NEW PUBLICATIONS.

MR. BUCHANAN'S NOVEL.

THE SHADOW OF THE SWORD. A ROMANCE. By ROBERT BUCHANAN. 12mo. pp. 408. Lovell, Adam, Wesson & Co.

Mr. Robert Buchanan, after having tried his hand at poetry, journalism, criticism, native, American, and classic themes, now comes before us with a romance. As the early companion of David Gray, the antagonist of Swinburne, the exalter of himself, and the prostrate worshiper of Walt Whitman, each one of his literary ventures excites a certain curiosity which is something quite unrelated to its literary value. The reader, who has only partially followed his aberrant courses, naturally expects that his performance as an author—henceforth, at least,—shall be, as far as possible, an exemplification of his declared tastes. Otherwise his vehement preaching must fail of its effect. If he finds a "Homer-Moses" in one author, and a base "fleshly" fiend in another, it must be the former, of course, whom he will strive to emulate,—unless, indeed, he feels that he has already reached a plane above that of the two combined names. In either case, he has bound himself over, under penalty of acknowledging that he has hitherto been merely writing for effect, to a definite line of literary effort.

Opening his romance, we fall, to our profound amazement, upon a piece of descriptive writing which, in variety of color, abundance of detail, and prodigality of epithet, at once suggests his arch-detestation, Swinburne. The particulars of the scene are not catalogued, as is the habit of Mr. Buchanan's American master; they are actually intended to be coherent, and he has sought to imbue them with the sensuous atmosphere of the school he loathes. True, he does not reach the richness and palpitating delight of the school; but this is evidently the result of want of power, not want of will. The third paragraph on the first page consists of the following single sentence:

The sun is sinking afar away across the waters, sinking with a last golden gleam amid the mysterious Hesperides of the silent air, and his blinding light comes slant across the glassy calm till it strikes on the scarred and storm-rent faces of those Breton crags, illuminating and vivifying every nook and cranny of the cliffs beneath, burning on the summits and lightening their natural red to the vivid crimson of dripping blood, changing the coarse grass and yellow starwort into threads of emerald and glimmering stars, burning in a golden mist around the yellow flowers of the overhanging broom, and striking with fiercest ray on one naked rock of solid stone which juts out like a huge horn over the brink of the abyss, and around which a strong rope is noosed and firmly knotted.

And so on, for three pages more. Then the story begins to begin, on the coast of Brittany, early in the year 1813. The romance has a poetic "Proëm," which closes with the words: "Did Christ rise?—READ!" We have heeded the emphasized command and read; and we are driven to the dismal conclusion that Christ did *not* rise,—and does not, to those who profoundly believe in Him. The plot is simply this: Rohan Gwenfern, a Breton fisherman, has been taught Christianity by Master Arfoll, an itinerant schoolmaster, and is led to execrate war, and consequently Napoleon, as a warmaker. He is drawn in the new levy of troops, which does not exempt the only sons of widows, refuses to submit, and takes refuge in a cave among the cliffs. Here he is followed, besieged for days, and finally compelled to take life in order to escape capture. He becomes a starved, hunted, desperate, and finally an insane outlaw, now and then appearing to his old mother, or his betrothed bride, Marcelle. The return of the Bourbons gives him security, and even some little distinction; but, just before the marriage is to take place, Napoleon lands from Elba, and there is again war. Rohan now determines to assassinate the Emperor, and there is a scene, nine solid pages long, in the bedchamber of the latter, which for moonlight, mystery, and hightal—highwrought, we mean—effect, has not been surpassed since George Lippard wrote his fearful "Legends of the Wissahickon." When Napoleon prays before lying down, Mr. Buchanan peeps into the room, starts back, and exclaims: "Merciful God! what is this? He has sunk upon his knees!" Well, the Emperor escaped the knife—that is matter of history: Waterloo is fought; Rohan comes home to the Breton coast, and passes out of the romance as a harmless maniac, watched by his betrothed bride.

The moral of the story is: Refuse to fight, for the sake of humanity, and you will be forced to kill people, you will become insane, and attempt midnight murder. The rational human being will say to himself: "It is better to serve as a soldier." Mr. Buchanan probably intends to convey a different lesson, but we confess ourselves unable to discover it. The only approach to a victory of the better principle is where Rohan saves several persons from a freshet, at the risk of his life; yet even this leaves no more than a fleeting effect behind it. The sympathy of the reader with him is exhausted before the book is half read: his very heroism soon becomes animal, and thus a matter of whim rather than principle. He overcomes nothing, accomplishes nothing,—in fact, correctly understands nothing. A work of this character is utterly valueless unless it includes some moral or intellectual progression; but Mr. Buchanan's hero has so little brain that he loses it at the very commencement of the struggle, and thus ceases to represent anything beyond his own weakness.

As much of the descriptive writing suggests Swinburne's style, so the plot is an echo of Victor Hugo's "Toilers of the Sea." Rohan's life in the cavern is like Gilliatt's among the rocks, engaged in saving the vessel, and the latter's deliberate suicide is the equivalent of the former's insanity. Superhuman and misdirected endurance, followed by utter ruin, is the burden of both works, and it is morally as unhealthy as it is intellectually disagreeable. There are, unfortunately, persons who cannot relish sentiment or ethics until it has acquired a *haut gout*; and their taste makes such romances possible. The only thing in Mr. Buchanan's book which we can commend is his presentation of Breton life. His characters are well studied and clearly drawn; and he uses the local characteristics with the ease and skill of one who knows them through close observation. His Corporal Ewen is an excellent piece of character-painting, and points out to the author a less ambitious path in which he may go further and fare better.

HISTORY OF FRENCH LITERATURE. By HENRI VAN LAUN. Vol. I. 8vo. pp. 342. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The author of this work is favorably known in English letters by his studies and translations in various departments of French literature, and especially by his translation of M. Taine's celebrated "History of English Literature." His views of literary history are naturally tinctured with the spirit of the eminent Frenchman, who may be regarded in some sense as his master, although he is as greatly his inferior in philosophic comprehension, originality of thought, and virility of expression, as he surpasses him in sobriety of judgment, soundness of criticism, and practical common sense. Mr. Van Laun affirms that M. Taine has made contributions to the history of literature, and more particularly to that of English literature, which have not been equaled by any previous writer; but he insists, at the same time, that he has not done adequate justice to the political and social influence which is exerted by a generation upon an author and his works, and he has passed over too lightly the reciprocal influences of literary productions on political and social history. These influences are vast and mutual, and to a large extent they balance and compensate each other. A book is the offspring of the aggregate intellect of humanity. But in its turn it becomes a productive cause, and stamps an impression on future ages. It gives back to the world of thought what it took from the same source. Facts, and the history of facts, are thus wedded to thought, and from their union a fresh store of facts and thoughts is added to the grand total of human knowledge. From this point of departure Mr. Van Laun has engaged in the composition of the work of which the present volume forms the first instalment. No history on a similar plan exists in the English language. It is intended to cover the whole ground of French literary cultivation, from its origin among the early Celtic races to the current developments of the most recent date. In this volume the work is brought down to the commencement of the Renaissance in the fifteenth century, presenting a critical sketch of Rabelais, Montaigne, and other prominent writers of the period, and closing with notices of John Calvin and his fellow-laborers in the cause of the Protestant Reformation in France. Mr. Van Laun's estimate of Calvin affords a fair specimen of his judgments and methods. The Genevan theologian is presented in a parallel with Mazzini, which is certainly original and ingenious, if not conclusive. Both, says the author, were firebrands by temperament and inclination. Both fought for a cause which they considered the highest and noblest in the world,—the one for religious liberty and the other for civil liberty. Both were compelled to work in exile. Both appealed to the sword in behalf of popular freedom. In both, zeal outran discretion. Mazzini did not die, like Calvin, in exile, but if Calvin had found his Garibaldi, he might have died on his native soil a happier man than the great agitator of the Italian Revolution. Calvin was cold, morose, stern, implacable. In his hands, even raillery became a cruel weapon for the injury of his foes. Satire without a smile was the nearest approach to feeling that was ever detected in the somber iconoclast. But the influence of Calvin on the literary development of France cannot be too highly estimated. With him French prose attained its manhood. What was used before as a staff or a toy, was used by him as a flaming sword. The force and the fire were the measure of the man. His language was vehement, because he was vehement. Its power was but the expression of his own powerful intellect. With the religious position of Calvin, Mr. Van Laun has no sympathy. But his portraiture of the stern reformer is marked both by discrimination and vividness. The versatility of conception which has enabled him to do justice to such opposite characters as Calvin and Montaigne, is an admirable condition for the successful accomplishment of his work.

A TEXT BOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY. By M. FOSTER, M. D., F. R. S. 8vo. pp. 555. Macmillan & Co.

In presenting the latest conclusions of physiological research, the author of this volume has made no attempt to render an account of the different opinions that have been held concerning the phenomena of animal bodies. He has aimed only at a clear exposition of the main facts and principles of the science, as now received by the soundest authorities, without perplexing the student with a discussion of theories that may have more or less value, but which have not attained the footing of universal validity. The moot questions of physiology, like those of the other sciences, are but the envelope of a nucleus of solid truth which always grows larger at the expense of its wrappings. Dr. Foster has accordingly confined himself to the statement of principles which he regards as sustained by unquestionable evidence, omitting those which are deemed of a loose and uncertain character. Nor does his work make any pretense to the position of a popular manual. Each topic is subjected to a profound scientific treatment, which supposes on the part of the reader a general knowledge of the elements of chemistry, anatomy, and physiology. The language is of a strictly technical character, demanding a thorough study of the modern nomenclature previous to the perusal of the work. The exhaustive manner in which the author has presented what is known on the subject of his volume will be as great an attraction to the resolute student in pursuit of truth, as the rigor with which he has abstained from meddling with what is unknown.

PETER THE APOSTLE. By WILLIAM M. TAYLOR, D. D. 12mo. pp. 371. Harper & Brothers.

Dr. Taylor has here presented a conspicuous character of the New Testament as a sequel to his graphic histories of the more ancient worthies, David and Elijah. He has made no attempt to gloss over the defects of the "warm-hearted, impulsive, and often blundering apostle," but has painted him with all his infirmities as a man, not finding in his office as the "Apostle of the Circumcision" an exemption from human errors and shortcomings. Peter is described mainly as the ardent and zealous adherent to the new faith which was to transform the world. His services as a devoted herald of the Gospel to the cast-iron subjects of the Old Covenant are feelingly portrayed. The attractive traits of his personal character are dwelt upon with affectionate unction. Dr. Taylor is a powerful pulpit orator by his naturalness, his versatility, his cordial sympathies. He is no less rich in illustration than urgent in reasoning. The fire of sincere conviction dwells upon his lips and enlivens his discourse. The same qualities are apparent in his written style, which is but the reflection of his eloquence as a speaker. No one who has listened to his public services will be disappointed in this volume. It is always alive, always glowing, always tender and strong at the same time, aptly enforcing universal truth from individual example.

CIVIL MALPRACTICE: A TREATISE ON SURGICAL JURISPRUDENCE. By MILO A. MCCLELLAND, M. D. 8vo. pp. 554. Hurd & Houghton.

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500	71½	100	25	200	16½
400	71⅝	100	24⅞	100	16⅝
500	71¾	Erie Railway		200	16¾
1,000	71⅞	250	8⅝	100	17
500	71	100	8½	100	17⅛
300	71⅛	Mich Central		100	17¼
200	71¼	200	41⅞	200	16⅞
400	71⅛	100	41⅞	Lake Shore	
100	71	400	45	500	52⅞
100	70⅞	200	45	500	52⅞
2,300	71	100	41⅞	100	52¾
600	71⅛	500	45⅛	1,000	52⅝
500	71	100	45	1,700	52¾
200	71	200	44⅜	900	52⅝
700	70⅞	200	41⅞	300	52¾
300	70⅞	North-West Pref		500	52⅝
400	70⅞	100	52½	400	52⅝
500	71⅛	St Paul		2,880	52¾
600	70⅞	100	19	300	52⅝
400	78¾	St Paul Pref		100	52½
300	70⅞	200	49	100	52¾
100	70⅞	100	48⅞	500	52¾
Del and Hud C		Central of N J		Rock Island	
300	52½	200	18	200	100⅝
100	52¾	200	17⅞	Morris and Essex	
254	52	200	17⅞	30	89⅞
400	52½	300	17½	Del, Lack & Western	
200	52⅜	400	17¼	800	68½
10	52⅝	500	17⅜	600	68⅜
300	52¾	200	17	1,700	68⅛
200	52¼	200	16⅞	1,800	68⅛
100	52	300	16½	1,700	68
N Y Cent and Hud		200	16⅞	200	67⅞
420	10	100	16⅞	1,600	68
100	100⅞	500	16¾	500	67
100	15	100	16⅞	1,200	68⅛
100	10⅝	400	17	100	68¼
100	100½	400	17⅛	200	68⅜
100	100⅝	300	17½	200	68⅝
110	100½	100	17⅞	200	68½
200	100	100	17¼	425	68¼
200	99⅞	100	17	1,400	68⅜
600	100	500	16¾	100	68¼

GOVERNMENT STOCK DEPARTMENT—10¼ O'CLOCK AND 11½ O'CLOCK A. M.

U S 5s, Coupon, 1881	U S 5s 10-40 Registered
10,000 114	10,000 .....bc. 110⅞
U S 5-20 Registered, '65	U S 5s, Registered, 1881
10,000 .....108⅞	10,000 .....110⅞
U S 5-20 Coupon, '65, N	16,000 .....112 10/16
10,000 .....110⅛	U S 5s, Coupon, 1881
U S 5-20 Coupon, 1867	10,000 .....110⅜
3,000 .....bc. 112⅞	5,000 .....112 10/16
50,000 .....112⅞	U S Currency 6s
	13,000 .....bc. 123½

FIRST BOARD—10½ O'CLOCK A. M.

Sales of State Bonds—Railroad Bonds—Bank and Railroad Shares—Express Stocks, &c.

Tennessee 6s, New		Del and Hudson		North-Western	
12,000	42½	100	50¾	100	bc83. 32⅜
Tennessee 6s, N S		100	50½	100	83. 32⅛
3,000	42½	200	83. 50¾	North-West Pref	
Dist of Col 3.65s		100	50½	100	bc83. 52
8,000	bc. 72½	Pacific Mail		100	52¼
Chic, Bur & Q C 7s		1,150	bc. 24⅞	Central of N J	
4,000	110	U S Express		300	bc. 16⅝
N J Cen 1st, N		140	52	100	16⅞
10,000	102¾	Wells-Fargo Ex		100	16¾
6,000	102½	50	83	600	16½
Lehigh and W B, C		Western Union		100	16¾
5,000	43¼	1,100	bc. 70⅝	100	16½
10,000	83. 43	300	b3. 70⅞	100	16⅞
Erie 7th Mort		900	85. 70⅝	200	16¾
7,000	103½	100	70½	100	c. 16⅞
North Missouri 1st		600	70⅝	100	16⅞
2,000	99¼	1,700	83. 70¼	600	17
Cent Pacific G B		700	70⅜	500	17¼
2,000	c 107⅜	1,700	70½	654	17⅛
Cen Pac 1st, Cal & Oregon Br		1,800	70⅜	100	17
1,000	90	200	70½	200	16¾
Union Pacific 1st		800	70⅜	500	16½
11,000	104⅛	1,000	83. 70¼	Rock Island	
C, C and I C 1st		2,100	70⅛	100	100⅜
4,000	36	1,000	70¼	200	bc. 100⅜
St L & Iron M 1st		200	70⅜	400	100¼
3,000	98	N Y Cent and Hud		100	100⅜
Grt West 1st M, '88		550	bc83. 100	100	100½
1,000	104¼	100	100¼	50	b3. 100½
4,000	104⅛	200	100¼	400	100⅝
7,000	104⅛	700	83. 100	St Paul	
Tol and W 1st ex C		100	83. 99⅞	100	bc. 48⅞
1,000	91	200	99⅞	Central of N J	
Quincey and Tol 1st		100	c. 99⅝	100	bc. 17
2,000	83	Erie Railway		300	16¾
Del and Hud R, '91		500	bc. 8½	100	16⅞
4,000	100	300	8⅜	100	16⅝
W U T Comp, 1900		500	b3. 8½	100	16⅞
4,000	101⅞	Harlem		200	16⅞
Harlem 1st, 7s, C		200	bc83. 140	100	17
5,000	120	23	140	100	17⅛
American Ex Bank		Union Pacific		200	17
15	110½	200	65¼	200	16⅞
5	110	Mich Central		300	16½
Continental Bank		300	bc. 44¾	200	16⅞
10	68	100	44⅝	100	16⅞
Fourth Nat Bank		1,100	44¾	200	16⅞
46	104½	Lake Shore		100	c. 16⅞
Metropolitan Bank		1,100	bc83. 52	500	16¾
5	134	700	52¼	100	16⅞
Del and Hudson C		400	b3. 52¼	200	16⅞
100	bc. 52	700	52⅛	100	16⅞
100	51½	1,250	52¼	200	16⅞
100	51¾	800	52⅛	100	16⅞
100	51⅞	100	83. 52	100	16⅞
200	52½	500	52⅛	100	17 52
50	52¾	Illinois Central		500	17
50	52	100	53	Pitts, Ft Wayne and Chic Gu'd	
200	51¼	100	bc. 52½	10	bc. 101½
200	51	100	52½	300	101
		300	52¾	Han and St Jo	
				100	bc b3. 11⅞
				100	11¾
				C, C & I C	
				100	2½
				Del, L & W	
				700	bc. 68½
				600	68⅝
				2,100	68
				1,500	68⅛
				2,100	68
				200	68⅛
				200	68¼
				150	68⅜
				100	68⅜
				100	68⅜
				Chic and Alton	
				100	bc. 101¼
				82	101

12½ O'CLOCK—SALES BEFORE THE CALL.

U S 5-20 Cp, '67		Mich Central		Cen of N J	
50,000	112⅞	200	41⅞	1,300	16⅞
U S 4½ Reg		200	45⅛	200	16⅝
10,000	c 107½	200	45	500	16½
Union Pacific 1st		100	44⅝	200	16¼
5,000	104⅛	L