NOTES ON BOOKS.

"MEN OF THE TIME" AND OTHER MEN OF THE TIME—AN AMERICAN CONUNDRUM.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]
LONDON, January 30.

"Men of the Time," of which the eleventh edition has just been issued by Messrs. Routledge, is one of the most indispensable and most irritating of current publications. Mr. Thompson Cooper, who edits the book, observes that the aim of it is to furnish memoirs of eminent living persons of both sexes in all parts of the civilized world, adding that the aristocracy of intellect had been left, until his work first appeared, without any special record. Mr. Thompson Cooper's notion of what constitutes a claim to admission into the aristocracy of intellect is a very peculiar notion indeed. A list of men of the time who are not included in this present edition (which Mr. Cooper declares to be to all intents and purposes a new book) has already been published in London. It contains about 150 names, among them Professor Bryce, Lord Randolph Churchill, Mr. Charles Russell, leader of the English bar; Mr. Ilbert, author of the foolish bill which has set India aflame; artists so well known as Mr. Edwin Long, Mr. Fildes, Mr. Whistler and Mr. Burne Jones; men of science as eminent as Dr. W. B. Carpenter, Mr. C. J. Romanes and Sir Joseph Lister. Even Mr. Bradlaugh and Mr. Oscar Wilde are wanting.

This list of omissions is wholly, or almost wholly, English, and makes no pretension to completeness. If we look abroad, it might be enlarged ten or twenty fold. Take France. Young France seems to be quite unknown to Mr. Thompson Cooper, and much of the literary and artistic France which is no longer young. Among artists, Bonnat, admittedly the first portrait-painter of his day; Carolus Duran, his rival; Bouguereau, long an American favorite; Bastien-Lepage, who came decisively to the front perhaps five years ago; Henner, Laurens, Van-Marck and Jacquet will be sought for in vain in Mr. Thompson Cooper's aristocracy. The leading etchers of the modern French school, Flameng, Waltner, Rajon (though he lives in England) Lalanze, are not named. The time is one when actors and actresses have a celebrity (in some cases) and social position never before reached, but few of them are famous enough for Mr. Cooper. Two of the first three comedians of the day are not to be found in this book: Coquelin, who, in addition to being in his own roles an actor without a rival, was Gambetta's friend; and Delaunay, just decorated with the Legion of Honor, and the first comedian ever decorated as such (he got his bit of red ribbon in his quality as professor at the Conservatoire). Neither of the two Dupuis is named, nor St. Germain, nor Worms, nor Reginer nor Marais. He knows not Madeleine Brohan, nor Croizette (for some time rival of Sarah Bernhardt) nor Mlle. Reichenberg, nor Blanche Pierson, the latest, nor Mlle. Bartet, one of the latest accessions to the Théâtre Français. The incomparable Anna Judic, the idol of Paris; Chaumont, long the the idol of London; Jeanne Gravier, the first living opera bouffe singer; Jeanne Hoding, once her rival, now the star of the Gymnase in M. Ohnet's comedy, "Le Maitre de Forges"; Rosita Mauri, the premiere danseuse of the grand opera and of Europe—none of these are good enough for Mr. Thompson Cooper's pages. Nor is Mme. Krauss nor yet M. Lasalle, whom Paris crowds the great Opera House to hear: still less, I suppose, Mlle. Van Zandt, since she is an American, and Miss Griswold, also an American, both celebrities in the French capital. It may be noted that Miss Mary Anderson's name i also wanting.

Among recent French dramatists who are unknown to Mr. Thompson Cooper are M. Edward Pailleron, of the Académie Française, author of the play which has had the greatest success of modern times at the Théâtre Français, "Le Monde, ou l'on s'ennuie." Mr. Cooper has not heard of Gondinet, nor of Meilhac, nor of Halévy, all of them for many years past among the most admired of French dramatic writers. M. Georges Ohnet, whose three novels and two plays have been the talk of Paris since the appearance of the first, "Serge Panine," is not thought worthy of mention. Albert Delpit, Guy de Maupressant, and Jean Richepin are names well known to every Frenchman who reads, but not to Mr. Thompson Cooper, nor has he ever heard of the poet who is to have the next chair in the Academy, M. Francois Coppée.

English journalists of every grade and degree, (though with some striking omissions, Mr. Mudford, for example, the ablest of them all) are given places as men of the time. French journalists whose individuality is commonly far more pronounced, who are much more personages and much more before the public than their English colleagues, are chiefly conspicuous by their absence. Not a word is vouchsafed of Magnard of the *Figaro;* Ranc and Henri Maret, of the *Voltaire;* Meyer, of the *Gaulois;* Hébrard, of the *Temps;* Paul Meurice, Auguste Vacquerie and Edouard Lockroy, of the *Rappel;* P. Leroy Beaulieu and Gabriel Charmes, of the *Journal des Debats.* Omitted also are men of the rank of J. J. Weiss, whom Gambetta thought worth attaching to the Republic by a State Councillorship; Albert Wolff, the first or nearly the first French art-critic of the day; de Mazade; and the younger Buloz, Editor of the *Revue des Deux Mondes,* whose father in his lifetime was equally unlucky. The well-known representatives of the London press in Paris are left unnoticed. So great a man as M. de Blowitz will be sought for in vain in "Men of the Time"; whether under the appellation by which he chooses to be known at present, or as Herr Oppert, which is his real name, and which he shares with a very eminent Assyriologist. Mr. Crawford, for thirty years the excellent Paris correspondent of *The Daily News,* fares no better; nor Mrs. Crawford, one of the most versatile and interesting journalists of the period.

The first dramatic critic in Europe is M. Francisque Sarcey, whose weekly feuilleton in the *Temps* is a decree of fate to actors and authors. Next to him, perhaps, is M. Auguste Vitu, of the *Figaro,* at whose bidding Alexandre Dumas himself has just struck out one of the most famous lines in "La Dame aux Camélias." Both are wanting in Mr. Thompson Cooper's aristocracy of intellect; are not to his mind "persons whose names have come prominently before the public." I forbear to point out some singular cases which are admitted. Those whom I mention whom Mr. Thompson Cooper has not thought worthy of mention are not a tenth of those who might be named. I put down a few of such names as occur to me at the moment. To make a complete list is his business, not mine, but the foregoing will perhaps help him to explore paths he has not cared to tread. He is not so much a blind guide as a guide who does not know the road along which he professes to lead you.

It would be too much to ask of Mr. Thompson Cooper that he should be aware of Americans, except as by chance a caprice may suggest names to him far beyond the Atlantic. He has opened his gates to a considerable number of Americans, more or less widely. The world, if Sir Henry Taylor is to be believed, knows nothing of its greatest men. Perhaps, in a dictionary of this sort, where every inch of space is, or ought to be, precious, the greatness of a man may be determined by the length of the notice bestowed on him. Do you suppose you can tell who, tried by this standard, is the greatest American? How many guesses will you have? You may as well give it up before you begin. The foreigner has an advantage over you. His perspective is, as ought to be, more accurate. A foreign country, says Mr. Browning, stands to him in the place of posterity, and the judgment of posterity, we all know, is more likely to be permanent than the judgment of one's contemporaries. It may be a little rash to accent Mr. Thompson Cooper as an adequate exponent of the opinion of the England of to-day or of the America of the future. But we must take things as we find them; Mr. Cooper and his biographies with the rest. The American to whom he erects the loftiest monument in his temple of fame is "General John Meredith Read, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Redeemer of Greece, F. S. A., M. R. T. A., F. R. G. S., statesman and diplomatist.

To convey to the British public an adequate account of the achievements of General Meredith Read requires, in Mr. Thompson Cooper's opinion, as much space as suffices for President Arthur, Mr. Blaine, Mr. Conkling, Mr. Tilden, Mr. Henry James, Mr. Howells, Mr. James Russell Lowell and Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes. I do not mean that the biography of General Read is as long as each of these. I mean that it is as long as all of them put together. They have a column apiece. General Read has eight columns. He has twice as much as General Grant, four times as much as General Sherman, and more than eight times as much as Mr. Evarts. Mr. Bancroft has but two columns to General Read's eight. Mr. Hamilton Fish occupies one-sixteenth as much room as General Read. If we look abroad, we find General Read superior to Prince Bismarck in the proportion of eight to five. M. Jules Ferry, to be sure, Prime Minister of France, is four-fifths as great as Bismarck, and attains to one-half the stature of the late American Consul-General in Paris. Mr. John Bright is three-eighths the size of our ex-Minister to Greece. Mr. Ruskin barely fills a quarter of the measure allotted to the representative of the Read family; Mr. Tennyson the same; Mr. Matthew Arnold and Mr. Browning do not exceed the same fraction. Lord Salisbury comes no nearer to being General Read's equal than does Mr. Bright. Throughout the volume, as I turn it over, I can find the record of but one life which equals or exceeds that of this descendant of three signers of the Declaration of Independence, and that is Mr. Gladstone. But in justice to our countryman it is to be borne in mind that Mr. Gladstone is seventy-four years of age, while General Read is but forty-seven. The excess of two columns granted to the first of living Englishmen cannot be thought unreasonable, nor is it unreasonable to expect that the story of General Read's exploits, which has doubled since the last edition, may overtake Mr. Gladstone by the time the next issue of the book appears.

General Meredith Read, I hope, will forgive me the freedom with which I use his name, and not suppose that I refer to him with any failure of respects or good-will. His name happens to be the most conspicuous illustration of a bad system of editing, and he will be the first to laugh at the grotesque result due to Mr. Thompson's want of method and want of anything like a sense of proportion in distributing the space at his command. The book is so badly done, and yet, as I said, so indispensable as to incite competition. Any competent editor who will undertake a dictionary of living persons may be assured of success. As England fails to produce one, I do not see why America should not give us a work so urgently needed. Vapereau's "Dictionnaire des Contemporains," superior as it is to "Men of the Time," is weak in English and American names—just where an English or an American book ought to be strong.

G. W. S.

LITERARY NOTES.

R. M. Johnston, the author of the clever Southern story "Old Mark Langston," is a man past middle age, who has been Professor of English Literature in the University at Athens. It is said that the characters in all his stories are taken from life. They are types of bygone times in the South which are to be found nowhere else.

The author of "Ginx's Baby" is bringing out another novel.

There is a rumor that Mr. Henry James got some of the material for his novel, "Washington Square," from the late Mrs. Catherine Dix.

The measure of Chinese Gordon's popularity in England may be guessed from the publication of a life of him which is to be sold at a penny for the benefit of the poor. His is one of the rare cases in which a hero gets the praise and affection he deserves.

A satirical person writes to *The Boston Transcript* asking why in the march of "advanced "thought" poetry should still lag behind;—and why "Paradise Lost" or the "Divina Commedia" should not be brought down, or up, to the level of our own times by eliminating the obsolete element of theology and substituting the science of geology, entomology or even the peculiar human one of odontology, the practical pursuit of which is well known to afford scope for the dramatic development of depreciation, terror, entreaty, arbitrary power, agony and wrath? "In the meantime," he adds, "some of your readers may be gratified by the sight of a poem which has come into my hands apparently from those of 'the bard of Rydal.' If the manuscript is genuine, of which there seems to me to be some internal evidence, it may go to prove to them how true is the adage, 'Second thoughts are best!'"

ODE ON MORTALITY.
By Wordsworth (less).

Our birth is but a dream and a forgetting.
The Dust that rises with us, our life's Star,
Hath elsewhere had its setting,
And cometh from afar;
Not in entire forgetfulness,
Nor wanting a fur travelling dress,
But trailing tails of monkeys do we come
From protoplasm, our home.
Menageries lie around our infancy;
We are not what we were primordially.
The Laws of Evolution
Work out much queer confusion.
At length the Man, the soulless child of clay,
Stands winking at the new light of the day!

The Rev. Heber Newton has not selected an original title for the book which G. P. Putnam's Sons are bringing out for him. Mr. Gerald Massey has already published "A Book of the Beginnings."

A great deal of the matter in "The Unity of Nature," the Duke of Argyll's new book, has already appeared in the shape of articles in the Reviews. These have been to a large extent re-written. The leading idea of the work is that the attack of Modern Doubt on Christian theology may be met by the light thrown on the phenomena of the Universe by the theory of the Unity of Nature.

The leading British reviews and quarterlies are all to be regularly reprinted in this country by the Leonard Scott Publishing Company.

There are only 128 pages of the MS. Autobiography of Heine, which is to be published immediately. Soon after the author's death twenty-one other pages relating to his family were burned by his brother. The autobiography is full of personal recollections and impressions of the poet's youth.

Sampson, Low & Co. say that Mr. Eugene Schuyler has entirely re-written for them his "Life of Peter the Great."

A little book has lately been published in Belgium giving an account of the various visits paid by the Duke of Wellington to Brussels, before and after the battle of Waterloo. One who saw him often describes therein his "prominent aquiline nose, his rather short legs, and his long body. They used to say that he looked half eagle, half sheep."

The Imperial Dictionary defends "reliable" as a word in good standing in our language.

John Harris, the late excellent Cornish poet, was a poor miner who from boyhood spent his leisure in writing verse, which was at first scratched upon broken tiles, or written on grocery paper, with i nk made by the poet from the juice of blackberries.

The report that the Harpers intend to start an edition of their *Young People* in England is incorrect.

THE AMERICAN "ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA."

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To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I am a subscriber to Stoddart & Co.'s edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica. I received the fifteenth volume in June, 1883. I am informed that the "Original" sixteenth was published and served to subscribers about four months ago. I am anxious to know why I do not receive the sixteenth volume of the "Reprint." Has the publication ceased?

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Yours, INQUIRER.

New-York, Feb. 11, 1884.

[We do not know, but shall try to find out.—*Ed.*]

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RED STAR LINE.—For Antwerp and Paris. Sailing from New-York and Antwerp every Saturday.
ZEELAND.....Saturday, Feb. 9, 4 p. m.
WESTERNLAND.....Saturday, Feb. 16, 10 a. m.
Saloons, staterooms, smoking and bathrooms amidships. Saloon, $60 to $75; excursion, $110 to $125. Second cabin, $55; excursion, $100; steerage, outward, $26 prepaid from Antwerp, $20; excursion, $40, including bedding, etc.
PETER WRIGHT & SONS, General Agents, 55 Broadway.

UNITED STATES AND GERMAN MAIL STEAMERS.
SEMI WEEKLY STEAMERS.—Hamburg-American Packet Company's Line for PLYMOUTH (London and Paris), and HAMBURG. Saturday steamers to Hamburg direct.
BUGLA.....Sat., Feb. 16, 10 a. m.
WIELAND.....Thurs., Feb. 21, 10 a. m.
Rates: First Cabin, $65 and $70; Steerage, $20. Prepaid steerage tickets, $20. Excursion rates greatly reduced. Send for "Tourist Gazette."
KUNHARDT & CO., Gen. Agts., No. 61 Broadway, N. Y.
C. B. RICHARD & CO., Gen. Pass. Agts., 61 B'way, N. Y.

WHITE STAR LINE.—MAURY ROUTE.
UNITED STATES AND ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS.
FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL.
REPUBLIC, Capt. Irving.....Saturday, Feb. 16, 8:30 a. m.
ADRIATIC, Capt. Parsell.....Saturday, March 1, 8 a. m.
BALTIC, Capt. Bence.....Saturday, March 8, 2:30 p. m.
BRITANNIC, Capt. Perry.....Saturday, Feb. 15, 7:30 a. m.
FROM THE WHITE STAR DOCK, FOOT OF WEST 10TH-ST.
RATES.—Saloon, $60, $80 and $100. Return tickets on favorable terms. Steerage from the Old Country, $21; from New-York, $26.
For inspection of plans and other information apply at the company's offices, No. 37 Broadway, New-York.
E. J. CORTIS, Agent.

THE MARKETS.

TOTAL RECEIPTS OF PRODUCE.
Per North River, Vessels and Railroads.
NEW-YORK, Feb 12, 1884.

Ashes, pkgs	25	Malt, bush	15,300	Cutmeats, pks	3,518
B W Flour, pkgs	435	Barley, bush	11,550	Lard, tcs	536
Beans, bbls	243	Rye, bush	2,500	Lard, kegs	417
Cotton, bal's	1,593	Oatmeal, bbls	125	Butter, pkgs	4,077
D fruit, pks	209	Oatmeal, bgs	1,177	Cheese, pkgs	2,382
Eggs, pkgs	1,098	Grease, pkgs	71	D hogs, No	408
Flour, bbls	20,994	Grassseed, bg	436	Starch, pkgs	275
C Meal, bbls	876	Hides, bales	823	Tallow, pkgs	365
C meal, bgs	225	Hops, bales	1,143	Tobacco, hds	41
Wheat, bush	2,000	Lead, pigs	691	Tobacco, pgs	547
Corn, bush	18,000	Leather, sds	11,693	Whiskey, bbs	444
Oats, bush	16,000	Oilcake, pks	1,165	Wool, bales	58
Rye, bush	2,500	Pork, pkgs	317		
		Beef, pkgs	529		

GENERAL MARKET REPORT.
NEW-YORK, Feb. 12, 1884.

ASHES—Quiet but steady; Pots 4½c. pearls 6@6½c.

BEESWAX—Supplies are very small and full figures are demanded; Western and Southern 34@36c.

BUILDING MATERIALS—There was a generally steady market, though the business was quite insignificant. We quote: Bricks—Pale, $4@4 50; Hards, $6 50@8 25. Rosendale Cement, $1 30@1 35; American Portland do., $2 25@2 50; English do., $2 60@3 00. Hair—Cattle, 25@30c.; Goat, 35@40c. Lime—Rockland, $1; Finishing, $1 20; State Common, 85c.; Finishing, $1 10; Ground, 52@90c. Lath, $2 50 per M. Lumber — Eastern Spruce, $13@17; White Pine, $18 50@22 for West India Shipping Boards; Yellow Pine, $20@23. Hard Woods—White Wood, $25@38 per car-load; Hickory, $15@$55; Cherry, $43@75; Chestnut, $25@30; Walnut, $65@1 10; Ash, $35@40; Oak, $30@55; Maple, $20@33 50. Nails, $2 60@2 65 per keg for 10 to 60d.

COAL—The mild weather has checked the output of Anthracite, and yet all prices remain steady, carcoes alongside being cite, and yet all prices remain steady, carcoes alongside being quite dull. Bituminous continues slow at $3 75@4 75 for all kinds.

COOPERAGE STOCK—Trade is rather slow at the moment, but an undertone of steadiness is noticed throughout. Empty hhds. quoted at $2 25; Hoops, 11 feet, $27@36; do., 12 feet, $28@40. Molasses Shooks and Heads, $2 10@2 45 Sugar do. do., 38 inch, $2@$2 25; do., 36 inch, $1 50@$1 60; Old do., 38 inch, $1 50@$1 55; do., 36 inch, $1 25@$1 30; Rum Shooks and Heads $4; do. Pipes $7.

COFFEE—Spot Rio quiet but steady at 12½c. for fair; no sales. Options slightly higher but very quiet; sales, 1,250 bags at 10.80, for March, 10.90@10.95 for April, 11.00 for May, 11.05 for June, 11.20 for September and 11.30 for December, closing barely steady as follows: February, 10.70@10.80; March, 10.80@10.85; April, 10.90@10.95; May, 11.00@11.05; June, 11.05@11.10; July, 11.10@11.15; August, 11.10@11.25; October, 11.20@11.25; December, 11.30@11.35. Mild grades about steady sales 300 bags Maracaibo, 1,000 piculs Padang ex "Creecent," 1,000 do December, sales, and 500 September do on private terms; spot, Interior Padang 16½@18½c; Good Cucuta 12½c.@12½.

COCOA—Moderately active and steady; Guayaquil, 15½c.; Maracaibo 23@25c.; Caracas, 19@20c.

CHICORY—Ground 5½@8c.

COTTON—Spot Cotton dull and weak; sales 267 bales. Delivered on contract 300 bales. Receipts at the ports to-day 16,329 bales, against 17,133 last week and 27,038 last year; since September 1, 4,120,268 bales against 4,529,653 same period last season. Middling Uplands 10¾. Futures 3 to 4 points higher but quiet closing firm; sales 76,100 bales. To-day's closing prices: February, 10.60@10.70; March, 10.79@10.80; April, 10.90@10.91; May, 11.04@11.05; June, 11.17@11.18; July, 11.23@11.29; August, 11.37; September, 11.02@11.05; October, 10.64@10.66; November, 10.54@10.57; December, 10.55@10.60. Transferable orders, 10.70. Highest and lowest prices of the day: February, 10.70@10.64; March, 10.79@.75; April, 10.90@10.84; May, 11.04@10.99; June, 11.18@11.12; July, 11.29@11.23; August, 11.36@11.32; September, 11.01@10.98; October 10.32@10.61; November, 10.53@10.51.

DRUGS.—Large sales of Quinine have latterly been made at the decline in prices. As a rule the market is steady with a fair trade. Canada Balsam Fir, $2 65@2 70; Balsam Tolu, 43@45c; Russian Cantharides, $2 75@$3; Crystals Cream Tartar, 34@35½c.; Balsam Peru, $1 65 in jobbing lots. Oil Peppermint in tin, $2 50@$2 60; Bleaching Powder, $2 27½@$2 37½; Morphine, $3 40; Opium in jobbing lots, $3 85@$4; Quinine, American, $1 40 in vials; German, $1 12½@$1 15 in bulk; Glycerine, $1 40@$1 95; Seneca Root, 45@55c.; Ipecac, 85c@$1 05; Alcohol, $2 24@$2 26; Camphor, 20½@21c.

FERTILIZERS.—Moderately active; Ground Bone, $30@$30 50; Bone Ash, $24@$24 50; Dissolved Bone, $6; Dry Fish scraps, $25; Bone Black Spent, $22 50; Kainit in bulk, $7 75; Muriate of Potash, $1 57½@$1 60.

FISH—Mackerel quiet and unchanged; prices are very firm, owing to firm markets at the East, but there are no new features to note. Cod scarce; they can not be sold in the moist and foggy weather; the demand is fair and fully equal to the receipts. Georges, 5½c.; Shore, 5c.; Bank, 4c.; Medium, 3½c.; Of Box Herring, 10,000 boxes have been sold at 16@17c. for scaled, and 13@14c. for Tucks. Barrel Herring quiet; Large Halifax, $5@5 50; Medium, $4; Portland, $1 75, and Eastport, $2 75@$3.

FOREIGN FRUITS.—Dull and weak; Lemons, $1 50@$2 for Sicily; Sicily Oranges $1 50@$2 50; Valencia do., $4@$5 50