaginative beauty, no less than devotional fervor.

"Lives of the Presidents of the United States," by John S. C. Abbott, contains a brief, popular biography of each of our national chief magistrates, written in a sketchy, gossiping style, without much pretension to literary merit, and showing numerous traces of hasty preparation. It is intended for distribution by agents, and will doubtless find a welcome among readers who have neither time nor inclination for the perusal of more elaborate works. The engravings, which are intended to embellish the volume, are often cheap and coarsely executed. It is published in Boston by B. B. Russell & Co.

A neat collection of devotional works in a convenient, portable form, is published by A. D. F. Randolph. It consists of "The Shadow of the Rock," and other religious poems; "Ore from Precious Mines," a series of meditations from various sources, for every day in the year; "Pearls of Thought," gathered from "old authors; and "Hymns for the Church on Earth," edited by the Rev. J. C. Ryle.

Beside the ornamental editions of Christmas specialties, which will be noticed elsewhere in our columns, we have received from George Routledge & Sons, an agreeable juvenile story entitled "Tom and the Crocodiles," by Anne Bowman, illustrative of the social life and natural history of tropical America; "The Brown Papers," by Arthur Sketchley, a series of comic sketches, reprinted from "Fun;" "The Village Idoll" a delightful story for children, by the author of "A Trap to Catch a Sunbeam," prettily illustrated; and "Routledge's Christmas Annual for 1867," a volume of Christmas literature by various popular English authors.

New Publications.

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Mr. CARLETON is unwillingly compelled to announce that "ST. ELMO," the new Novel by Miss Augusta J. Evans (author of "Beulah,") will not be published so early as he had hoped.

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