LITERARY ITEMS.

The Hon. J. T. Headley has been engaged during the past winter upon a Life of Gen. Grant, which which will soon be issued by Messrs. E. B. Treat & Co., of this city.

A new novel is announced as in press entitled "Wind and Whirlwind," by the Rev. Thom. White, whose recent sermon on the position of woman in "Putnam's Magazine" has made him famous as a savory preacher and pungent writer.

"Life in the Argentine Republic in the days of the Tyrants; or, Civilization and Barbarism. From the Spanish of Col. Sarmiento, Minister to the United States, with a biographical sketch of the author," by Mrs. Mary Mann, is announced for publication by Hurd & Houghton, New-York.

Messrs. Carleton & Co. have in press a book entitled "Behind the Scenes," by Mrs. Elizabeth Keckley, a quadroon, who, in the days of serfdom, was a slave, and we are told performed her duties faithfully in that capacity. Although the duties of a slave were always more or less onerous, it appears she found time to cultivate her natural talents, and develop an uncommon intellect. Having the advantage of living for some time in the family of Jefferson Davis and subsequently with that of the late President Lincoln, it is fair to infer that a woman of her acute perceptions learned much, not only of a political nature, and of the secret manipulations of prominent wire-pullers, but of the manners, customs, and many phases of Southern society. Mrs. Keckley has made use of the opportunities thus afforded her in the composition of "Behind the Scenes."

J. B. Lippincott & Co. announce that they will shortly issue "The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin," edited by the Hon. John Bigelow, from the original manuscript, now for the first time published in full, and just as it came from the hand of its illustrious author. The manner in which our late Minister to France came into possession of this valuable autograph is thus detailed in the introduction:

"It is well known that Franklin prepared so much of the celebrated Memoirs of his life as was originally intended for publication, mainly at the solicitation of one of his most cherished friends in France—M. le Veillard, then Mayor of Passy. Toward the close of the year 1789 he presented to this gentleman a copy of all this sketch that was then finished. At the Doctor's death, his papers, including the original manuscript, passed into the hands of one of his grandsons, William Temple Franklin, who undertook to prepare an edition of the life and writings of his grandfather for a publishing house in London.

"For the greater convenience of the printer in the preparation of this edition—so goes the tradition in the le Veillard family—William Temple Franklin exchanged the original autograph with Mrs. le Veillard, then a widow, for her copy of the Memoirs, and thus the autograph passed out of the Franklin family.

"At the death of the widow le Veillard, this manuscript passed to her daughter; and at her death, in 1834, it became the property of her cousin, M. de Senarmont, whose grandson, M. P. de Senarmont, transferred it to me on the 26th of January, 1867, with several other memorials of Franklin, which had descended to him with the manuscript. Among them were the famous pastel portrait of Franklin by Dupiessis, which he presented to M. le Veillard; a number of letters to M. le Veillard from Dr. Franklin and from his grandsons, William Temple Franklin and Benjamin Franklin Bache; together with a minute Outline of the topics of his Memoirs, brought down to the termination of his mission to France.

"I availed myself of my earliest leisure to subject the Memoirs to a careful collation with the edition which had appeared in London in 1817, and was the first and only edition that ever purported to have been printed from the manuscript. The results of this collation revealed the curious fact that more than twelve hundred separate and distinct changes had been made in the text, and, what is more remarkable, that the last eight pages of the manuscript, which are second in value to no other eight pages of the work, were omitted entirely."

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AMERICAN LAW REVIEW FOR APRIL. LITTLE, BROWN & Co., No. 110 Washington-st., Boston, Publish This Day: THE AMERICAN LAW REVIEW. Vol. II., No. 3, for April, 1868. CONTENTS: I.—Lord Hobart. II.—The Public Land System. III.—The Legal Tender Acts: Their Constitutionality and Effect. IV.—Liability of Common Carriers Beyond Their Own Route. V.—Supreme Court of the United States. VI.—United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. VII.—Digest of the English Law Reports for November and December, 1867, and January, 1868. VIII.—Digest of Cases Decided in the Supreme Court of the United States. IX.—Selected Digest of State Reports. X.—Book Notices. XI.—List of New Law Books Published in England and America since January 1, 1868. XII.—Summary of Events. Subscription, $5 per annum, in advance. Single numbers, $1 25.

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