NOTES ON NEW BOOKS.

In preparing "Half-Hours with American History," a collection of extracts from various writers, good, bad and indifferent, Mr. Charles Morris has attempted to cover the whole field of American history, presenting the most important incidents in picturesque prominence, and remitting minor details to the background where lazy readers can comfortably disregard them. To carry out the plan, he has been obliged to add a great deal of connecting matter of his own; and he is evidently persuaded that he has not only brought together an interesting series of half-hour readings, but has made a very satisfactory American history. Without disparaging his work, useful and attractive so far as it properly goes, we may say that his estimate of its character is too high. Specimens of Robertson, George Bancroft, H. H. Bancroft, Lossing, Palfrey, Parkman, Irving, Abiel Holmes, Sparks, Franklin, Badeau, Miss Booth, Cooper, Horace Greeley, the Count de Paris, and the author of Barnes's "Popular History of the United States" cannot be welded into a homogeneous story, even with Mr. Morris's additions. And it must be confessed that Mr. Morris's contributions to the mass are not of the best quality. He is extremely loose and inaccurate in his statements and amateurish in his manner. The J. B. Lippincott Company publish the volumes.

Colonel Higginson addresses himself in "Women and Men" (Harper & Brothers) especially to women, although he believes that the ruder sex also may find things in the volume to suit their case. He is quite right; for his bright and suggestive little essays contain abundant matter for the amusement and instruction of us all. The topics are drawn from a broad survey of life, and cover a multitude of problems of society, labor, opportunity, character, capacity, art, letters, housekeeping, the home, the hospital, and family festivals. They are never didactic; their hints are sensible; their manner is easy and attractive; and they are comfortably short.

There is real humor in Miss Maria L. Pool's "Vacation in a Buggy" (G. P. Putnam's Sons). The peaceful adventures of two women who take a leisurely summer journey behind a horse which is not "a woman's horse" are told with sparkling spirit.

A little collection of "Lyrics, Idyls and Romances" from the works of Robert Browning has just been published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. The volume is a little jewel of prettiness and fine taste—which may be said, indeed, of most of the later issues of this house.

Dodd, Mead & Co. have published a cheaper edition of John Ormsby's excellent translation of Don Quixote in four duodecimo volumes neatly bound in cloth. The type is large and clear, and if the paper leaves something to be desired in respect of thickness, there can be no question that the new edition is very well worth the price asked for it.

Among the throng of books basing their claims upon pictorial quality, elegance, daintiness, grace or fancy, it is somewhat surprising at this season to come upon two "practical" art books. "Elementary Flower Painting," published by Cassell & Co., presents eight colored plates, with outline drawings for the benefit of those rash enough to undertake flower-painting from handbooks. These volumes which multiply with increasing rapidity may provide some people with a means of amusement, but they are hardly to be taken seriously as a means of art education. We have also received the "Painters' Encyclopædia" by F. B. Gardner, published by M. T. Richardson, of this city. This is by the author of "The Complete Carriage and Wagon Painter." His purpose is "to technically instruct those who desire to make a study of the art of painting as practised in the paint-shops and studios of the United States."

Thomas Whittaker has published a volume of sermons by clergymen of the Episcopal Church, entitled "Living Voices of Living Men." They do not take up any of the burning questions of the day as might be inferred from the title; nor do they even deal with the theological questions that separate the various divisions of the Christian Church. Intended as they are for family and lay reading, they are plain, practical discourses, full of religious fervor and sanctified common sense. They will be very acceptable in regions where there are no religious services, and Christians of every name will find them helpful.

It is unnecessary at this day to say anything about the superlative excellence of the "Oxford" Bible for Teachers. For many years this Bible has easily stood at the head of all other editions of the Scriptures, and has been part of the necessary library of every clergyman and Bible teacher. A new edition of this Bible has now been issued from entirely new plates. It embodies much new and valuable matter, and it has been carefully revised, moreover, under the supervision of Dr. Stubbs, Bishop of Chester, and Dr. Edwin Palmer, Archdeacon of Oxford. Its scientific information was prepared by Professors Rolleston, Westwood, Lawson and Earle. It contains a concordance with more than 40,000 references; an elaborate index to persons, places and subjects with 10,000 references; a Scripture atlas with index; a glossary of Bible words; a Bible calendar; a dictionary of proper names with their meanings and pronunciations; a summary and analysis of the Old and New Testaments; exhaustive articles on Biblical history, geography, topography, natural history, ethnology, botany, chronology, music and poetry; and a complete harmony of the Gospels. Notwithstanding the amount of matter it contains, its size is very convenient, being 9 3-8 inches in length, 6 1-2 in width, and 1 inch in thickness. It is printed on a beautiful quality of India paper which, though very thin, is entirely opaque, and is sewed with silk and lined with lid. Typographically, it is a delight to the eye of the lover of books. It is bound in the well-known flexible Levant Morocco leather in the overlapping style, known as Divinity Circuit.

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pkgs	461	Barley, bush	1,950	Beef, pkgs	169
Beans, bush	182	Peas, bush	500	Cutmeat, pkgs	2,825
Beeswax, pkgs	1	Oatmeal, bbl	140	Lard, lbs	874
Buckwheat		Grass, pkgs	132	Lard, kegs	500
bush	1,100	Grass, seed		Butter, pkgs	3,098
Cotton, bales	2,111	Beef, pkgs	24	Cheese, pkgs	2,657
Cotton, seed		Hides, sides	8	Dl'ds, No.	1,476
oil, bbls	500	Hops, bales	442	Rice, pkgs	1,290
Copper, lbs	270	Lead, pigs	1,525	Sugar, hhds	70
Dried Fruit,		Leather, sides	10,150	Tobacco, pkgs	700
pkgs	12	Smelts, tons		Tallow, pkgs	220
Eggs, pkgs	515	Lime, casks	137	Tea, pkgs	1,359
Flax, bales	1,067	Rosin, bbls	414	Tobacco, hds	275
Flour, bbls	20,571	Oilcake, pkgs	1,720	Tobacco, pkgs	20
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GENERAL MARKET REPORT.

COFFEE—For Brazil styles the market was a steady one at the close on the basis of 18¾c. for fair fair spot cargoes, sales, 250 bags No. 7 at 17¾c., 500 bags No. 6 at 18c., to arrive, 250 bags No. 6 at 17¾c., 1,000 bags do. at 18c., and 1,000 bags No. 8 at 18¼c. The outer ports were firm. Sales, 3,000 bags Marcaibo on private terms. The speculative market was quiet and active, but with weaker advices from abroad the tenor was a weak one. Prices for futures represent a decline of 20@30 points for the day in follows: January, 16.15@16.20; February, 16.05@16.15; March, 16.05@16.10; April, 15.95@16.00; May, 15.90@16.00; June, 15.85@15.90; July, 15.80@15.85; August, 15.70@15.80; September, 15.65@15.70; October, 15.60@15.65; November, 15.60@15.65; December, 15.50@15.60. The ranges on the different months were: January, 16.20@16.15; February, 16.25@16.05; March, 16.30@16.05; April, 16.30@15.95; May, 16.05@15.90; June, 15.95@15.85; July, 15.85@15.70; August, 15.80@15.65; September, 15.75@15.60; October, 15.70@15.60; November, 15.70@15.60; December, 15.60@15.50. Total sales, 95,500 bags.

COTTON—Prices for futures of cotton were reduced 1-16c. but the market closed no material improvement. Sales, 116 lots (64 net overland) all of which were for consumption. The port receipts to-day aggregated 28,019 bales, comparing with 30,307 bales this day last week and 32,920 bales for the corresponding day last year. Some merchants claim the falling off in the receipts for the last week or two. The receipts have aggregated 3,715,183 bales, against 3,417,715 for the same time in 1886-87.

Quotations based on the American Standard of Classification are unchanged.

	Upands.	Gulf.
Ordinary	7 3/16	7 3/16
Strict Ordinary	8 1/16	8 1/16
Good Ordinary	9 1/16	9 5/16
Strict Good Ordinary	9 15/16	10 1/16
Low Middling	10	10 1/16
Strict Low Middling	10 5/16	10 7/16
Middling	10 9/16	10 11/16
Good Middling	10 13/16	10 15/16
Strict Good Middling	11	11 1/16
Middling Fair	11 3/16	11 5/16
Fair	12	12 1/8

Good Ordinary	7 9/16	Low Middling	9 13/16
Strict Ordinary	8 1/16	Middling	10 1/16

The speculative market was quiet and generally weaker for most of the time, in view of the approaching holidays and the closing of Liverpool on account of the approaching holidays and the closing of Liverpool on account of the approaching holidays and the closing of Liverpool on account of the approaching holidays. With a rather limited movement the prices for futures ruled very steady due in the face of lower advices from Liverpool, and at the close Friday the market represented a general advance of one point for the day.

Months	Tuesday closing prices.	Extreme. Highest.	Extreme. Lowest.	Sales.
December	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	4,200
January	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	12,000
February	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	12,500
March	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	15,100
April	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	3,500
May	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	12,200
June	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	12,400
July	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	2,000
August	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	1,000
September	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	500
November	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	500

FLOUR AND MEAL—Low to fine grades were further more [illegible] for the same, and choice grades were [illegible] higher. The receipts were very light and the demand was [illegible] for the [illegible] grades. The chief [illegible] was [illegible] for West Indies, [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] 200 bbls. Finest [illegible] sales, 250 bbls. Superfine at $2.50@$2.75, 300 bbls. City mills extra at $3.60@$3.75, 1,000 bbls. winter wheat [illegible] at $3.50@$3.75, 1,000 bbls. taken for exports. Unassorted [illegible] sales, 1,000 bbls. Southern flour [illegible] at $3.50@$3.75, 500 bbls. taken for exports. Unassorted [illegible] sales, 500 bbls. Rye flour [illegible] at $3.25@$3.50. Buckwheat meal [illegible] at $1.60@$1.65. Rye meal [illegible] at $2.50@$2.60. Corn meal [illegible] at $2.50@$2.60. Total sales, 3,000 bbls. Southern flour [illegible] at $3.50@$3.75, 500 bbls. taken for exports. Unassorted [illegible] sales, 500 bbls. Rye flour [illegible] at $3.25@$3.50. Buckwheat meal [illegible] at $1.60@$1.65. Rye meal [illegible] at $2.50@$2.60. Corn meal [illegible] at $2.50@$2.60. Total sales, 3,000 bbls.

GRAIN—Wheat [illegible] the market was [illegible] firm, though standard [illegible] were not changed from [illegible] for shipment, for [illegible] for Continental [illegible] 5c. for late [illegible] and 2c. for Continental [illegible] [illegible] more superior [illegible] to arrive, at 74c. [illegible] 75c. [illegible] for [illegible] at 74c. and 20,000 bus. [illegible] at 74c. Rejected quiet, quotations [illegible] Low [illegible] Cracked, [illegible] Cuban, [illegible] Parcelled [illegible] Corn—Receipts [illegible] Main [illegible] Confectioners' A, [illegible] Coffee A [illegible] Standard granulated [illegible] Coffee C [illegible] White Extra C, [illegible] Extra C, [illegible] Yellow, [illegible]

SUGARS—Quiet but steady [illegible] Sales, 12,000 [illegible] at [illegible] Demerara quoted [illegible]

TALLOW—Rather stronger, [illegible] Prime City quoted [illegible]

COTTON MARKETS—AT HOME AND ABROAD.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 22—4 p. m.—Cotton—Spot, [illegible] steady. Uplands, Low Middling clause, December delivery, [illegible] sellers. December and January delivery, [illegible] sellers. January and February delivery, [illegible] sellers. February and March delivery, [illegible] sellers. March and April delivery, [illegible] sellers. April and May delivery, [illegible] sellers. May and June delivery, [illegible] sellers. June and July delivery, [illegible] sellers. July and August delivery, [illegible] sellers.

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 22—Cotton—Steady. Middling, [illegible]; Low Middling, [illegible]; Good Ordinary, [illegible]; net receipts, 7,806 bales; exports to the Continent, [illegible] bales; exports to Great Britain, [illegible]; sales, 5,800 bales; stock, 364,801 bales.

GALVESTON, Dec. 22—Cotton—Firm; Middling, 9⅞; Low Middling, 9⅛; Good Ordinary, 8 15-16; net receipts, 2,532 bales; gross receipts, 2,522 bales; sales, 1,425 bales; stock, 104,201 bales.

NORFOLK, Dec. 22—Cotton—Steady; Middling, 10; net and gross receipts, 4,134 bales; exports to Great Britain, 7,711 bales; exports coastwise, 3,439 bales; sales, 1,143 bales; stock, 50,959 bales.

SAVANNAH, Dec. 22—Cotton—Quiet; Middling, 9⅞; Low Middling, 9¼; Good Ordinary, 8¾; net and gross receipts, 3,291 bales; exports coastwise, 2,016 bales; sales, 1,850 bales; stock, 148,309 bales.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

NEW-YORK, Thursday, Dec. 22.—BEEVES—Receipts 46 cars of 749 head—3 cars late yesterday at Jersey City for the market—16 cars direct to East Side distillers and 27 cars at Gowanus, for Mr. Keshan's city slaughter-pens. No fresh City Dressed in the market at 9½@9¾c. for Inferior to Prime Native sides; 8@9c. for Choice, with Christmas Beef selling at 9½@9¾c. Dressed Wester Cattle in Chicago Dressed Beef at 6@8c.; Christmas Beef at 8½c.

Private cables advise to-day quote Refrigerated Beef 5@c higher in London and Liverpool at 9c. per lb.

Exports 1,000 quarters of Beef in the England by Joseph Eastman, 30 Liverpool cattle, 60 quarters of Beef and 82 sheep in the live market by various entries.

MILCH COWS—Only 2 head received to-day and 69 head thus far this week. Trade quiet at $35@$55 per head for Common to Good.

CALVES—Receipts, 87 head. Steady at 5@8½c. for Veals, 2½@3½c. for Grassers, and a carload of Western Calves sold at 3½@6½c.

Dressed Calves steady at 4@9c. for Dressed Grassers; 8@11½c. for Common to Choice City Dressed Veals; and 10@12c. for Fair to Choice City Dressed.

Sales—Hallenbeck & Hallock, 17 Western Calves, 312 lb. at 3½c. per lb.; 6; 80, 319 lb. at 6½c. per lb.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts 8 cars of 5,470 head—16 cars at Jersey City and 1 cars at Hoboken. Total for five days 69,750 head against 72,954 in the week before. In the same time last week, 11,000 head. The slow out prices were steady, in fact a little firm for good sheep.

Common to Prime Sheep at $1.75@$5.35; and Fair to Prime Lambs at $6@$6.50.

Dressed Mutton in fair demand at 7@8c. for Common to Good City Dressed, with a few fancy sides bringing 8½@9c. Cheap Dressed sold at 6@7c. Dressed Lambs steady at 8@10c.

Sales—Newton & Gillott, 105 Ohio Sheep, 100½ lb. at 5¼c.; 407 do, 86 lb. 4½c.

Hallenbeck & Hallock, 182 Penns