LITERATURE.

Mr. Dorman B. Eaton on the British Civil Service.

A CONTRAST WITH THE "SPOILS" SYSTEM.

How the Fight for "Open Competition" Was Won in England.

HOGARTH AND RUBENS.

Pope's Campaign—Fiction and Poetry—Literary Notes.

THE BRITISH CIVIL SERVICE AND OURS.

"Civil Service in Great Britain, a History of Abuses and Reforms and Their Bearing Upon American Politics," is the long and comprehensive title of a treatise by Mr. Dorman B. Eaton, which is published by the Harpers and contains the substance of a report of the United States Civil Service Commission that was transmitted to Congress at the beginning of this month with the President's annual Message. By far the largest allotment of space in the Message, it will be remembered, was conceded to the topic of reforming the civil service of the federal government, notwitnstanding the patent fact that popular interest in the subject has been almost extinguished by what Mr. George W. Curtis, in the preface to this very book, alliteratively styles the "inexplicably inconsistent conduct" of Mr. Hayes' own administration. Beginning with an assertion in his inaugural address that such a reform is a "paramount necessity" Mr. Hayes soon dropped the "paramount" and subordinated the "necessity." A majority of his early appointments in every branch of the civil service were simple rewards for partisanship in the political canvass of 1876 and the electoral complications following. By thus falsifying his professions at the start he incapacitated himself for achieving what at heart he all the time really desired. Worse than that, he subjected a great and good cause to ridicule, the most deadly weapon with which such a cause anywhere can be assailed. It is his own weak fault that the subject has fallen into an atrophy from which even a Presidential Message cannot now revive it. But let him not be blamed too severely. Stronger men than he is by nature have succumbed to less partisan and personal pressure than he encountered, and this last Message practically confesses that he is a sinner and would gladly undo his mistakes if it were not too late. Next to its discussion of financial questions the most distinguishing feature of it is the official transmission of this report of the Civil Service Commission, the thesis of which is the necessity of firmness and self sacrifice on the part of the President and his secretaries, even more than on the part of Congress, to effect civil service reform, as illustrated by the history of such reform in the British Empire in its relation to the Cabinet and to Parliament. Whenever the subject really becomes "paramount" in American politics—and some day it is bound to be—the approval of this thesis by President Hayes at the present stage of his term, after what has gone before, will be regarded as one of the chief curiosities of a very curious administration. But for a long while, owing to the profound lethargy in which the whole topic is involved, it is likely to escape notice in most quarters and to attract only trivial attention even where it is observed.

Our United States Civil Service Commission was created under President Grant, and Mr. George W. Curtis was its first chairman. When he resigned that post, because of a Presidential exception in applying the civil service rules to the New York Custom House, Mr. Eaton became his successor. Almost simultaneously Mr. Kellogg, a Connecticut corset-maker, became chairman of the Civil Service Committee in the House of Representatives during the Forty-fourth Congress and took a much more lively interest in legislation affecting his peculiar fabrics than he did in his chairmanship. The subject in charge of his committee found few friends among its members. It began to be jeered on the floor of the House without Mr. Kellogg rising to defend it. From this indifference to the positive refusal of an appropriation for the necessary expenses of the Civil Service Commission in carrying its rules into effect there was but one easy step. This step soon was taken. The appropriation was refused, notwithstanding the President's recommendation of it, and has never since been granted. President Grant thereupon abandoned the whole concern and charged Congress with responsibility for its failure. President Hayes renewed the recommendation in his Message of December, 1877, as he has done again during the present month, but vainly. The skeleton of the civil service machine still stands with Mr. Eaton at the valves and levers as chief engineer, but without any motive power in the cylinder, and so it will remain indefinitely until a President, with equally alert moral perceptions and more political courage than Mr. Hayes, rubs off the rust, oils the joints and undertakes to work it in earnest, and until the people are educated up to demanding of Congress the necessary appropriation to set its wheels in motion again.

Meanwhile Mr. Eaton, as appears from this valuable volume, is devoting himself wisely to the tedious work of popular education, and he deserves the credit of compiling the only consecutive history of civil service reform in the British Empire that exists. The pith of a long series of executive and parliamentary reports, reaching from 1853 to 1878, is concentrated into one-third of this manual of less than five hundred pages. Of the other two-thirds one is devoted to a review of the English civil system down to 1853, which is important for an understanding of the subsequent period, and one consists of an exposition of the faults of the American spoils system and the benefit which would result from adopting British improvements. Mr. George W. Curtis writes a brief introduction, and turning to the end of the book we are pleased to find an index so thorough that it is sure of a place in every political writer's library for handy reference. If the narrative parts of it were not so intermixed with moralizing upon American abuses we could commend it also for a historical text book in collegiate instruction.

Mr. Eaton divides British history in its relation to the civil service prior to 1853 into two periods. The first stretches from the time of the Conqueror down to William III., during which the spoils of office were distributed substantially at the monarch's personal pleasure, with a few interludes when aristocratic interference, or popular revolts, or political revolution curbed or suspended his will. The extortion of the Magna Charta by the barons was an example of the first; the uprisings headed by Wat Tyler and Jack Cade illustrate the second, and the era of the Commonwealth and Cromwell comprises the third of these interludes. This may be styled "the period of despotic patronage." The second, which may be styled "the period of parliamentary patronage," begins with the creation of the Cabinet by William III. in 1693 and extends to Sir Charles Trevelyan's and Sir Stafford Northcote's civil service report in November, 1853, under the Ministry of the Earl of Aberdeen. It also is diversified with interludes, but unlike the preceding period the course of progress suffered no complete relapses. Whatever was gained, as by the statute of 9 Anne, forbidding post officers to meddle with elections, or the statute of 1 George III, establishing the tenure of the Judiciary, or that of 22 George III., excluding excise, customs and postal officers from parliamentary suffrage, or those of 49, 50, 51 and 56 George III., fixing subordinates' salaries and initiating superannuation allowances, never was surrendered. Through almost infinite mazes of corruption and contempt there was a steady advance in the civil service toward the purity and independence it has finally attained in every one of its branches save that of the Established Church, and which finally made it safe to abrogate the prohibition upon suffrage, as was done in 1868, the fifteenth year of what Mr. Eaton aptly entitles the era of the "merit system."

As we do not purpose to make an abstract of Mr. Eaton's book we shall mention only the chief incidents of this third period, and those very briefly. It was preceded by pass-examinations and promotions for merit in some bureaus as early as 1834, and in 1852 by the beginnings of the radical reform in the civil service of India but for which British supremacy there would have been extinguished in the perils it has since surmounted. It was inaugurated not by Parliament, but by the Cabinet itself—by the Executive in face of the opposition of Parliament, which, however, unlike the Congress of the United States, never carried its resistance to the point of refusing the appropriations requested for the executive experiment. The Trevelyan and Northcote report of 1853 was the corner stone of the new structure. It distinctly recognized that executive patronage in the hands of members of Parliament was the main cause of the defects in the civil service, and recommended the introduction of open competitive examinations followed by a period of probation of the successful candidates, and also the creation of a central board of examiners, with common duties in respect to all the departments. But so little favor greeted this plan that, as Sir Charles Trevelyan certifies in a letter to Mr. Eaton, "the early supporters of it might be counted upon the fingers, and if the matter had been put to the vote in London society or the clubs, or even in Parliament itself by secret voting, it would have been rejected by an overwhelming majority." The situation certainly was more discouraging for the Ministry, which was in earnest for the reform, than that in which President Grant succumbed and with which President Hayes has been temporizing. Nevertheless, the authors and promoters of the plan persevered, few though they were. "The government," says Mr. Eaton, "faithful to its pledges and its sense of duty, resolved to persist in the reform at all hazards." In the Queen's speech at the opening of the next session of Parliament allusion was made to the report, which was laid before Parliament, but no legislation was recommended. Meanwhile copies of the report were submitted to persons experienced in executive administration in various parts of the United Kingdom and their opinions were invited, and the responses, published in 1855, constitute an invaluable repository of information and ideas in this branch of politics. Armed with these replies Lord Palmerston's Ministry, which in February, 1855, had succeeded that of Aberdeen, procured an Order in Council for the execution of the recommendations of Trevelyan and Northcote, with some serious modifications, and then went to Parliament for an appropriation, which was granted, although the Order in Council was disapproved in the House of Commons by a vote of 140 to 125. The chief of the modifications consisted in reserving to members of Parliament and certain high officers the power of nominating the candidates for examination and in leaving to the head of each government bureau discretion whether the examinations in it should be competitive. Subject to these and a few other reservations it declared that young men proposed for junior situations should be examined under the direction of a civil service commission, consisting of three general commissioners, who were authorized to appoint assistant examiners, and none should be admitted to probation without a certificate of qualification so ascertained. There was also provision for the admittance of persons of mature age to places requiring special attainments. Probation was to last six months before the formal appointment. Directions also were given for ascertaining the ages, character and physical fitness of the candidates. The commission's first report was filed in March, 1856, and thenceforward it has reported annually, and this series of blue books, comprising now fourteen volumes, is summarized by Mr. Eaton in several successive periods.

The first period, which may be styled "the period of limited competition," extends to 1860, and embraces a radical revulsion in the sentiments of Parliament. So soon as April, 1856, the House of Commons, by a vote of 108 to 87, passed a resolution commending the commission and its proceedings and signifying "to Her Majesty that if she shall think fit further to extend them and to make trial in the service of the method of open competition as a condition of entrance this House will cheerfully provide for any charges which the adoption of that system may entail;" and the next year it resolved unanimously that "the experience gained is in favor of the adoption of the principle of competition as a condition of entrance to the civil service, and that the application of that principle ought to be extended." In 1859, during the ministry of the Earl of Derby, the new system, which hitherto, it must be remembered, had depended entirely on an executive Order in Council for its authority, was incorporated into the legislation of the realm by the statute of 22 Victoria, which declared that, with a few specified exceptions, "no person shall be considered as serving in the permanent civil service of the State unless admitted with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners."

The second period, which may be styled "the period of the struggle for open competition," begins with the appointment of a remarkable Parliamentary committee of investigation into the civil service during Lord Palmerston's second ministry, in 1860, and extends to the introduction of that change by another Order in Council in 1870. The committee of 1860, of which Lord Stanley, the present Earl Derby, was chairman, comprised among its fifteen members Sir Stafford Northcote, Robert Lowe, John Bright and Richard Monckton Milnes, now Lord Houghton. It advised the total abolition of mere pass-examinations, the improvement of the limited examinations by the freer nomination of competitors and the gradual introduction of open examinations in which no one would need to be nominated by a Parliamentary or other official patron in order to become a competitor. But for "the fear of a recoil of public opinion if too great changes are made hastily," the committee reported that they would have recommended the abolition of the limitations on competition immediately. All these recommendations were carried into effect by the Palmerston Ministry, and the progress toward free competition continued steadily through the successive administrations of Earl Russell, Earl Derby and Mr. Disraeli, until it was terminated by the Order in Council of the 4th of July, 1870, framed by Mr. Gladstone's Ministry, which prescribed that "all appointments which it may be necessary to make after the 31st of August next shall be made by reasons of competitive examinations according to regulations, open to all persons of requisite age, health, character and other qualifications prescribed in the said regulations, who may be desirous of attending the same."

Now begins the current period, which we may style "the period of the diffusion of the principles of British civil service system." It embraces their application to every branch of the civil service, except the ecclesiastical establishment, to the military academies, and to the army itself upon the passage of the bill abolishing the purchase of commissions, and also their spread through the British colonies. It comprises, besides, the stimulus they gave to the movement for civil service reform in the United States, that put into our statute book in 1871 the following provisions which it remains for some future President to improve with equal wisdom and firmness to that exhibited by the British premiers since 1853:—

> The President is authorized to prescribe such regulations for the admission of persons into the civil service of the United States as may best promote efficiency, and ascertain the fitness of each candidate in respect to age, health, character, knowledge and ability for the branch of the service he seeks to enter, and for this purpose he may employ suitable persons to conduct such inquiries and may prescribe their duties, and establish regulations for the conduct of persons who may receive appointments in the civil service.

Summing up the scope of the free competitive examination system in Great Britain and Ireland at the present moment for original entrance into the service it applies impartially to all the civil officers (outside of the Church establishment as aforesaid), with the exceptions of less than fifty high political functionaries (including the members of the Ministry, who necessarily are changed with each political change of administration), of the judges, of the highest grades of diplomatic officers, of the lowest grades of post officers, of unskilled laborers and of certain classes of confidential clerks, like, for example, those charged with the custody of papers in the Foreign Office. Mr. Eaton's estimate of the relative proportion of these exceptions is that it "can hardly exceed one per cent of the whole number in the public service." In accordance with the report of Dr. Lyon Playfair's investigating executive commission in 1874 a discretionary choice is reserved to the officers vested with the power of appointment among those who may have proved themselves competent upon examination. Promotions in the service are arranged by merit, tested by a variety of methods, including limited competition, and seniority is given weight in the selections. We have not space to go into further exposition of details of the elaborate yet simple fabric that has been constructed—to explain the arrangement of supernumeraries or of superannuation allowances (which are sometimes miscalled pensions) or of numerous other important adjuncts of the system. Suffice it to say that it has induced such an improvement in British administration at home and abroad that in Sir Charles Trevelyan's words "no sane person has any idea of abrogating it," and in John Bright's "it would be impossible to go back to the old system." Particularly in the Indian Empire, where, preceding the reform in Great Britain in its beginning, it also earlier reached substantially complete development, it undoubtedly has been the salvation of British supremacy. How enormous its scope is in that vast dominion may be inferred from the one fact that the 190,000 native policemen in India to whom its rules apply exceed by more than a third the whole number of residents of non-Asiatic birth including all the British military forces. To these achievements in India above all the other British dependencies we are glad to perceive that Mr. Eaton gives separate attention and makes them the subject of some special chapters.

Mr. Eaton's defence of the British civil service system as a democratic institution—opening freely to the whole body of the people, upon fair tests of merit, avocations formerly monopolized by favorites—is earnest and thorough. "Prior to August, 1877, the whole number who had sought to enter the public service through examinations had reached the vast aggregate of 172,127." His explanation of its publicity as a test of fairness is convincing. The record of every competitor has been preserved and the justice of every appointment can be verified today as well as at the date of the successful examination. His statistics of the financial economies which have ensued are supported by significant official figures. His arguments that the system has had a wonderful effect in stimulating popular education are well sustained by British opinions which he cites in their support. The facts he cites to show that the ratio of well educated men in the British service has been steadily increasing for many years are more impressive by their contrast with the decline of that ratio in the service of the United States during the same time, and in several very striking passages he insists that the moral tone of politics to which the British people have risen through civil service reform is only that of the last generation of Americans from which we have fallen, the introduction of our spoils system under President Jackson's administration being indicated as the epoch when the two nations passed one another, they on the ascending and we on the descending grade. With our present methods, he argues with great force, we could not administer the British dependencies without our empire speedily falling into ruin. In this connection his interesting array of proofs that the low tendency of the American public service and its higher tendencies in Europe have arrested the progress of republican ideas both in Great Britain and on the Continent is worthy of particular attention:—

> Prudent monarchists no longer deny the justice and beauty of republican principles theoretically considered. But when a government is established they say that all the good that can be got out of it is to be found in the effects of its administration. Administration is the only thing practical or of current interest. All else is theory and sentiment. What is the advantage, they ask, of proclaiming universal liberty and equality if the constitution if a monarchy really provides the best education for the children, the best and cheapest course of justice for the parents, the best poor law and sanitary administration for the sick and the destitute? What, they inquire, is the advantage of a republican senator who corruptly worked his way to an election through a partisan caucus, over an aristocratic lord who reached his seat through the birthright of an ancient family, especially if in the first case the government permits the promises made to be discharged by the prostitution of offices, and in the last no such prostitution is allowed? If a monarchy having educated the children then opens alike all the places, high and low, domestic and foreign, freely to public and manly competition by any and every citizen, so that character and capacity have an unobstructed way to reach the positions where they can be most useful and honorable to the nation, what more, the monarchist demands, can a republic offer—what more can a republican patriot ask?

We should be glad to refer to Mr. Eaton's historical exposition of the reasons why the founders of our federal government omitted to provide safeguards of the purity and impartiality of the civil service in the constitution of the United States, and also to what he has to say about the dangers which attend the multiplication of our elective offices and the shortening of their terms. His comments upon the impolicy of the statute of 1820, by which United States civil commissions were changed from an indefinite tenure to a fixed term of only four years, are specially deserving of comment. He has treated all these points carefully and intelligently. We again heartily commend this book as a valuable political manual, full of interesting information and cogent arguments upon what we cordially believe with its author is destined to be the great question in American politics whenever a President brings to its support the same courage, fidelity and self-abnegation which distinguished its friends in the Cabinet of Great Britain at the day, only seventeen years ago, when "the supporters of it might have been counted on the fingers."

POPE'S CAMPAIGN.

Houghton, Osgood & Co., of Boston, publish the "History of the Campaign of the Army of Virginia, under General Pope, from Cedar Mountains to Alexandria." The book contains 498 pages, handsomely printed in clear, bold type, and it is written by General George H. Gordon. The history opens in August, 1862, when Stonewall Jackson led the van of Lee's army from Cedar Mountain on to the beaten path through the Virginia Valley toward Washington, and it ends with the disastrous defeat of Pope at Manassas and the rapid advance of the Confederate army into Maryland, which compelled the government to again place McClellan in supreme command in the eastern section of the field of active operations. At first glance we were impressed with the idea that the author had devoted himself too much to petty details, which, though valuable in one sense, are too apt to befog the average reader. This impression was soon dispelled, however, for the various movements of Pope's brave but misused army are vigorously sketched with sufficient detail to present a faithful picture of scenes and incidents. Though the writer paints as favorable a portrait of Pope as possible, he is so honest and impartial in his statements that we get a better conception of the causes which led to the final defeat and demoralization of the Army of Virginia than has hitherto been presented. The defects in the tactical dispositions of the troops are clearly explained and a good deal of light is thrown upon matters heretofore obscure. General Gordon writes modestly, but shows rare good sense in his deductions, while at times he is caustic in his criticisms, though without rancor. It may be said that an officer who has served under Pope is not fitted for the task of a historian, but it must be remembered that campaign descriptions by eye witnesses have a peculiar value, especially when written while the memories of the war are beginning to mellow. General Gordon has given us a valuable addition to the literature of the American civil war, and it should find a place on the shelves of every military student as well as the lover of history. The maps that accompany the texts are not as good as the standard of General Gordon's book calls for, though they are sufficiently clear and comprehensive.

AUSTIN DOBSON'S "HOGARTH."

Of the series of illustrated biographies of "The Great Artists," now being published by Scribner & Welford, none, so far issued, fulfils its purpose better than Austin Dobson's well and concisely written essay of the "Life and Works of William Hogarth." Mr. Dobson's previous contributions to Hogarthian literature and his long study of the works of the great moral artist of the eighteenth century well fitted him to his task. It is to be regretted that such excellent literary material should be accompanied by such poor reproductions of and often mutilated fragments of plates. The author's admiration for the genius of his subject, who, with satiric brush and graver, cut into and laid bare the corruption of London life of his day, does not lead him into lengthy dissertations, which would be out of place in a work of the scope of the present one. Hogarth thus preached greater if not more effective sermons than were delivered from the pulpit. To-day their value historically is incalculable. The life and ways, the scenery and costumes of London, are pictured with a fidelity and truth which scruple not to descend where necessary to the most minute and even offensive details, and which no chronicler could have attempted to equal. Mr. Dobson in his present volume has skilfully avoided detailed description of those parts of Hogarth's work which, however great their value may be to his students, are possibly better left alone in a work intended to be popular. Still we hope at some future time to have from the author an exhaustive volume on the subject. The descriptions of the Harlot's and Rake's Progresses, of the "Marriage à la Mode" series and of separate prints are excellent. The series of the Industrious and Idle apprentices seems to be rather slighted, though the author says it "is full of contemporary detail of the most interesting character." There is at the end of the volume a chronology of Hogarth's life, a list of the engravings by and after him and one of his principal paintings and of their present possessors.

A "LIFE OF RUBENS."

The "Biography of Rubens," by Charles W. Kett, M. A., which forms one of the series now being published by Scribner & Welford, is said by the author in his preface to be but a *résumé* of facts discovered by others, a large number of which have not before appeared in English or even been collated until now. Very wisely the attempt has been made to consider Rubens in his dual character of painter and diplomat, for the threads which led to the events of the two careers were so thoroughly interwoven that the consideration of one set without reference to the other would be very inadequate. Still, however, in the present volume we have too much of this painter and too little of his art; for while his parentage and birth, his education and masters, his life in Italy, Spain, France, Holland and England, are fully and carefully described, there is but little of criticism or description of his master works or of analysis of his different styles. A by no means commendable prudery on the part of the publishers has led them to reproduce none of the painter's works which contain nudes. A work on Rubens without illustrations of some of his finest works wherein he showed the great glories of that gorgeous coloring with which his name is always associated, and without detailed mentions and critiques of those works, is decidedly like a description of Rome without a mention of St. Peter's.

OCTAVIUS PERINCHIEF.

Mr. Charles Lanman, of Washington, D. C., has just compiled, and James Anglim, of the same city, published a volume from the letters and diary of the Rev. Octavius Perinchief, an Episcopal clergyman, who attracted more than ordinary attention in the various parishes and social circles where he was known, but who received far less attention and regard than his character and abilities demanded. From his diary and family letters Mr. Perinchief appears to have possessed that peculiar combination of wisdom, unselfishness and earnestness that are invaluable in pulpit and pastoral work, and which, like the other good things of this world, are rare in proportion to their value. He talked and wrote with scarcely a particle of churchly formalism, and, as he was an honest thinker, his simple, artless diction was the conveyance of much good sense upon matters that are religious more than churchly. He looked at human nature exactly as a man of the world would; estimated men by their deeds instead of their professions; detected hypocrites and humbugs in spite of all cloaks and veils, yet kept his own nature sweet by recognizing good wherever he found it, and claiming brotherhood, personally or through his sympathies, with the noble spirits of all faiths and climes. Had he been a man of greater prominence in the Church his diary would be eagerly conned by thousands, yet its contents are more valuable than they would have been in such case, for they show us the heart of a good man who is sustained by nothing but his sense of love and duty—a man who is a type of thousands, of varying belief, who in obscure parishes and without either money or fame are literally giving their lives for their fellow men.

HENRY ABBEY'S POEMS.

The critic and the student often trouble themselves about the future of American poetry. Heaven knows that we turn out enough verse to give us some indication of its direction, but a little inquiry will show that our rhymers run, as a rule, in ruts—old, old ruts, too. It is to be expected that something of the breadth of our great country, the sweep of its mighty rivers, the grandeur of its destiny, should give character to our poetry, as a man born to power conveys the sense thereof in all his actions without any offensive parade. In its first rude efforts in the expression of conscious power our public speech strained after too much, and won for itself the titles of spread-eagleism, and, in a more general sense, buncombe. Recoiling from all that these implied our poets, particularly our small exquisites, have taken to polishing their verses and celebrating the fatuous, the foreign, the pedantic, and, above all, the obscure. We take pleasure, then, in finding a volume of poems from an American who, while sufficiently careful in the matter of verse mechanism, sings with a swing of worthy deeds in a large hearted, manly way. Mr. Henry Abbey's little volume, "Poems" (Appleton & Co.), has this merit from cover to cover. They are not great, but you can read any of them to an ordinary company of intelligent people, and have the plainly told story with its healthy, manly, moral go home to the hearts of all. This is not a merit in the eyes of our little exquisites, but it had enough merit to recommend itself to many great poets whose mere names would make the band of little verse polishing obscurists pale with envy. It may be observed on looking over these poems that few of them have American subjects, but there is a democratic sympathy through them all—a sympathy with the good wherever it is found. There is something of this in his "Troubadour" which will pleasantly introduce him:—

> So many poets die ere they are known.
> I pray you, hear me kindly for their sake.
> Not of the harp, but of the soul alone,
> Is the deep music all true minstrels make.

"THE YOSEMITE."

We would call Mr. Wallace Bruce's poem, "The Yosemite" (Lee & Shepard, Boston; C. T. Dillingham, New York), ingenious and musical, but it is too obviously a catalogue of the well known objects in the Yosemite Valley and answers too closely to the term "descriptive letterpress" to be treated seriously as a poetic effort. The illustrations, by Mr. James D. Smillie, are not of the highest order, but they are meritorious and faithful to the scenes represented. There are fifteen in all, illustrating Mr. Bruce's fourteen stanzas.

"IN BERKSHIRE WITH THE WILD FLOWERS."

The precocious Goodale girls—Elaine and Dora—in their second volume, "In Berkshire with the Wild Flowers" (Putnam's Sons), more than sustain the promise of their first volume of poems, "Apple Blossoms," which attracted so much attention last year. Indeed, they carry that promise so fairly forward that we can only marvel how their poetic talent will develop and not trouble ourselves about whether it will develop at all. Moreover we can see a distinct individuality which, over all that tends to make their poems alike in character and spirit, marks the lines on which it is probable their muses will part company. In catching the secrets of nature both are greatly gifted. To Dora the flowers she sings in this book have their human import, but, like a bird that soars away for a sweep through the fields of air and returns on slant wings hovering to her nest, Dora comes lovingly back to nature again. Thus in the blue violet she sees that with it

> comes desire
> For something else than common gain—
> The glow of more than earthly fire,
> The sting of more than actual pain.

But soon we find her back from the woman to the violet, and then—

> A blossom of returning light,
> An April flower of sun and dew,
> The earth and sky, the day and night
> Are melted in her depth of blue.

With Elaine the human element, the passion of being, is infiltrated in all she writes. She observes keenly, she feels the tender relations of flower, sky and season, but the soul is the master and subordinates all to itself. She thrills with her own melody. Take this rich stanza from "Trailing Arbutus" to illustrate our meaning:—

> Thus by random fancies fettered, with what rapture may we greet
> One who shared our long probation, where the Spring and Winter meet;
> Wind and snow about her flying,
> Safe her clustered buds were lying,
> Folded close in russet woodlands, sheltered from the chilly air—
> Sweet her slumbers, all unbroken
> By a triller's careless token,
> Till the magic kiss of April laid her virgin passion bare!

Elaine is early in her seventeenth year and Dora early in her fourteenth. What promise for American song may there not be in those buds of womanhood!

IDYLS AND POEMS.

"With sacrifice before the rising morn"—with quotations from Plato—are we introduced to the "Idyls" of Anna Maria Fay (Putnam's Sons). Here, in fair and smooth Spenserian verse, with all the latest turns of half said things that are expected to mean everything, we move in an idyllic world. "The Pilgrim Pair" in its story as well as its verse recalls Spenser, but the allegorical has taken on embroidered wings, so to speak. The Young Lover, drawn away in the train of Guilty Pleasure, returns after a shipwreck, which cools him, to the first loved Lady.

> A flash—a fearful sound—a poured out store
> Of wrath—the boat amongst the rocks now tost—
> They flee—they drown—the Queen has vanished like a ghost.

Not so the "matchless Lady." She comes down and puts him in a "winged shallop"—catboat (?)—and—

> Leans o'er the throbbing breast and meets his gaze.
> Fondly her yielding form his arms detain;
> Lip unto lip, heart unto heart displays
> The height, the depth of love in dear and sweet amaze.

So he was, not very badly off after all. This oft told tale has a great deal of nicety wasted on it. "The Mountain Shrine," despite some obscurity, is much more attractive and striking than the opening piece. The sonnets are careful and the rondeaus musical.

"ANGELE'S FORTUNE."

André Theuriet is one of the limited class of Frenchmen who can write realistic stories without finding indecency and other repulsive qualities necessary to their realism. His "Angèle's Fortune," although not a pretty story, is extremely natural and contains characters not one of whom is conventional. A book without a sinner would be almost an impossibility, so there is both sin and sorrow in the plot, but there is no gloating over the one and magnifying of the other, as is the case in too many strong French romances. For part of the pleasure to be derived from the story the reader must thank Mrs. Mary Neal Sherwood, who not only has made an acceptable translation, but has judiciously made a few alterations and omissions that render the narrative more acceptable to the generality of American readers. Published by T. B. Peterson & Brothers.

"AN INVOLUNTARY VOYAGE."

A very attractive volume for boys is "An Involuntary Voyage," from the French of Lucien Biart, by Mrs. Cashel Hoey and John Gillie (translators of the "Memoirs of Mme. de Rémusat"), and published by Harper. A few trifling anachronisms, which mark the writer's ignorance of American affairs, will not injure the book in the estimation of its juvenile readers. It narrates the surprising adventures of a French civil engineer who, going on board ship to say goodby to a friend, is carried out to sea against his will in consequence of a sudden storm rising. He is accompanied by a brave English *gamin* that he picked up on the London streets. The involuntary voyager, with his young companion, is transferred from the outgoing steamer to a United States vessel of war going toward France. The period is during the civil war, and the ship catching sight of a Confederate privateer, gives chase, carrying the voyagers "to the end of the world." A fight between these ships and a dozen equally exciting episodes enliven the volume, which is absolutely free from the slang and blackguardism that find a place in many volumes offered to lads.

"WE FOUR."

The general reader will find nothing of special interest in the volume issued by Lippincott under the title of "We Four; Where We Went and What We Saw in Europe." Miss L. L. Rees, of Philadelphia, is the author and the book is a narrative of a trip she made in company with three other ladies of the Quaker City to the Paris Exposition. After "doing" the gay capital they made the regulation tour of Switzerland, the Rhine, Scotland and Ireland. The volume is appropriately dedicated to "Our relatives and friends in America who wish to know our impressions of our first trip to Europe." With this dedication before us it would, perhaps, be unfair to criticise the work as that of a callow and inexperienced traveller. It is written in a light and pleasing style, and is not the less entertaining because the fair author gushes over the Tower of London and the Tuileries with as much detail and enthusiasm as if she were the first writer who ever visited them.

LITERARY CHIT-CHAT.

Petersons have Zola's "Nana" and Alphonse Daudet's "Kings in Exile" in the press.

Mr. Arthur Arnold has a work in the press dealing with proposed reforms in the laws relating to land in Great Britain and Ireland. The work will be entitled "Free Land."

We cannot conscientiously praise the book called "Mitylene; a Tale of New England and the Tropics," because we have not seen it. That some one in England acknowledged its receipt may, however, be enough to a great many.

Mr. Edward Jenkins, M. P., following the example of Dickens, purposes, it is said, appearing on the platform as a reader of his own works, and will shortly afford the public the opportunity of hearing his interpretation of "Ginx's Baby."

The trustees of the British Museum have just completed for publication the autotype fac-simile of the New Testament and Clementine Epistles comprised in the fourth volume of the celebrated Codex Alexandrinus. Only a limited number of copies has been printed. A fac-simile of the first three volumes of the Codex, containing the Old Testament, is now in progress.

Kossuth is about to publish the memoirs of his life, and has issued an appeal for subscriptions. It is sad to learn that the veteran orator, now in his seventy-eighth year, has been forced to undertake this task in order to earn money, since he lives entirely by the produce of his pen. Otherwise, as he states, he should have left to his sons the task of publishing his recollections.

Brentano's Monthly for December is well abreast of the sporting world in the comprehensiveness and variety of its articles which begin the history of the yacht Madeleine in illustration of three accurate yacht models. Very timely are the articles on ice yachting, archery, billiards, bicycling, athletics, hare and hounds, the turf, canoeing, boating, lacrosse, rifle shooting, and sports in general and particular are attended to pithily.

A revised and enlarged edition of that popular and very useful work, the "Manual of Sporting Rules," has been issued by Ed James, the well known sporting writer and publisher. A number of important additions, including the English and American laws of athletics, rules for the government of the contests for the Astley, O'Leary, United States and other championship belts, have been made to the mass of matter contained in previous editions. It is well worth its small price to athletes, oarsmen and all others who desire to be posted on the rules for all manner of sporting events.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED.

Brazil, the Amazons and the Coast. By Henry H. Smith. Illustrated from sketches by J. Wells Champney and others. Charles Scribner's Sons, publishers, New York.

Cæsar. A Dramatic Study. In five acts. By Henry Peterson. T. B. Peterson & Co., publishers, Philadelphia.

Manual of Exhibit Bookkeeping. Introducing a Simplified Method of Keeping and Auditing Accounts. Adapted to the use of bookkeepers and commercial instruction. By Selden R. Hopkins. The Hopkins Company, publishers, New York.

Pearl. By Kathleen O'Meara. From the Catholic Publication Society, New York.

Mines of Maine. The present condition of the mines and their future prospects. By Frank L. Bartlett. B. Thurston & Co., publishers, Portland, Me.

The Life and Words of Christ. By Cunningham Geikie, D. D. From the American Book Exchange, New York.

Great Authors of All Ages. Being selections from the prose works of eminent writers from the time of Pericles to the present day. With indexes. By S. Austin Allibone. J. B. Lippincott & Co., publishers, Philadelphia.

Methodism: Old and New. With sketches of some of its early preachers. By J. R. Flanigen. With illustrations. J. B. Lippincott & Co., publishers.

The Ponca Chiefs. An Indian's attempt to appeal from the tomahawk to the courts. By Zylyff. Dedication by Wendell Phillips. Lockwood, Brooks & Co., publishers, Boston.

The Merry-Go-Round. Stories for boys and girls. By R. W. Raymond. Fords, Howard & Hulbert, publishers, New York.

FINE ARTS.

FROM THE STUDIOS.

Wordsworth Thompson has sent to the Newark exhibition a view of the "Island of Monte Christo, from the Coast of Corsica," which is remarkable for its beautiful color and its fine effect of distance. It is nearly sunset, and the island, reddened by the rays, rises among the purplish mists which hover over the deep blue of the distant water, which changes to light green near the shore, where are fishing feluccas; a group of women sorting fish and men at work around the boats. Mr. Thompson is now at work on a scene on Rockaway Beach—a gypsy family and their van. Clothes are hanging to dry; the mother stares at us, while the father is playing cards and the children are scattered around. In the distance, near the water, are figures of visitors.

H. A. Ferguson has nearly completed, on a canvas of moderate size, a view of the Yungfrau from the heights above Interlaken, looking up toward the Staubach waterfall. The impression of distance and the atmosphere are good, and the sunlight striking on the rocky faces of the mountain side to the left is effective.

J. B. Bristol has on an easel a scene on Green River, Massachusetts, looking toward the Teconic Mountains. There are cows in the shade of trees on the left bank.

H. W. Robbins has finished a carefully drawn river landscape for the Artists' Fund Exhibition of this year. The effect is that of morning.

David Johnson is at work on a portrait of a fine cow—a prize Jersey—and a little landscape on the Wynockie River, in New Jersey.

A. T. Bricher is painting, for the Artists' Fund Exhibition, a view on a bright afternoon at Dana's Beach cliffs.

Edgar M. Ward has returned from abroad, and will take a studio in this city. His Breton interior, "Paternal Pride," was one of the finest pictures in the last exhibition of the National Academy.

HOFF'S "UNEXPECTED RETURN" SUBSTANTIALLY COPIED BY BROZIK.

An exceedingly talented young Bohemian painter, established in Paris, is Vacslav Brozik. He has married the daughter of a rich picture dealer, is a friend of Munkacsy, has attracted much attention at late Salons by his historical and genre pictures of Bohemia in the Middle Ages, is *hors concours*, and received a second class medal at the Salon of 1878 for his "L'Ambassade du Roi de Bohême et de Hongrie à la Cour de Charles VII." (1457). He has, however, committed an artistic crime which will cost him dear, at least on this side of the Atlantic. He has calmly appropriated, and almost bodily, the idea of another man's picture, and sold the canvas to a collector of this city who has heretofore taken a good deal of interest in him. Unfortunately the picture he copied is also owned in this country, and was lately publicly exhibited in New York. It will be remembered that some time ago we wrote at length of two works by M. Brozik, which were the first to arrive in this country, and were therefore of great interest. They were called "The Unexpected Return" and "The Cavalry." The latter was in the just closed Brooklyn exhibition. The former in its design is essentially a copy of the important canvas, "The Unexpected Return," by Professor Carl Hoff, which was in the art display at the Seventh Regiment fair, was painted some years ago, and is owned by Mr. Fairman Rogers, of Philadelphia. Brozik has left out a few of the figures, has on the whole improved the composition, and we may say has painted a better picture. He has, however, taken the same *mise en scène* and told the same story. Several of the figures are in the same positions as in the original work, others are slightly changed. The position of the dinner table and of the family group about it are substantially the same, as is the apartment; a number of minor details are also similar. The coloring of course is Brozik's own, for he evidently used simply a photograph. It is difficult to conceive the object of so strong a man committing such an act. Possibly he thought he would not be found out in barbarous America. The owner of the picture is naturally very indignant, and has written to the artist that he must replace the work, and Mr. Morris K. Jesup, who had ordered two pictures of him, has also written a sharp letter.

GALLERY NOTES.

At Kohn's there is an excellent work by Oliver Merson which is essentially the same, though having been altered in some particulars it is not a simple reduction, as his larger work, "Le Repos en Egypte," which was in the Salon of 1879, and was bought by Mr. Duncan, the well known London collector. It is near the dawn, and mother and child are asleep in the arms of the Sphinx, whose impassive face gazes at the lightening sky. Joseph sleeps with his staff in hand at the foot of the statue, while the ass noses the sand by his saddle and the smoke of the dying fire mounts in a straight line high through the still air. The halo of the child lights up the bosom of the Sphinx, and as the moon crescent fades, the sunlight steals up on the horizon and flushes the sky. The composition is grand, the coloring of browns and grays pleasing and the tone fine. The Sphinx is well drawn, but might have been made more cold and massive looking. Possibly the painter had some idea of his being moved by the preciousness of his burden, as he is represented in a feeling poem by Adrien Dézamy on the large picture. The figure of Joseph we care little for.

"La Tristesse" is a good single figure by Diaz—a kneeling, half nude woman. "On the Wynockie" is a very careful David Johnson, somewhat scattered in effect and not good in composition. A pair of very charming little water colors are by V. F. Pollet—one a Venus surrounded by cupids, and another where she is alone in the clouds. They are beautifully drawn, well modelled and the flesh tints are very delicate. The head of the second one is very sweet. These may be advantageously contrasted with another pair in the same medium—"Spring" and "Summer," by Charles Voillemot. The female figure in the first has a pretty but vacuous face. The whole composition is much more pleasing than in the second one.

THE AMERICAN ART REVIEW FOR DECEMBER.

The second number of the *American Art Review* (Estes & Lauriat)—that for December—shows an advance on the opening one. The three etchings are a gold plate—"December," by Henry Farrar, possibly slightly too much toned, and too heavy in the lower part of the sky; Peter Moran's excellent rendition of a Van Marcke, in the collection of Henry C. Gibson, of Philadelphia, which is fine in sky and landscape but slightly wanting in vigor of line and effect in the cattle; and William Unger's masterly reproduction in unctuous life of Rubens' "St. Francis Xavier Raising the Dead," which is in the Belvedere at Vienna. The opening article of a series on the late William Morris Hunt, by Frederick [illegible]ton, gives some personal remini[illegible]. Mr. Andrew has engraved a fair [illegible]t ineffective cut of the painter at work in [illegible] studio and a good one of his picture, "The [illegible]abs." A short paper by the editor, S. R. Koehler, gives some idea of the well known etcher, Henry Farrar, of this city, and of his work. Henry Van Brunt writes a concluding article on "The Washington Monument," which is accompanied by good reproductions of pen drawings of various designs for its completion. Charles C. Perkins opens what is likely to prove an interesting as well as instructive series on "Olympia as It Was and Is." The editor discourses intelligently and hopefully of the "Future of Art," and "The Technical Processes Employed in the Manufacture of Henri Deux Ware" is taken from the *Blätter für Kunstgewerbe*. Finally, the various departments are full of good matter.

PICTURES IN SCRIBNER'S.

The editors of *Scribner's Magazine* must look to the laurels which they have so well earned during the past few years, as their principal rival is putting its very best foot forward, for we feel that in the matter of illustration the standing order with *Scribner's* seems to be "short commons." We do not complain of the quality of the work presented, but at the absence of that which we look for. The present number—that for January—contains a number of excellent cuts by M. J. Burns to the article on the "Life Saving Service." Among the best are "Off to a Wreck" and "The Night Patrol," both well engraved by H. Wolf; "Hauling the Mortar Car" and "The Self-Righting Lifeboat." W. K. Gibson and Alfred Kappes illustrate the third article on "Success with Small Fruits," and Messrs. W. A. Rogers, Walter Shirlaw, W. Taber, H. P. Wolcott, F. S. Church, S. G. McCutcheon, Will H. Low, H. P. Share, W. H. Shelton, M. J. Burns, Walter Clark, J. E. Kelly, George Inness, Jr.; J. Lauber and J. S. Hartley—members of the Salmagundi Sketch Club—show the merit there is in that association by their illustrations to William H. Bishop's well written and interesting article on "Young Artists' Life in New York." The work of Messrs. Shirlaw, F. S. Church, S. G. McCutcheon, W. H. Low, H. P. Share, M. J. Burns and George Inness, Jr., deserves especial mention. The portraits of the club members in "The Salmagundi Club in Early Times," by W. H. Low, and "A Modern Meeting of the Salmagundi Club," by H. P. Share, are, as a rule, excellent. The novel, "The Grandissimes," continues unillustrated—a fine opportunity lost.

THE "ART AMATEUR."

The January number of the *Art Amateur* is a very attractive one. There are articles on Edward Moran, the painter, with a good portrait by his son, and admirable drawings by the artist of his "Fishing Boats off Calais Pier" and "Nôtre Dame on a Fête Night," and two studies from nature of figures on his "Return of the Shrimpers;" the Hart-Sherwood collection, with reproductions from the illustrated catalogue; on the collection of ex-Judge Henry Hilton, and a full array of material in the various departments. On the first page are two cuts—a group and a single figure—from a foreign drawing, which, we think, had better been left whole, of Munkacsy's "Visit to the Baby," in the Stewart collection. The illustrated biographical series inaugurated in the number is an excellent idea. There is a good supplement of designs.