

less here, and the biography, though it has its shortcomings, is at all events the best yet put together. The portraits and other illustrations, including views of Fonthill Abbey and of the famous tower which Beckford built at Bath, are also good to have. To the bibliography one slight addition may be made. Mr. Melville ascribes to 1834 an edition of the English version of "Vathek" bearing Bentley's imprint. In the same year Bentley also brought out a new edition of the French text, in a little volume, containing Pickering's frontispiece, a copy of which lies before us.

TURKEY'S CLOSED ERA

The Lot of Her Peoples and European Diplomacy.

FIFTY YEARS IN CONSTANTINOPLE AND RECOLLECTIONS OF ROBERT COLLEGE. By George Washburn, D. D., LL. D. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 317. The Houghton Mifflin Company.

Dr. Washburn's recollections of Constantinople are strung on a history of Robert College during the first forty years of its existence, ending in 1903. This part of the book is typical of the difficulties encountered by Christian educators and missionaries in the Near East in the past, of the uncertainty of their position and its dangers, but also of the great benefits bestowed by them upon the youth intrusted to their care. Robert College was the idea and the work of a New York merchant, Mr. Christopher Rheinlander Robert, and became a model for later missionaries, when the Board of Foreign Missions became converted to an educational policy. Dr. Washburn went to Constantinople in 1858, but up to 1869 his connection with the college was, as he modestly expresses it, only an "incidental" one. In reality he rendered it important service even then, by taking charge of the tortuous negotiations for its establishment with the Turkish government, through the American Legation and the British Embassy.

Instructive though this part be, the book serves a wider purpose, and is of greater interest and service as a rapid, vivid survey of the changing social and political conditions in Turkey during the last half of the nineteenth century. He refreshes our memory and adds much that is new to the history of that epoch. When he first came to Constantinople French influence was paramount at the Yildiz Kiosk. After 1870 began the long diplomatic struggle between Russia and England; to-day Germany is the friend at court, the counsellor and guide. A panorama of conspiracies, revolts, massacres and wars is unfolded before our eyes, with their consequences not only in Constantinople itself, but in all parts of the empire, in Macedonia and Bulgaria, Armenia and Greece. Dr. Washburn gives us an interesting study of Abdul Hamid II, who came so near to being a great ruler, and, even as it is, introduced many reforms that aided in the enlightenment of Young Turkey to his own ultimate undoing.

It was the authorities of Robert College who sent to England the first reports of the Bulgarian massacres in 1876 and forced on the investigation that followed in the face of English diplomatic necessities. Curiously enough, Dr. Washburn, while speaking at length of Eugene Schuyler in this connection, makes no mention whatever of MacGahan.

Of the close of the Turko-Russian war he tells an anecdote that may be well worth quoting. The Russian armies had Constantinople at their mercy and awaited but the Emperor's word to enter the city in triumph:

General Grant was in St. Petersburg at this time, and he told this story on the authority of a high official there. "When the Grand Duke arrived at San Stefano he sent many telegrams to the Czar, among others this: 'We are in sight of St. Sophia. There are no troops between us and the city. Shall I enter and take possession?' All the other telegrams were answered at once. This one was not, in the full belief that the Grand Duke would understand that he was to take the responsibility himself and occupy the city. To the great disappointment of the Czar he did not." General Grant added that this seemed to him the greatest mistake the Russians had made.

The pictures of the horrors of the flight of the Turkish population of the country before the advance of the Russians after Plevna are appalling. Skobelev's Cossacks picked up hundreds of infants that had been thrown away by their panic-stricken parents, some two thousand more were found in the rivers, their bodies actually damming them. Corpses of victims of the cold and starvation lined the railroad from Adrianople onward. "Including the disbanded troops, it was estimated that some three hundred thousand reached Constantinople in such a piteous state that, instead of plundering the unprotected city, they lay down and died in the streets and mosques." The account reads like a nightmare, only one of many in this survey of the effects of the moves of Christian diplomacy upon the fate of the peoples of the Balkans.

The author looks back with regret upon the peaceful, restful Constantinople of the 50's, stagnant, really Oriental, picturesque and pleasant for the resident foreigner. Concerning the future of the new Turkey he is pointedly non-committal. The book is decidedly worth while.

Nicholas, the new King of Montenegro, is said to be prouder of his poetry than of anything else. His "Ode to the Sea" has merit. He has written verses on Tennyson and has translated some of the writings of the English poet.

FICTION.

South African Tragedy and London Comedy.

ATONEMENT. By F. E. Mills Young. 12mo, pp. 344. The John Lane Company.

THE OSBORNES. By E. F. Benson. 12mo, pp. 339. Doubleday, Page & Co.

Once more South Africa. The youngest of the commonwealths under the British crown is beginning to press Canada and Australia closely in the literary field, but none of them has yet found its Kipling. The African novels suffer from a certain monotony of theme, whether it be in the now forgotten "African Farm," or in the recent "Poppy." This motif crops up again in Mr. Young's "Atonement," which is a tragedy

spoiled most of the way by its author's limitations.

It is a cheerful, kindly story that Mr. Benson tells in "The Osbornes," who are parvenus without any of the seriously objectionable characteristics that have made this class of victors in the struggle for life such handy material for the novelists. To be sure, they are diamonds in the rough, but they shine even without the polish, so great are their merits of good-heartedness and so contagious is their enjoyment of their well-deserved good fortune. Of course, Mrs. Osborne really belongs in the housekeeper's room at Plantagenet Towers, or some such exclusive abode, but she does quite well in a drawing-room in Park Lane, and her husband matches her in every way. The couple have a son, who has gone through Eton and Cam-

LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. William De Morgan's new novel, "An Affair of Dishonor," is to be published next Tuesday. It begins with a duel, and the scene is laid in England at the time of the Restoration.

The Hargreaves copy of the Shakespeare First Folio brought the highest price of the year in the Sotheby book sales—\$10,000. The second highest price, \$7,500, was paid for that rarity, an original Block Book alphabet of twenty-four letters, and six leaves of ribbon letters, dated 1464.

A violent newspaper controversy between Dr. Sven Hedin and Mr. Auguste Strindberg is reported from Stockholm. The latter declares that the explorations of the former are a farce, and that all he has done in Tibet is to revise the map of Renart, who visited Lop Nor in 1720. Dr. Hedin's reply is lively—he says that his critic is not a man of truth, "he lies, he is a mixture of Titan and the Sphinx, a parasite, and a jackal feeding on dead men's bodies." Mr. Strindberg answers that he means to publish a book entitled "An Address to the Swedish Nation." It is altogether a pretty kettle of fish.

The mother of Miss Marjorie Bowen is, like her daughter, a writer of fiction. She is about to bring out a novel called "For No Man Knoweth."

The Shakespeare-Bacon discussion rages anew in England. "That Shakespeare," writes Mr. Andrew Lang, "was the poet as well as the player was never doubted in his age. Never till we come to the astute but excitable Mr. Smith, the unhappy Miss Delia Bacon, and the ignoramuses who followed their will of the wisp, with their ciphers, down to Mrs. Gollup (I think her name was Gollup). This wise lady supported one of her false Bacon's false dates by the evidence of 'the Encyclopedias': I got the right date from a manuscript by Cecil, at Hatfield. Cecil's date was not that of Mrs. Gollup."

In his introduction to the reprint of Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor," just added to the "Tudor and Stuart Library," Dr. W. W. Greg notes that the statute against profanity was responsible for various modifications in the folio version of the play. He gives a comparative list of the main oaths and asseverations occurring in the quarto and folio texts. In the quarto are seventy-seven, including a mild O; in the folio fifty-five, including such innocent expletives as Trust me, the dickens, for shame, as good lucke would have it, oh, O, by yea and no, out alas, and yes.

Mrs. C. C. Stopes has recently brought out a volume on "William Hunnis and the Revels of the Chapel Royal," as one of the publications toward the History of the English Drama issued at Louvain. The book, which is said to be primarily for scholars, deals largely with the influence upon the young Shakespeare of the contemporary festivities which that Elizabethan worthy, Master Hunnis designed and arranged. It is stated that by dint of research Mrs. Stopes has accumulated a great deal of information about his life, his work, his associates and his times.

All the authentic portraits of Robert Burns are now in the possession of the trustees of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. Their latest acquisition is the portrait of the poet done in chalks by Archibald Skirving. This was one of the treasures of the late Sir Theodore Martin.

Two former pupils of William Morris are devoting themselves in London to the elaborate binding of books, and have succeeded so far that Continental museums are buying the results of their craftsmanship. They are now engaged upon a copy of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, which, with its illustrations, must, it is asserted, involve a cost of many thousands of pounds. The covers are inlaid with seven hundred gems. The work of binding it will bring to the craftsmen more than \$2,000. They state that the greatest demand for their work comes from the United States—that they have, for example, one order for four books a year for five years at a thousand dollars for each book.

Professor Villari's new historical work, "Medieval Italy," has been translated into English by his daughter, Mrs. Hulton, and her version will soon be published. The history begins with the coronation of Charlemagne and ends with the death of the Emperor Henry VII. We are told that the author has endeavored to trace a certain thread of continuity through all the discordant and disturbing influences felt by Italy during that period.

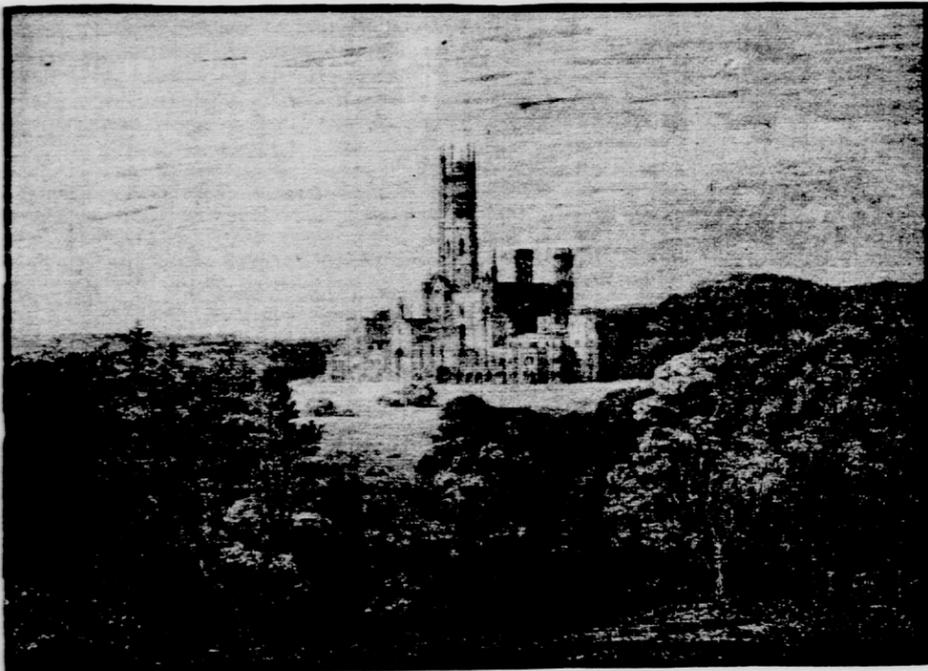
A new translation of the Iliad in two volumes has been brought from the press of Little, Brown & Co. The translator is Mr. Prentiss Cummings, a Boston lawyer, who has just celebrated his seventieth birthday. Mr. Cummings has employed the hexameter. In his introduction he has discussed the historical and mythical setting of the epic.

The forthcoming "Glenberrie Journals" deal with life and affairs in the last years of the eighteenth and the first years of the nineteenth century. Their author, Lord Glenberrie, was the husband of one of the daughters of Lord North. The portrait of this lady in old age from the pencil of Ingres is one of the most interesting specimens of that master's genius.

A book discussing the entire question of the origin of the numerals used by civilized mankind, the introduction of the zero, the influence of the Arabs and the spread of the system in Europe is about to be brought out by Gian & Co. The authors, Dr. D. E. Smith, of Columbia University, and Mr. Louis Karpinski, of the University of Michigan, have made exhaustive researches in Europe and America for the purposes of their treatise. Facsimiles from early inscriptions and manuscripts will illustrate the text.

Mr. Lovat Fraser's book, "India Under Curzon and After," is to be brought out next month by Holt. The author was studying conditions in India during the period of which he treats, and therefore writes out of first-hand knowledge.

A beautiful temple of marble will be erected in the grove which is to be dedicated to Virgil on the banks of the Minio. A sculptured figure of the poet surrounded by the Muses will be placed therein, and not far away will stand a statue of Augustus, who preserved the "Æneid" from the longing of the poet to destroy what he did not consider perfect. A flowery meadow will be visible from the temple—for all of which the world is indebted to the wisdom of Italy.



FONTHILL ABBEY.
(From a print by John Rutter.)

of sin and its consequences in the climax, but tiresome in the longeurs that lead up to it, and irritating in the inconceivable platitudes which the author introduces as his philosophy of life. This kind of fiction we get in overabundance in our own and the English output, not to mention the French; we look to South Africa for a new note. The plea that human nature is the same the world over will not serve—at least not in the case of that kind of human nature, which is more and more becoming an unprofitable literary convention, entirely disproportionate to the facts of life. Moreover, Mr. Young handles his background but indifferently well. There is a suggestion of the influences of the mysterious,

bridge, a handsome boy and lovable, so it is quite understandable that Lady Vere de Vere, who bears another name in the story, should fall in love with him. It is only after their marriage that she discovers that he is not quite one of "Us." To quote Mr. Chevalier, "it ain't exactly what 'e does, it is the way 'e does it," and says it. Mr. Benson's study of the difference, a subtle one for all its weight, is deftly done, with never a shade of exaggeration. That a youth with such a sterling pair of immediate ancestors as "Mr. and Mrs. Osborne" turns out right in the end, that he rises to the great opportunity of the higher nobility of character and of delicacy of perception is to be expected.



WILLIAM BECKFORD.
(From a drawing by John Doyle.)

whispering African night, but for the rest the atmosphere, in the deeper significance of the word, which links characters and their acts to scene, is weak. The story could be lifted out of its environment and transferred to an English or American one without being affected in any way by the change. And why make the hero such a prig at first? An ambitious attempt,

Spun of the lightest material, the book is an agreeable bit of minor fiction.

"The Alchemy of Happiness" is the title of the translation of a striking Oriental work which is to be added immediately to the "Wisdom of the East Series." The author was that Al Ghazzali who was described by Renan as "the most original mind among Arabian philosophers."