AMERICAN SILKS.

Improved Machinery Enabling the Home Manufacturer to Compete with Foreign Looms.

A VISIT TO PATERSON MILLS

Colors More Suitable to the Taste of Our Women Made in This Country.

SUPERIORITY OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTS.

Labor One Hundred Per Cent Higher Than in Lyons—Weavers and Communists.

PATERSON, N. J., May 24, 1878.

Locally considered, the progress of civilization has been the chief cause of the checkered history of this ambitious manufacturing town. At first Paterson endeavored to get up a reputation for cotton fabrics, but she could not overcome the experience of New England; she then tried very hard to obtain a monopoly for making locomotives, but as the country grew in capital and industry most of her previous customers withdrew their orders from her machine shops, and a large number of Western railroads, especially, began to make their own locomotives. With an energy worthy of all commendation she has been trying, during the past few years, to retain the silk trade, and this is to-day her principal industry, with a fair show of a still further increase in the capacity of her mills the moment the commercial system of the country has adjusted itself in a manner that must be beneficial to all manufacturing districts where good work is being done. In this silk industry, above all, the student who watches the stages by which the general welfare of a country is promoted can see how enterprises that benefit the masses may sometimes injure the few, but always only to such an extent as to force the dormant energy into still greater activity, and thus again, after the lapse of a short time, make up for temporary loss. While the construction of the Pacific railroads has enabled the Paterson manufacturers to obtain their raw material from China direct through the New York tea importers, while in previous years it was purchased in Europe, the laying of the Atlantic telegraph again did them hurt for a time at least. New York warehousemen who desired a supply of silk goods of certain colors in a short space of time had always taken advantage of Paterson's readiness to furnish them, but the telegraph soon conveyed these orders as accurately and distinctly to Lyons. But with that ingenuity and inventive spirit, which nowhere yet I have found wanting in any of our industrial centres, the Paterson manufacturers soon saw that they had to gain their point in the new colors of the fabric and that spirit is yet fully alive to-day, as they know that the peculiar and artistic taste of American ladies soon detects a new or charming color. The result is that Paterson possesses a great many colors to-day which even France does not know. This, added to the constant decline in prejudice, which only a few years ago was almost insurmountable, has helped the silk industry here greatly during these latter days. It is not many years since the good natured manufacturers here did not dare to send a single piece of ribbon or dress goods to market without adding on some foreign label, but wherever it is done now the warehouseman and not the manufacturer is to blame.

PURER SILK FABRICS IN THE COUNTRY.

Neither is there any necessity for it, as purer goods are now obtained from the silk manufacturers in Paterson than from France. And here comes in, singular to say, the same feature which attracted my attention at Lowell and Lawrence. There also I was told that America produces a finer cotton fabric than England, and there, also, one manufacturer maintained that this was done purposely so as to obtain a good reputation for the American product, while another equally expert manufacturer assured me that the reason why we made a purer cotton fabric was because we did not know how, or rather did not possess the machinery, to make a fine article and yet allow it to contain a large percentage of foreign substance, such as clay and Epsom salts. Here in Paterson I have been shown purer articles of silk in the common grades, valued from $1 50 to $2 per yard, than can be obtained from the importers at the same price. The American article contains a smaller percentage of dyestuffs than the foreign, and hence is purer. When, however, you ask for the higher priced goods, notably in the black silks, the foreigners can show a relatively cheaper article, for the simple reason that the art of the dyer is more carefully concealed, notwithstanding the fact that there is less dyestuff in the American goods than in the foreign. Nevertheless dyeing is done here pretty well, but I fear that the same difficulty as to the finer qualities of the cotton is to be met with in the silk fabric. The dye, of course, renders the fabric more weighty, but that weight is not added to the silk by dyeing the fabric when finished. By repeated operations the dyeing processes are carried out on the silk thread in the "throwing department," where it is prepared for the looms. And it is here, apparently, that the American art of dyeing is yet behind the French, when it comes to the finer qualities, though several manufacturers did assure me that our dyeing processes were just as good as the French. It will remain then an open question, the same as with the cotton manufacturers, whether it is honesty alone which prevents us from making a silk containing thirty to forty per cent of dye stuffs, or simple want of knowledge how to conceal the adulteration and still produce a fine article.

AMERICAN SILK MACHINERY.

It is by our improved machinery, however, again, that Paterson is now enabled to sell, year after year, more pieces of silk ribbons and dress goods. The product for this year will probably reach for this manufacturing place alone no less than 1,200,000 pieces of ribbon, each piece containing ten yards, and about 1,750,000 yards of dress goods, which means that Paterson alone curtails the importation of these goods to the round figure of about $8,000,000 per annum, this being about one-fourth of the entire silk manufacture of the United States. Most of the machinery used in the mills is made in Paterson, and is considered far more substantial and more accurate for weaving than that used in France. It is the ingenuity in its construction dictated by the ever ready promptness in American business tact which thinks of weaving on the same machinery two handkerchiefs where the Frenchman only makes one that helps to make up whatever shortcomings yet exist in the American struggle to control the home market. Still, when it is considered that this country already to-day is manufacturing more than one-half in value of its amount imported, the domestic article standing to the foreign in our market like three to five, it is evident that in the course of time this greatest and most delicately artistic of all foreign textile fabrics will crowd the importations to a very low figure indeed.

AMERICAN VERSUS EUROPEAN SILK WEAVERS.

It must be remembered that there is at least a difference of 100 per cent in the price of labor at Lyons and at Paterson; that there is a further difference of 100 per cent in rents, local taxation and contingent expenses between the two places; that the duty is only sixty per cent on the foreign article, and that the importers take extraordinary good care to pay these duties on very low invoices. If the Paterson manufacturers can, however, be only assured that the government gets all that is due to it from these importers they are perfectly willing to keep up the contest for superiority, relying mainly upon their own ingenuity and more energetic promptness in supplying the demands of the ever-novelty-wanting women of America. It is of no use for them to think of competing with France in the neutral markets, the price of labor here alone precluding such a possibility. "Neither is it desirable," said a leading manufacturer to me, "that our operatives should earn less than they are now receiving. We employ in these mills, for instance, 800 men and women; we cannot let them live as they do among the mountains of Switzerland, where they are weaving for a few cents a day, eat black bread and drink bad wine. It is true the high price of labor hurts us, but we must fight our way with our first class machinery, and we are bound to make that tell. Should the tariff be reduced we should be compelled to take the difference out of our working people, they would be the first to suffer, and I certainly do not think it a wise policy to do this just now. Times are indeed hard enough without at all disturbing the tariff. If they insist upon passing it not only would we have to reduce the price of labor, but we would have only work for three-fourths of our men. We have had a tremendous struggle here during the past few years, and those who have been enabled to weather the storm should not be made targets for further legislative attacks at this crisis. Quite a number have gone under. Among them also an Englishman, who understood all about the business, has lost his $250,000 and returned to Europe a poor man. There are a good many empty spindles in Paterson now, but we hope it will only be temporary; nor have we any fears as to the future if Congress will leave us alone."

THE PATERSON PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE.

There are only one or two establishments in the United States where short fibre is made, or rather where the silk is prepared directly from the cocoons for the looms. The Paterson manufacturers buy the reeled raw silk in skeins from the importers, and these skeins, some of them coming in quite a great state of perfection, are ready to be spun after having been boiled for the purpose of extracting the gum, which constitutes twenty-seven per cent of all China silks imported. There is also imported what is called silk waste, but it is considered raw material nevertheless, notwithstanding it is said to have passed through various processes. At the Passaic Silk Works, where the machinery is probably in the greatest state of perfection, colored silks of peculiar American design were shown me fully equal to any foreign design. Twenty years ago these same works made nothing but sewing silk, which at that time had to be put in Italian wrappers before it could be sent to the warehouse, but slowly and by degrees they discarded these practices and put on the American tickets. From the making of sewing silk grew the manufacture of ribbons and finally dress goods, into which the mills were virtually forced by the constant improvement of machinery going on all around. The mechanism which here causes the beautiful creations from the looms of Lyons to be fully equalled surpasses the hand looms of old as the fast railroad train does the stage coach, and shows itself as well in the department where the designs are first made on the card board as in the room where the spindles make their 7,000 revolutions per minute.

COMMUNISM LOOMING UP.

Here at Paterson, for the first time throughout my journey, a manufacturer openly acknowledged to me that the ribbon weavers of the town, most of them French and German workingmen, were tainted with Communism. These men, he said, were occasionally very annoying and created a good deal of mischief among the rest of the operatives, who number from 18,000 to 20,000 in this city. But even these weavers would not adhere so much to the principles of Communism if agitators from New York could be kept out of the place. These fellows, notably some socialist editors, came to Paterson repeatedly, called meetings and there made incendiary speeches which inflamed the ill-balanced brains of the weavers. If Paterson were at a greater distance from New York, and could not be so easily reached by socialist emissaries from the metropolis, there never would be any trouble with the Paterson operatives. As it is, they had to be constantly on their guard against overt acts by these men, and in fact had been prepared for them ever since the great railroad strike of last year.

FINE ARTS.

MODERN PICTURES AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM.

On the eastern walls of the small central gallery, on the second floor of the Metropolitan Museum of Art has been placed within a day or two a fine little display of nineteen pictures of the modern foreign and American schools. These pictures are loaned by Messrs. Charles S. Smith, Heber R. Bishop and R. E. Moore.

Of Mr. Smith's eight paintings the large and masterly example of Felix Ziem, "Pilgrims Starting for Mecca," which is hung in the most prominent position, is well worth study for its splendid color and fine atmosphere. The large caravan, headed by a few bold riders displaying their feats of horsemanship, is surging out from the city, at sunset, along the shores of the Bosphorus.

On one side of the Ziem is Alexandre Cabanel's "The Echo," a really fine picture in conception and execution. A beautiful golden-haired woman naked to her waist, with the lower part of her body and her legs covered with a finely treated, diaphonous white drapery, sits on the edge of a gorge among the mountains. She is shouting and holding her hands to her ears as she hears the echo. The expression of the face, the modelling and the color are admirable. On the other side of the Ziem is Gleyre's "A Young Roman's Bath," a most charming and delicate composition. It is full of light falling finely on the figures of a young mother standing naked in a peristyle leaning with her hands on the rim of a finely treated stone font into which a servant is just lifting her young boy.

Steinheil's very interesting, though not picturesque, "A Lecture of Abelard," is a scene, with many figures, in the cloisters of Notre Dame. It is solid in execution, and shows great skill in the posing of the figures.

A dainty and, strange to say, pure Madrazo is a "Lady Reading" in a garden.

Sandford R. Gifford's fine "Fishing Boats of the Adriatic" hangs near, and above the Gleyre is T. W. Wood's "Village Post Office," next to which is Indunti's four figures in a garden, called "The Flirtation."

Mr. Bishop owns, likewise, eight of the pictures. Among which we note, first, a fine little example of Bouguereau, "The Pet Bird." A little girl, with a face remarkable for its fine color, expression, modelling and light and shade treatment, is leaning on a table and holding up the bird, which she has just taken from its cage.

A large Lambinet, "A View near Paris," may be studied with interest. Above the Ziem is Albert Bierstadt's "In the Sierra Nevadas," and next to the "Echo" is Frederick E. Church's fine "A Morning in the Tropics." "Dogs and Game" is by Morris, and "The Historiographer," by Victor Lagye, is very interesting archæologically. It is pleasing, if somewhat queer in color, and represents a young woman in a kitchen, sitting at a desk poring over manuscripts and sealed documents. The picture is full of admirable detail. "A Little Camp Study" is by Detaille, and the pictures loaned by Mr. Moore are Seymour J. Guy's "Fair Venice," a large and fine example of George Inness, rich and true in color, and with cattle much more careful than usual, and Eastman Johnson's "The Fiddler."

The remaining space is filled by a Rousseau a Diaz and a Fromentin belonging to Mrs. Blodgett and before noticed.

STUDIO JOTTINGS.

Robert C. Minor is at work on a picturesque Long Island scene on a large canvas. Dark, up against an admirable opalescent sunset sky stands a windmill. In the foreground is a pool, past which runs a road along the moorland. The right and centre of the moor are in shadow, and the light strikes over the middle distance to the left. If the effect is kept as successful as it now is the result will be a forcible picture.

"Among the Lilies" is a little morning view in early spring up a small river, with a couple rowing amid the foreground lilies.

"On the Shores of Lake Champlain" shows in the foreground oaks by a pool, and a couple of boys, while beyond, through the foliage, are seen the lake and the mountains on the further shore.

James D. Smillie has just sketched in what promises to be from the motive an exceedingly picturesque view on Ausable Lake from the cliffs on Gothic Mountain looking over the clear waters to where rises the giant of the valley. George H. Smillie has also a picture started in charcoal on the canvas. It is a bold view, "Among the Sierras," a Californian scene.

R. M. Shurtleff is painting a lake scene, with beeches in the foreground overhanging the waters. Across the lake are seen mountains rising and above is a sky so far peculiarly pleasing in treatment. The picture is intended as the painter's contribution to the next artists' fund exhibition and sale. A charming little view on Lake Placid is nearly finished. In the distance over the lake beyond the low foothills rises Mount White Face. In the foreground are a few deer entering the water among the rushes. A luminous sky is reflected in the lake.

A delicious little effect is seen in a woodland brook scene, with a glimpse of sky through an opening among the trees.

Miss Jacobs has on an easel, nearly completed, a lot of red roses, pleasing in the rendition of the various tints. She is also painting a pug from the dog show, and has started a pleasing study of a young bride in a large, flaring wedding bonnet of sixty years ago.

George H. Story has finished "The Music Lesson"—a drummer boy, seated on a bench with his drum beside him, instructing a child to beat his play drum. Another similar subject is "The Toy Drum"—a pleasing little bit, representing a little boy, proud of his new toy, drumming away to his small sister.

Clinton Ogilvie has on an easel "The Valley of the Schwytz," a landscape, with a cottage by the young oaks in the foreground and the two picturesque peaks of the Mythen rising in the distance.

A really charming little view is of Lake Como from the ruins on the hill behind Bellazio. The waters of the lake are well given, as are the distant mountains with the town on the far shore at their feet.

Walter Satterlee is making the designs for a large frieze, for one of the San Francisco palace dwellings, illustrating the parables of the Bible. He has also started "Tea and Gossip," a water color, with two figures of young ladies of the olden time.

H. W. Robbins has a good little picture in his "Afternoon on the Farmington." The light strikes well on the leaves of the old maple, which leans over the river from the foreground bank. The thick woods across the stream are well treated and above there is a good sky.

A PICTURE SALE.

There are now on exhibition at Schenck's art salesrooms a collection of 135 paintings, which are to be sold on this, to-morrow and Wednesday afternoons. The collection of pictures comprises a large number of examples of the Dutch and Belgian schools, owned by Mr. D'Huyvetter, and several sent for sale by our home artists. The display of foreign pictures is but fair, and there are several very mediocre works. Among the best of the pictures we note Mlle. Landrée's "Flowers;" two little stable scenes, by Monakott; J. B. Bristol's charming little "Lake Champlain;" several examples of Kuwasseg *fils*; a number of excellent cattle pictures, by Koolmans; Gilbert Gaul's very admirable "Sunday Morning," spoken of at length in the notice of the late Brooklyn exhibition; Quartley's "Along the Coast;" Wouterman's "Returning to the Fold;" a luminous Bricher; Van Hoode and Van Severdonck's "Landscape in the Ardennes," a pleasing, skillful picture; a Wiggins Vertezgen's "Landscape and Cattle;" George H. Story's "The Music Lesson;" a good Dolph; V. Ravet's excellent "Solitary Pleasure;" a Van Elten; E. Zuttion's exquisite dead robbins; a number of winter street scenes in Holland, of varying excellence; Neucken's "His Only Friend," a pathetic, well painted bit; some of J. C. Thom's work; Dansenroeder's "News from the City;" Portielje's charming and well painted "Circassian Girl;" J. G. Brown's "Child of the Lighthouse;" an original drawing by Baron Leys, and Charles Oom's good and interesting "William the Silent, Prince of Orange and Henry II., King of France, in the Forest of Vincennes."

LITERATURE.

OUR MEDALLIC HISTORY.

"The Medallic History of the United States of America," by J. F. Loubat, LL. D., member of the New York Historical Society, &c., is a unique and interesting work in two large and handsome volumes, one of which is devoted to plates illustrating the several medals struck by order of Congress in honor of the heroic men who have contributed so much to make American history a glorious record. The period embraced covers from 1776 to 1876, and consequently that during which occurred the Revolutionary War, the war against Tripoli and of 1812 against England, the Mexican and civil wars and the celebration of the National Centennial. The medals, other than those voted for special political, military and naval services, are the presidential medals and those given as rewards for the saving of life. As we stated the work is in two volumes, and the first, or letter press volume, contains all the important State papers bearing on the events in commemoration of which the medals have been granted. The skill displayed by the compiler—Dr. Loubat—in arranging these documents for historical purposes is of the highest order, and he manages to invest even the driest of records with an interest which it would not awaken unless associated with others to form a link in the thrilling story of the great days of the past. We cannot fail to appreciate the merit of the 170 beautiful etchings by Jules Jacquemart, which faithfully reproduce the peculiar elegance of the medals. In turning over the pages and plates of these volumes one cannot fail to be struck with the remarkable rapidity with which the stirring events of the history of the Republic succeeded each other, especially during the first and last quarters of the century. Here we find within the limits of one volume the tales that thrilled the souls of the men of 1776 and fired with enthusiasm those of the defenders of the endangered Union in 1863. George Washington's victory at Boston, "Mad Anthony" Wayne's dash at Stony Point, the surrender of the British at Saratoga, the sterling patriotism of the captors of Major Andre, the spy; Benjamin Franklin and Captain Paul Jones—two men so opposite in nature but so united in purpose. Then the gallant deeds of Preble against the Tripoli pirates, of Hall, Jones, Decatur, Bainbridge, McCall, Burrows, Perry, Elliott, Lawrence, Macdonough and other famous capturers of the enemy's ships and winners of great victories in the naval warfare of 1812, and of Brown, Porter, Ripley, Miller Scott, Gaines, McComb and Andrew Jackson with the American army during the progress of the same war. Again, in the later struggle with Mexico, the victories of Taylor and Scott at Monterey, Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Buena Vista and other fields. The brave conduct of Commander Ingraham in rescuing Martin Cozzta from the Austrians, and finally Grant's victories and Vanderbilt's generosity during the rebellion, bringing the story down to our own days. All this historical record, which is of the most authentic character, Dr. Loubat contrives with commendable skill to weave into a charming narrative by the judicious arrangement of his documents. It is interesting to notice that the designers and engravers of the earlier medals were European artists, except of that voted to Major Henry Lee for the surprise of Paulus Hook, the site of the present Jersey City. The designer of the Lee medal was J. Wright. Dupré, Duvivier, Holtzhey, Reich and Fürst were the designers of fifty-six out of fifty-seven medals, and of these, Moritz Fürst, a Hungarian artist, designed and engraved thirty, commencing with that commemorating the capture of the British war ship Frolic by Captain Jacob Jones, on October 18, 1812. The Mexican and Ingraham medals were designed and engraved by combinations of artists, among which we find the names of Ellis, Humphries and Wright, of Ellis, Wright and Smith, of Ellis and Wilson, and of Eastman, Cross and Longacre as co-workers. It cannot be said that the recently struck medals are in any degree more artistic in design and execution than those of the earlier days, but all combine to form a glorious and indelible record of the events that have contributed to the greatness and prosperity of the United States.

THE EPOCH OF THE MAMMOTH.

"The Epoch of the Mammoth" is the interesting subject of a well written book from the pen of James C. Southall, A. M., LL. D., the author of "The Recent Origin of Man." Dr. Southall takes issue with the evolutionists and shows that man as he now appears, and man as he is recognized by the earliest traces of his existence, are in no way different in physical appearance, except as to those changes that civilization works in him, and which can be compared even to-day with his condition in a primitive or savage state. The evidences adduced by geological research strongly support the biblical story of the Creation, but are, of course, antagonistic to its too literal interpretation of the time occupied in the great work. The author calls attention to the coexistence of man in Europe with the mammoth animals—the great rhinoceri and hippopotami, the lion, reindeer and hyena, whose remains are found scattered over the regions of the temperate zones, and who existed there, in the transition period of the world's growth when the surface was assuming the permanent form it now holds from one marked by continents that have disappeared in the waste of waters and seas that have given place to vast areas of land. The man of that time was a cave dweller, a hunter and fisher and had not yet adopted the agricultural or pastoral life of the more recent periods. He, gifted with a superior intelligence, preyed, as it were, on his fellow animals, and, though physically weaker than they, was their master by the superior force of his reason. The first glimpses of the human race are obtained in the Asiatic centres of his origin. He was then a civilized being, with whom the arts seem to have grown up and developed. The cave dwellers of Europe and the mound builders of America were those offshoots of the great original family whose knowledge of civilization was lost gradually, to be recovered by a slow and painful process by succeeding generations and under the teachings derived from the old centre. Thus a civilization which had known no infancy commenced with man and supports the Scriptural account of man's origin. That the human race is from a common source is equally probable. Signs, symbols, weapons, modes of construction, traces indicating habits of life and thought, are found over the world proving that the original fountain spread its intellectual influence with the numerical increase of mankind and the migrations that distributed peoples over the vast continents of the earth. Even traditions relating to such an occurrence as the Deluge are found to coincide as to essential points in every region. Wild speculations on the antiquity of man have been common among those who seek to destroy the idea of a common origin. Thus Bunsen fixes the origin of man at 20,000 years before the time of Christ, Jukes at 100,000 years, Fuhlrott at between 200,000 and 300,000 years, Wallace at 500,000 years and Hunt 9,000,000. Referring to the lake dwellings, Dr. Southall says that they are by no means evidences in themselves of the antiquity of the races that adopted them. In one way or another traces of them are to be met in many and widely separated regions. They are mentioned by the historian Herodotus and other ancient writers and have been in use to a considerable extent within the Middle Ages. In some Roman antiquities have been found, while all present traces of the prevalence of a common order of ideas concerning arms, the ruder arts and modes of living. The harpoon heads made of stag's horn found in the lake habitations of Switzerland and believed to be very old, are very like those now in use among the Esquimau tribes. Flint arrow heads are found similar in form to those dug up in mound monuments of the United States. Arms of stone, bronze and iron have been discovered in the same locality, proving that these were coeval materials.

In regard to the monumental mounds of Europe and America there are the strongest evidences that similar advances had been made on each continent in the art of cutting flints and preparing articles of stone for ornamental and culinary uses. Even the art of drawing had made remarkable progress among the cave dwellers. Illustrations of some of the best examples are given by Dr. Southall, and add very much to the interest of his work.

The existence of mammoth remains in countries long dissociated, as it were, with our ideas of the homes of such creatures, affords much ground for speculation as to the conditions of climate, &c., so different from those of the present day, that must have prevailed when these monsters roamed over the earth. Some tremendous cataclysm, probably the great deluge described in the Scriptures, or perhaps a great local convulsion, overwhelmed these creatures and left their gigantic remains where they are now being every day discovered. "In the Fen country, of the East of England, the remains of the seal, the walrus and the whale have been found at a distance of fifty miles from the sea." This shows what a remarkable change has taken place in the distribution of land and water, by causes which may have been inundations, glacial movements or upheavals of the earth's surface. Yet it is within the period of historic record that some of the monster animals have disappeared from the European and part of the Asiatic field. The great Irish elk, which is regarded by some as even more ancient than the mammoth, survived "to historic times." It is related that in the county of Cork, Ireland, a human body, enveloped in an immense deer skin, was found in a peat bog at a depth of eleven feet below the surface.

In America the bones of the mastodon and mammoth are found in great quantities in marshy ground. The depths to which some of these remains are imbedded are so shallow as to lead Professor Winchell to the belief that those animals roamed the country within the period of its occupation by the Indians. Indeed, the fact that Indian drawings, sculptures and even monumental mounds depict the outlines of the mammoth very distinctly proves that the artists or builders were quite familiar with these animals and that their knowledge of them could not have been derived from mere tradition.

In addition to the foregoing points of discussion Dr. Southall enters fully into many others, including the implements of the Indians, the coexistence of stone and metal, Merovingian graves, the bones of the mammoth and the antiquity of marine America. In dealing with the latter subject reference is made to the ruined cities of the interior, Mexican and Peruvian antiquities and other highly interesting matters relating to this great question. The book of Dr. Southall is well printed and illustrated with numerous cuts and is published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

WHYTE-MELVILLE ON THE HORSE.

To the novel reading Americans Mr. G. J. Whyte-Melville is well and pleasantly known as a story teller of more than ordinary attractions. To the sporting men among them he is doubly dear on account of the bits of cross country riding he introduces into his novels and the knowing manner in which he always writes of horse flesh. His "Katerfelto," one of his very best novels, had a horse for its hero. Mr. Whyte-Melville's latest volume is called "Riding Recollections" (Scribner, Welford & Armstrong). In it he does not write as a professional, but as a gentleman who has found great enjoyment in riding, and whose experience has given him many points that the public, we are sure, will accept gratefully from so competent a source. As in the choice of a horse and a wife, he says in his preface, a man must please himself, ignoring the opinion and advice of friends, so in the governing of each it is unwise to follow out any fixed system of discipline. Much depends on the temper, education, mutual understanding and surrounding circumstances. Courage must not be heated to recklessness; caution should be implied rather than exhibited, and confidence is simply a question of time and place. It is as difficult to explain by precept or demonstrate by example how force, balance and persuasion ought to be combined in horsemanship as to teach the art of floating in the water or swimming on the back. Practice in either case alone makes perfect, and he is the most apt pupil who brings to his lesson a good opinion of his own powers and implicit reliance on that which carries him. In the first chapter Mr. Whyte-Melville treats of kindness, and every lover of the horse will thank him for these pages. He advocates moral suasion and advises every man to feed his horse with lumps of sugar and to pet him continually so that he may become perfectly familiar with his master and accommodate himself to his moods. "Cater to his wants and pleasures," he says, "and before a roller has been put on his back or a snaffle in his mouth he should be convinced that everything you do to him is right and that it is impossible for you, his best friend, to cause him the least uneasiness or harm." He says:—"I once owned a mare that would push her nose into my pockets in search of bread or sugar, would lick my face and hands like a dog or suffer me to cling to any part of her limbs and body while she stood perfectly motionless. On one occasion when I hung in the stirrup after a fall she never stirred on rising, till by a succession of laborious and ludicrous efforts I could swing myself back into the saddle with my foot still fast, though hounds were running hard and she loved hunting dearly in her heart. As a friend remarked to me at the time, 'The little mare seems very fond of you, or there might have been a bother.'" Another of Mr. Whyte-Melville's rules is never to show anger, even toward a "buck-jumping" horse. "Be firm, but never furious. But if the worst comes to the worst the rider should take his horse short by the head and let him have two or three stingers with a cutting whip—not more, particularly if on a thoroughbred one—as low down upon the flanks as can be reached, administered without warning and in quick succession, sitting back as prepared for the plunge into the air that will inevitably follow, keeping his horse's head well up the while to prevent buck-jumping. He should turn the animal around and around half a dozen times till it is confused, and start it off in any direction for a gallop. Blown, startled and intimidated, he will, in all probability, find his pupil perfectly amenable to reason when he pulls up, and should then coax and soothe him into an equable frame of mind once more. Such, however, is an extreme case." This writer says all bridles, by whatever names they may be called, are but the contrivances of a government that depends for authority on concealment of its weakness. Hard hands will inevitably make hard pullers, but to the animal intellect a force still untested is a force not lightly to be defined. The loose rein argues confidence, and even the brute understands that confidence is an attribute of power. Mr. Whyte-Melville also makes war on spurs as anything more than a finishing touch to the riding boots. If a rider will use his spurs let the rowels be short and dull. Happily, he says, not one man in ten knows how to spur a horse, and the tenth is often the most unwilling to administer so severe a punishment. Ladies, he continues, are not so merciful. Perhaps, because they have but one, they use this stimulant liberally and without compunction. From their seat and shortness of stirrup every kick tells home. Concealed under a riding habit these vigorous applications are unsuspected by lookers on; and the unwary wonder why, in the streets of London or in the Park, a lady's horse always appears to go in a lighter and livelier form than that of her male companion. "It's a woman's hand," says an admiring pedestrian. "Not a bit of it," answers the cynic who knows; "it's a woman's heel." Chapters on seat, discretion, riding to fox hounds, thoroughbreds, Irish hunters, &c., give the reader plenty of information and much entertainment. In the latter the writer says:—"The Irishman, like the Arab, seems to possess a natural insight into the character of a horse. With many shortcomings as grooms, not the least of which are a want of neatness in stable management and rooted dislike to hard work, except by fits and starts, they cherish extraordinary affection for their charges, and certainly in their dealings with them obviously prefer kindness to coercion. I do not think that they always understand feeding judiciously, and many of them have much to learn about getting horses into condition; but they are unrivalled in teaching them to jump." Mr. Whyte-Melville's book is full of anecdote and reminiscences of men who follow the hounds, many of whom are well known by name, at least on this side of the water. The author's style is delightful, and no man or woman can read his book without feeling an intense desire to ride across country. The illustrations are capital and worthy of John Leech.

LITERARY CHIT CHAT.

Mrs. L. St. John Eckel (Harper), Maria Monk's daughter, has written a new work called St. Peter's Bride, in which she discusses the relations between State and Church, giving particular attention to the subject of national sovereignty and civil marriage.

Homer Lee & Co. are about to publish a humorous book called "West Point Tie Tacs," of verse and illustration, for which Bret Harte has written his longest poem, entitled "Cadet Grey" (a love story in verse), which includes three bugle songs.

One of the fruits of the British Copyright Commission is said to be a proposed bill conferring upon authors absolute power to prevent their works from being dramatized or represented upon the stage without their consent.

At last we are to have an edition of Thackeray worthy of the perennial popularity of this great writer, in twenty-four octavo volumes, with all the original steel and copper plate illustrations, printed in the most careful manner on China paper and the wood cuts and vignettes mounted with the letter press. As only a limited edition of 1,000 copies will be printed, it can be had only by subscription, and Smith, Elder & Co., of London, will complete the whole issue in one year.

The British Copyright Commission will recommend that no distinction shall be made in English law between native and foreign authors. They do not propose to make the granting of copyright to foreigners dependent upon reciprocity, but will advise that Great Britain shall set to other nations an example of justice and fair play.

A third edition of Adam Woolover's "Treasury of Wit, Wisdom and Humor, Odd Comparisons and Proverbs" is just issued. The book is a compilation of bygone wit-wisdom arranged for convenient reference. Its contents are so various that every taste may be satisfied, and as a companion for an idle hour it will doubtless prove a genuine treasure, as well as a book of value as a reference.

A second edition of Mr. Robert McK. Ormsby's "Darwin; or, God in Nature," has been issued by the Masonic Publishing and Furnishing Company of this city. The poem was originally published two years ago, and since then the theory of axial change advanced by Mr. Ormsby has been in great part corroborated by George H. Darwin and Dr. Haughton, the former in a paper read before the Philosophical Society in London and the latter before the Royal Society, and in a late number of *Nature*.

Mr. R. Worthington has secured advance sheets of Swinburne's new book, the second series of poems and ballads, which will be immediately published. The work has been expected for some time, and its appearance will be welcome to many readers in this country.

Mr. John D. Parsons, Jr., law book publisher, Albany, N. Y., has just published a volume of national bank cases, which includes all decisions relating to national banks made by either the federal or State courts, together with elaborate notes as to the powers and duties of cashiers and other bank officers; the liability of sureties on cashier's bonds; criminal prosecutions against bank officers and agents; the effect of certifications of checks; the liability of banks as to property deposited for safe keeping; taxation of bank property and bank shares; the recovery back of taxes unlawfully assessed; the right of national banks to purchase notes and bonds and to take mortgages on real estate as collateral security, and on other subjects of interest to banks and bankers. The volume is edited by Isaac Grant Thompson, editor of the "American Reports" and Albany *Law Journal*.

D. Appleton & Co. have published a handy volume called "Studio, Field and Gallery," by Horace J. Rollin, which is a manual of painting for the student and amateur, with plenty of information for the general reader. The summer tourist will find it a capital companion.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED.

Insanity in Ancient and Modern Life, with chapters on its prevention. By Daniel Hack Tuke, M. D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London. Macmillan & Co., publishers.

The Rising and the Setting Faith and other discourses. By O. B. Frothingham. From G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Christ, His Nature and His Work. A series of discourses by representative Protestant preachers. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

Improved Method of Acquiring the French Pronunciation. By Francis Berger, author of the "Méthode d'Anglais." Published in New York, London and Paris.

Off on a Comet! A journey through planetary spaces. A sequel to "To the Sun." From the French of Jules Verne by Edward Roth, with thirty-six full page original illustrations. Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger, publishers, Philadelphia.

Poganuc People; Their Loves and Lives. With illustration. By Harriet Beecher Stowe. Published by Fords, Howard & Hulbert, New York.

New York City Business Directory for 1878 and 1879. With an appendix comprising a list of prominent firms of Boston and Philadelphia. Published by W. Phillips & Co., No. 81 Nassau street.

Recollections of Two Distinguished Persons, La Marquise De Boissy and the Count De Walueck. By Mary R. Darby Smith. Illustrated with photographs. J. B. Lippincott & Co., publishers, Philadelphia.

International Exhibition, 1876: Reports and Rewards. Groups I. II. X. XIV., XVIII. and XX. From J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

A Yacht Voyage. Letters from High Latitudes. Being some account of a voyage in 1856 in the schooner yacht Foam to Iceland, Jan Mayen and Spitzbergen. By Lord Dufferin, Governor General of the Dominion of Canada. Published by R. Worthington, New York.

EUGENE SCHUYLER.

ARRIVAL OF THE UNITED STATES CONSUL TO TURKEY IN THIS CITY—HIS VIEWS OF THE WAR—NEW YORK AS A DIRTY CITY.

Mr. Eugene Schuyler, United States Consul General to Turkey, arrived in this city on Saturday last from Constantinople, and is stopping at the Hoffman House. Mr. Schuyler's name will be remembered from the publication of his book on Turkestan, while Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg, which brought upon him the displeasure of the Russian government, and from his reports on the Bulgarian atrocities while Consul General to Turkey, which were the subject of such lively controversy in the English press and which have made him so distasteful to the Turkish government that he has been called home and is now on his way to Washington, whence, it is stated, he will probably be transferred to some other consular mission. Mr. Schuyler is a dark faced, bushy bearded and large featured gentleman, who, although still young, shows a decidedly portly habit. He is not tall, but makes up in rotundity what he lacks in height. Although a native American, he speaks with a slightly foreign accent and as though his native tongue was one that he had acquired. At the same time there is also a little English *nuance* in his pronunciation.

A LONG VOYAGE.

Mr. Schuyler, when asked to enlighten the readers of the HERALD on the subject of the Eastern war and such phases of it as he had known from personal observation, said that he had no information to give, as he had left Constantinople two months ago. He did not sail directly for New York, but passed several weeks in Sicily, and thence took the Anchor line steamer to New York, stopping at Gibraltar. The voyage from Gibraltar, which he described as an unpleasant one, occupied eighteen days. Having seen scarcely any newspapers for the last three weeks he knew little of the situation as it was at present.

"When I was last in Constantinople," Mr. Schuyler said, "the treaty had been concluded and the ratifications had been just exchanged. At that time everybody seemed to be preparing for the Congress which was to meet, and there seemed to be no serious difficulty between England and Russia."

"NOTHING TO FIGHT ABOUT."

"How does it look to you now? Do you think there will be war?"

"I don't think there will be," Mr. Schuyler added, with a laugh; "there's nothing to fight about."

"Do you think that Russia will make the concessions demanded by England?"

NOT IN GORTSCHAKOFF'S CONFIDENCE.

With diplomatic reserve Mr. Schuyler replied:—"I have no means of telling. All I can say is that, in my opinion, peace will probably be preserved."

"Was there any move on foot while you were in Constantinople to depose the present Sultan and put his brother in his place?"

"No, not while I was in Constantinople. I have read of it since. There was no sign of a revolution while I was there."

DIPLOMATIC LIFE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

Reference being made to Mr. Schuyler's transfer from St. Petersburg to Constantinople, Mr. Schuyler said that diplomatic life in the Turkish capital was quite as pleasant as in the Russian. In other respects, however, St. Petersburg was preferable; for in Constantinople there was scarcely any but diplomatic society, and even the members of the diplomatic body could not see much of one another, owing to the serious difficulties of getting about. "Pera," he said, "where we Europeans live, is a ridge, and there is only one street in it in which a carriage can travel. During the day you may find horses at the street corners, but in the night, of course, you do not like to go about on horseback, and your only alternative is either to walk or to go out in a sedan chair."

Speaking of the conduct of the war Mr. Schuyler said the Russians were sure to win from the first, owing to their great preponderance in numbers, and as to the fighting qualities of the two armies they fought about equally well.

"It has been stated, Mr. Schuyler, that you had been removed. Is that true?"

"No, I have not been removed," the Consul General responded. "I have heard of the charges that I had violated the rules of the consular service by corresponding for newspapers, but, he added, with a smile, "as I never did anything of the kind I have not been removed. I simply visit Washington on leave of absence, and expect to return to Constantinople."

"THE DIRTIEST CITY I HAVE EVER SEEN."

Mr. Schuyler being diplomatically reticent on the subject of the Anglo-Russian controversies and the interview being about to terminate, it was thought that here an admirable opportunity was presented to learn the impression as to cleanliness which New York would make upon a stranger coming from Constantinople, the dirtiest city in the world. Surely he would praise the cleanliness of the city, for after Constantinople New York must doubtless appear very clean, and thus Mr. Schuyler was asked:—

"How does New York appear to you after your prolonged absence; as dirty as Constantinople?"

"Not quite," Mr. Schuyler laughingly responded, and he added seriously, "It isn't quite as dirty as Constantinople, but I must say that with the exception of Constantinople it is the dirtiest city I have ever seen." Interrogatively, "I don't know if this is its normal condition?"

Mr. Schuyler was assured that, according to the Police Commissioners and the Street C