NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

NOTES ON NEW BOOKS.

1. HISTORY OF GREECE; *by* GEORGE GROTE, *Esq.*
2. A CRITICAL HISTORY *of the Language and Literature of Ancient Greece; by* WILLIAM MURE, *of Caldwell.*

Of these two elaborate and scholarly works, the former has been republished in our country by *Mr. J. P. Jewett and Company*, of Boston. The latter, not having been as yet completed by the author, no American publisher will, we presume, undertake to edit the volumes already issued in England until the whole series can be given to the American public. The attempt to comprise within the "cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd" columns of a daily journal even the briefest synoptical view of these well-stored volumes, would be as fruitless as the endeavor to exhibit a leviathan of the deep in the gold fish's vase; and we have no intention, by culling out a few unsatisfying and dislocated fragments as samples of the whole, to repeat the folly and merit the ridicule of that Hellenic *skolastikos* who carried about a stone from the house he wished to sell as a specimen of the whole structure. If it is always true, as the Greek proverb declares, that "a great book is a great evil," it would be vain to deny that either of the authors above named do not fall within the range of its censure. A proverb being, however, according to Lord John Russell, "the wit of one man and the wisdom of many," we accordingly find many an aphorism whose trenchant application often savors much more of wit than of wisdom.

The history of Greece by Mr. GROTE is written with a scrupulous accuracy and a conscientious minuteness that leave no source of information unconsulted, and not a fact, we are ready to believe, recorded by the ancient historians has escaped his critical acumen and comprehensive investigation; while Col. MURE, with a thoroughness of research and a prodigality of learned allusion equally surprising, has sketched for us the features of the early literature of Greece in a style that is at once as bold in outline as the pencilling of Albert Durer, and as minute in detail as one of Rubens's exquisitely-finished pieces. The elaborate and excellent works of Mitford, Thirlwall, and Grote on Grecian history, which have appeared during the last quarter of a century, may be considered among the proudest trophies of English scholarship; while the fact that neither the Hampshire squire nor the Bishop of St. David's has been superseded, however much excelled, by Mr. Grote attests not only the versatility of the rival historians, but the "many-sided" genius of the race whose history they have written with such signal ability. In our present remarks we propose, instead of confining our attention to the works we have named, to offer some reflections on modern historical composition.

It has been the peculiar boast of the Germans that they were foremost in all historical research and classical criticism; and that they have been chiefly instrumental in the creation of a new era in both historical composition and in the esthetic appreciation of literature and art is incontestable. But they must present us with three greater names than their Bode, Ulrici, or Müller before the palm of supremacy can be yielded them over their English competitors; for the historical studies of the former have been either restricted to a single tribe, or directed rather to the elucidation of particular eras, than to the production of a comprehensive history of the entire Hellenic race. Indeed, the German mind seems to lack that constructive faculty which alone can group together and give "form and pressure" to a mass of confused and often heterogeneous details—a faculty that is as indispensable to the historian in the adjustment and disposition of his materials as is the power of combination to the field-marshal and tactician. We have never yet seen a German text-book that did not demand an English recension of its *rudis indigestaque moles* in order to render it available; while it is undeniable that the best English works in almost every department of scholastic literature owe their intrinsic value to German assiduity. Gifted with a moral and physical patience that shrinks from no herculean task of dry investigation, and endowed with a hardihood that no linguistic difficulties can appal, they have taken, as Goethe remarks in one of his ten thousand letters, "the whole field of literature for their province." As might be expected, German literature is much richer in critical essays and philosophical disquisitions on history than in histories themselves; and surely it would be base ingratitude if the critical art were not held in high repute among the literary public of Germany; for what great "illustration" has the Fatherland yet produced that did not commence his career as a critic? True, the literature of Germany has its *Niebelungen*, its *Volks*, and *Haus Maerchen*, but these cannot be regarded as the dim dawn that presages the noontide splendor. The brilliant corruscations of that literary constellation which shed such lustre on the little principality of Saxe-Weimar, and whose rays lighted up all Germany, resembled rather the sudden effulgence of that borealis light which in arctic regions often "smooths the raven-down of darkness till it smiles" in mimic day. Her literature has no infancy, and reminds one of precocious Hermes in the Homeric hymn, who, being born in the morning, began to play on the harp by noon, and stole Apollo's oxen at night. Her intellectual development having commenced in criticism, has of course stopped there; for the critical age is the ultimate age of every national literature; and hence history, as written by a German, is rather a series of philosophical disquisitions than a narrative of facts. When the poetry of a nation becomes metaphysical, we may expect its histories to become syllogistic; and hence in modern Germany the dogmas of a psychological system are no longer stated abstractly, but as concrete truths, cracked out like a kernel from the shell of history. We need but mention the names of Schelling and Schleiermacher in confirmation of our statement. We look in vain among the Germans, therefore, for that rich and racy narrative which imparts such a charm to the pages of Gibbon and Macaulay.

Another circumstance that has hampered the progress and obstructed the success of the German historians has been the secluded life which they have almost uniformly led. Müller felt this so sensibly that he actually renounced his original intention of writing a complete history of the Greek race, by reason of the conscious disability under which he labored from never having travelled in Greece. "When you look on Greece," said one of her modern politicians, "you understand her history:" and, without a familiar acquaintance with the topography of the country about which he writes, the historian is liable to make many a false step. Another effect of this isolated and provincial life of the German students is that excessive disposition to indulge in theoretical speculations and the vagaries of philosophic contemplation; for them, like Prospero, their "library is a dukedom large enough." It is their own Richter who has said, "to the English belongs the empire of the sea, to the French of the land, to the Germans *the air.*" That the Germans are *thinkers* rather than *doers*, men of pure thought rather than of action, metaphysicians rather than practical men, appears in every department of literary pursuit and in every walk of science; hence that distinctive characteristic of their literature which refers every thing to the inner life of the writer. They are Platonics rather than Baconians in philosophy; they love to steal away from the noisy and dusty sphere of actual life, and transport themselves in ethereal flights to "the cloud-land and dream-land of a poetic philosophy."

It was a fine remark of Frederic Schlegel's that the historian is a "prophet of the past." Many a German historian, however, has taken upon him the function of a magician, as was understood by Nebuchadnezzar, who expected his conjurers first to tell him his dream and then interpret it. The Cardinal de Retz, in his day, commented upon the flippant impertinence of certain historical critics, who, in the seclusion of their closets, pretend to develop and explain the motives of conduct which he who was the focus of intrigue was wholly unable to unravel or understand. The *subjective* historian deems the facts of history chiefly valuable because of their utility in system-building. Theories are not to be conformed to facts, but facts must conform to theories. In this way history has become rife with disquisitions which, like those of the schoolmen, may aid one's acuteness, but fail to enlarge our knowledge. It is no longer *history* that is written, but ingenious speculations *on* history, just as it has been said Montesquieu's great work should be entitled, not "L'Esprit des Lois," but *L'Esprit sur les Lois.* As a natural consequence, we have as many *philosophies* of history as we have historical philosophers, and in modern days the name of these latter is legion. We are so constantly reminded that ours is an age of progress and revolution that we have almost grown weary of its assertion; and if ever there was a time when one might adopt the Horatian sentiment of *nil admirari* it is certainly the present. The spirit of change which lately brooded over the nations has pervaded every department of human pursuit. In the political world we have seen a poetical statesman ready at *five* minutes' notice to improvise a republic, and *amateur* politicians, like those of the "European Democratic Central Committee," prepared with paper constitutions, arranged in pigeon holes, for every latitude. But this same spirit of innovation has also penetrated the republic of letters, and opinions on history and literature once universally received are now left to our grandmothers and a few stubborn *laudatores temporis acti*, while emulous sophomores and pullulating neophites have become the self-complacent recipients of a world of wisdom in religion, morals, and politics that was to their fathers a *terra incognita.*

But it may be alleged that, with all our love of innovation, there are evidences of a religious veneration for antiquity, such as is evinced in the pathetic repinings of Oxford Doctors, or in the unswathing of one of Mr. Gliddon's mummies. Is not, however, this very study of the past often prosecuted in an innovating spirit? Do not many modern students and philosophers manifest, by the aim and scope of their researches, that they seek an old truth, not so much because it is true as because it will, on its reproduction, be a *novelty?* Thus it has come to pass that men have studied the memorials of antiquity and the annals of history not only because the discovery of truth is the "first fair and first good" of human acquisition, but from a restless desire to unsettle the present foundations of belief and the generally received facts of history. It is against such historical freethinkers that Wordsworth inveighs in the well-known sonnet:

"Those old credulities, to nature dear,
Shall they no longer bloom upon the stock
Of history, stript naked as a rock
Mid a dry desert? What is it that we hear?
The glory of infant Rome must disappear,
Her morning splendors vanish, and their place
Know them no more. If Truth, who veiled her face
With those bright beams, yet hid it not, must steer
Henceforth an humbler course, perplexed and slow,
One solace yet remains for us who came
Into this world in days when story lacked
Severe research, that in our hearts we know
How, for exciting youth's heroic flame,
Assent is power, belief the soul of fact."

Such is a *poet's* reprehension of these historical Pyrrhos; but that against which we protest is not "severe research," but the perverse and petulant ingenuity which is fertile in the discovery of cavils, but barren in the establishment of facts. We can profess no more admiration for such "Giant Doubters," whether they be German or *Germanized* Englishmen, than for their illustrious prototype in Bunyan's matchless allegory. The early history of Greece and Rome, as indeed of the Anglo-Saxon Confederacy, is involved in great obscurity, and that there is much in the legendary annals of prehistoric times that is entitled to no credence does not admit of dispute. But because the narratives of the old chroniclers are often contradictory, and sometimes absurd; because Plutarch is given to dramatic story-telling, and old Herodotus relates, with such delightful *naïveté*, the wondrous tales which Egyptian priests imposed on his easy credulity, we are not justified in their total rejection. It is equally irrational to believe all as true like Rollin and Barthelemi, or to reject all as false like Forchammer and others. It is best to do as Mr. Grote has done—to give the legend simply as it was narrated by the people among whom it became popular, without attempting to convert it into a thesis for the raising of ingenious theories and unprofitable speculations that minister nothing to the edification of the reader.

It is the wont of such critics as Strauss to scout as a myth or legend every thing they do not wish to believe. As an illustration of this *fashion* (for it springs from the same cause in literature as "Bloomerism" in mantuamaking—the naked novelty of the thing) let us adduce an instance from the early history of the Saxon migrations towards the shores of Britain. There is a *legend* that, in the year 449 A. D., Hengist and Horsa, at the head of a horde of Saxon freebooters, made a descent upon England with the same benevolent object as that which lately actuated a similar band of buccaniers, under the conduct of the valorous Lopez. Now, this "legend" has been transmitted to us on the credit of Beza and all succeeding chroniclers, so that while it may be true, as the German Lappenberg asserts, that Teutonic tribes, from the time of the Roman invasions, settled on the eastern coasts of Britain, yet it has been universally believed that there was a special immigration about the middle of the fifth century. But Mr. Kemble, (brother of the talented actress and Shakspearean reader,) in his recent history of "The Saxons in England," discards the whole story as a "myth," and as destitute of all foundation in fact. Hengist and Horsa, he assures us, were not real personages, but mere poetic or legendary appellatives—fictitious names derived most probably from the pictured banners sometimes borne by the Saxon tribes, and all, forsooth, because in the Saxon tongue *Hengist* is the name for *horse*, and *Horsa* the feminine appellative of the equine quadruped. Let us see how some facts which "are most surely believed" among us will fare when tried by the same test after the lapse of ages. When American history shall have become *legendary*, and Polynesian pundits come to write a "critical account" of the late Mexican war, the whole story, we fear, (for the fame of its heroes,) will be regarded as a "myth," and the actors in the affair be proved as *mythical* as any of the personages that figure

——— "In Pope's line,
And the tale of Troy divine."

The "battle of Buena Vista" will then turn out, after all, to be only a socialist ballad, a popular ditty on a "strike" for higher wages of some journeymen knights who wielded needles like swords, with *Taylor* and *Wool* at their head as ensigns of their sartorial profession; for it is clear (says the future Kemble) that *Taylor* and *Wool* are merely names for the two banners borne in procession by the insurgent journeymen—that is, we suppose the one representing the ninth fraction of a man seated *a la Turke;* while on the other were depicted luxuriant fleeces of *wool*, as typical of the product most important to the cloth-cutting order. When Patagonia shall renounce all anthropophagal tastes, and take to founding universities, we may expect that learned professors will deliver prelections and write *prolegomena* on the "legends" respecting the American conquest of Mexico. Then Scott will figure as a fabulous demi-god, christened *Winfield* because of his imputed success in arms; *Pillow* as a fictitious pseudonym for a doughty chieftain, fond of stuffing his military figure with other people's feathers; *Cushing* as one of those words *parce detorta*, to personify the holyday soldier, better able to sit on a cushion than ride on a saddle; *Worth* as an allegorical creation similar to Ossa in the Homeric poems, or *Fama* in the Æneid; while as to *Quitman* we imagine commentators will differ, and be sorely vexed to decide whether it was a compound epithet employed by American Scalds to designate a chief who used to exhort his clansmen to "*'quit* themselves like *men,*" or whether it was because the man threatened to "curse and quit" the American Union, as Achilles did the Grecian League before the walls of Troy. We respectfully submit whether the Patagonian professors will not have made out as clear and plausible a case as Mr. John Mitchell Kemble.

We have observed, with great gratification, that neither Mr. Grote nor Col. Mure have prostituted their talents by pandering to this historical skepticism, and that too without subjecting themselves to the imputation of carelessness or credulity in their statements. They have held the scales of historic scrutiny with a steady and impartial hand. We are pleased to observe this, because indications have not been wanting in several recent publications that the same "leaven of unbelief" has begun to percolate the body and imbue the spirit of English literature. Now, there may be certain idiosyncracies very becoming in a German that will never be any thing better than foul excrescences upon the Englishman, and that which may have become a second nature to the one must forever remain an insufferable affectation in the other, if he preserves, in connexion with it, his distinctive nationality. It would be some consolation if the characteristics of the German mind were reproduced in English by men of sufficient intellectual vigor to do justice to what is intrinsically great in their gigantic literature; but this hope is forever precluded by the fact that *imitatores* are always a *servum pecus.* Such inferior geniuses should bear in mind that, however proficient the ass may strive to become in roaring like the lion, he will still retain enough of the natural bray to detect his asinine paternity, and the ears will assert their hereditary longitude. An anti-Gallic wit once classified the human species into men, women, and French, and wished it could be made penal for a *man* to become a *French* man. So, while we plead all due toleration for the *Germanism* of Germans, let us never, like Titania in the play, become enamored of the long ears of Bottom, or learn to tolerate and admire the hybrid mental amalgamation that genders a race of literary Calibans; unwieldy behemoths like Carlyle, the "biggest born" of the English species, and amphibious creatures such as "do" German into English for popular magazines, without understanding either.

AN ACCOUNT OF AN APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING ATTRITION BETWEEN THE SURFACES OF SILICIOUS STONES IN VACUO, OR IN GASEOUS MEDIA, AND FOR DETERMINING WHETHER THE CONSEQUENT ODOR AND CORRUSCATIONS ARE DUE TO OZONIFICATION. *Communicated at a meeting of the Franklin Institute, April 17, 1851, by* DR. HARE, *a member of the Institute, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania, and Associate of the Smithsonian Institution.*

FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE.

DR. HARE submitted to the attention of the meeting an apparatus for ascertaining whether the phenomena attending the attrition of pieces of silex, when rubbed briskly together, had any thing in common with those ascribed by Schönbien to a supposed new halogen body, named by him ozone, made the following remarks:

The odor which results from electrical excitement, or discharges between oppositely electrified bodies, had long been familiar to electricians. This odor is of a nature to recall that of phosphorus to all acquainted with the smell which this substance has when slowly oxydizing in the air, while to those unacquainted with the odor of oxydizing phosphorus the universally known odor of burning sulphur has been cited as an exemplification. Hence the often repeated allegation of a sulphureous smell being consequent to the passage of lightning. A similar property was likewise observed in oxygen which had been extricated from water by electrolysis. I observed a like odor about twenty-five years ago, when a large tube, used in the inflammation of explosive mixtures of hydrogen and atmospheric air, was burst by the process; as well as upon other occasions, when similar burstings ensued.

Schönbien, who has attained much celebrity as the inventor of gun cotton, was the first to associate phenomena of the kind alluded to under one view; and to show that the air which had acquired the odoriferous property in question, however obtained, had certain chemical properties in common. These properties were analogous to those displayed by chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, and cyanogen, which constitute the halogen class of Berzelius; and hence the distinguished investigator conceived that they might be due to some body of that class which had escaped detection.

To this supposed body he gave the name of "ozone," from Greek words which signify the production of odor.

As cyanogen is known to consist of two atoms of carbon and one of cyanogen, it would not, *a priori*, seem to be unreasonable that another body should be formed deserving to be ranked in the same class.

Latterly, Schönbien has advanced the idea that ozonification may be owing to a combination consisting of peroxide of hydrogen and bioxide of nitrogen; or, in other words, of oxygenated water and nitric oxide. But this inference seems to have been invalidated by an experiment made by De la Rive and Marignac. These distinguised chemists ozonized oxygen by passing electric sparks through the gas, while exclusively occupying a tube in which it had been evolved from chlorate of potassa previously fused, and consequently devoid of moisture.

Hence Berzelius and other distinguished chemists deemed it reasonable to ascribe the phenomena to a peculiar state of oxygen.

It had long been known that certain elements were capable of very different states; as for instance carbon, in the forms of tinder, charcoal, anthracite, plumbago, and the diamond.

According to Professor Draper, chlorine, after exposure to the solar rays, becomes more capable of combining with hydrogen under a feeble illumination.

This diversity is displayed in many instances by bodies in what has been called their nascent state, which is assumed just as they escape from combination. Under these circumstances they will combine with elements for which, usually, they display no affinity. Thus nitrogen, as it exists in the atmosphere, shows no affinity either for carbon or hydrogen, yet, when nascent, forms with hydrogen, ammonia, with carbon, cyanogen. On this account I have concurred in opinion with Berzelius, that the phenomena ascribed to ozone may be caused by oxygen in a peculiar state.

It is requisite to mention that, among the tests of the presence of ozonized air, the mixture of starch paste with a solution of iodide potassium is the most delicate. This is dependant upon an inexplicable but well-known property of starch, to be rendered blue by a very minute portion of free iodine. A very small addition of chlorine, by seizing an equivalent portion of potassium, liberates enough iodine to produce blueness in the mixture; and in like manner a very small proportion of ozonized air, whatever may be its source, renders starch blue by a like procedure.

In like manner, by exposure to ozonized air, strips of paper, drenched with a tincture of gum guiacum, are rendered blue; as these changes would have resulted from the presence of chlorine, and as neither that nor any other of the known halogen bodies could be present, the agency of some undetected body of that class was reasonably to be inferred.

Having given this preliminary brief sketch of the state of our knowledge respecting ozone, it is time to proceed to explain its connexion with the contrivance of the apparatus before this assemblage.

It had occurred to me that the smell and corruscations arising from the attrition of silicious stones, briskly rubbed against each other, might be due to some cause analogous, if not identical, with that to which the phenomena of ozone are indebted for their existence.

Nothing could be more unaccountable than this odor. That it cannot be due to any organic matter entering into the composition of the quartz must be evident; in the first place, because the smell is produced by the purest and most transparent specimens of rock crystal in the regular form; and, in the second place, because ignition to bright redness does not destroy nor even diminish the property.

One thousand grains of cellular horn stone, or French burr, on ignition as above stated, lost five grains—that is to say ½ per cent. of its weight, without, however, losing the property of producing light and smell.

It occurred to me that it might help to remove the mystery, were an apparatus constructed by which the attrition of silicious masses might be made more efficaciously than could be effected by an operator unaided by mechanism. Having suggested this idea to my friend, Professor Henry, he said that I might have such an apparatus constructed at the expense of the Smithsonian Institution. The apparatus, which is before the meeting, was made accordingly.

Two pigmy mill-stones, each seven inches in diameter, made of cellular horn stone, known vulgarly as French burr, and resembling those used in grist-mills, were procured and supported as in the usual way, one above the other, excepting that the upper one hangs by means of a bolt upon a spiral spring of brass wire, sustained by a cross of iron, resting upon screw nuts, upheld by four iron rods, each inserted at its lower end in a circular plate of cast iron, so as to be equidistant from each other. The surface of the iron plate is turned true, so as to enable it to serve as an air-pump plate. It rests upon four columns, which elevate it from a base-board sufficiently to admit of a pulley, band, and wheel to work in a parallel plane below that in which the plate is situated. There is also room for a lever, from which a stirrup hangs as a support for the spindle of the pulley, on the apex of which plane extended upwards, through a perforation in the axis of the plate, the lower mill-stone rests. This spindle passes through a stuffing box, so as to be air-tight; the stirrup allowing it to retain its perpendicularity, notwithstanding the curvillinear movement of the lever when employed to raise or lower the stone.

The nuts upon which the cross supporting the upper stone has been mentioned as resting, are so used as to render the lower surface of the stone horizontal, while, as it hangs upon a bolt which occupies the axis of a spiral spring, the pressure on the lower stone, when brought into contact with it, may be made as gentle as necessary. The lower stone being balanced on the point of the spindle, is made to turn with it by means of a pin proceeding from its lower surface, and another proceeding from the spindle, which operate as a carrier in a lathe.

In order to put the apparatus in operation, the lower stone is made to revolve by means of the pulley, band, and wheel; while, by means of the lever, the stone is so raised as to produce sufficient contact with that suspended above it. Under these circumstances, scintillation and the odor, which is the object of inquiry, resulted. In no way, however, could I produce the chemical effects of ozone upon iodized starch or tincture guiacum. On directing a jet of hydrogen between the stones, it took fire forthwith; but I could not, by means of a gold leaf electrometer, detect any electricity. When the upper stone was removed, and a piece of an old file of a large size made to scrape over the surface of the lower stone, a conducting connexion between the file and an electrometer was productive of no electrical indication.

The plate being ground to fit a large receiver, the stones were in successive experiments made to revolve in vacuo, in hydrogen, and in a vacuity previously replete with this gas, without any diminution of the luminous phenomena. These, it seems, from the inflammation of the jet of hydrogen, constitute a simple case of ignition. During the collision of flint with steel, a portion of the metal being struck off, takes fire, and thus is enabled to convey ignition to tinder or spunk. The incapacity of two pieces of quartz to produce fire in like manner, arises from the incombustibility of the particles struck off from them, which consequently cool before they meet any mass with which they are not in contact at the moment when the ignition supervenes.

As the burr stones are opaque, the light is much less advantageously seen when they are both employed than when the upper one is replaced by a comparatively small mass of transparent quartz. The concentration of the frictional force, and the transparency of the mass under which the ignition is effected, make the corruscations very brilliant in a room otherwise darkened.

So great is the resistance of the surfaces of the stones when brought into revolutionary collision, that the maximum effect which they are capable of producing would require more force than can be communicated by the human power, through a single hand actuating the stones by means of a wheel, pulley, and band.

Of course cog-wheels might be resorted to, and the power of steam, or that of Professor Page's electro-magnetic machine, employed to obtain a greater effect. I have lately been informed that in English potteries, where flint is employed as an ingredient in the ware manufactured, the grinding of this material is productive of an intolerable fœtidity. In an atmosphere thus imbued with fœtidity, chemical effects ought to be observable, if there be any connexion between the source of this fœtidity and that produced by ozonizing agents.

It is long since it occurred to me that the phenomena of light, under all the various hues which it is capable of producing, are ascribed to the undulatory affections of an ether pervading the universe; so the still greater variety of odors which influence our olfactory nerves may be due to vibratory agitation of the same medium.*

Consistently it may be conceived that the odor produced during ozonification, during the attrition of quartz, is due to an odoriferous ethereal agitation.

* If odors are to be ascribed to etherial affections produced by impulses proceeding from odoriferous substances, consistently tastes must have an analogous origin, and mesmeric influence, so far as its existence has been proved, seems equally to require ethereal intervention.

"THE CAMPAIGNS OF THE RIO GRANDE AND OF MEXICO, with notices of the recent work of Major RIPLEY;" by Brevet Major ISAAC I. STEVENS, U. S. Army: New York, published by D. APPLETON & Co., pp. 108; Washington, TAYLOR & MAURY.

The vigor and the consciousness in the writer of a thorough acquaintance with the subject give great interest to this review, and fully enlists the confidence of the reader. Major STEVENS writes from copious notes taken on the field, and his position as an officer of the engineer corps gave him the best means of knowing. His end and aim in coming before the public is to give his testimony in favor of those officers who, in his judgment, have been depreciated by the work of another officer.

It is a matter of some delicacy, and requiring no little skill, to discuss topics of such recent occurrence, which have entered so largely into the controversy of political parties—to speak of men still before the public with an impartiality which all will recognise and accede to. Major STEVENS has outspoken his judgment with manly confidence as to the conduct of these campaigns by the Executive at Washington and by the Generals in the field. To those acquainted with the strategy of war this brief sketch, made by an engineer on the spot, and subsequently carefully revised, cannot fail to be regarded as of great value.

Speaking of the condition of the army before the commencement of the war, Major STEVENS says:

"On the occurrence of our difficulties with Mexico the standing army was too small. A grave error had been committed in the army reduction of 1842, making the companies mere skeletons, and reducing the whole number of bayonets and sabres to less than eight thousand. This small force, moreover, had been disseminated through the country in small garrisons, a condition utterly unpropitious to high discipline and efficiency. There had been few general camps of discipline, where all arms had met together to learn the military art. In consequence of this system of petty garrisons, and this neglect of camps of discipline, regiments were deficient in the regimental drill, and practical instruction in evolutions of the line was almost unknown. The officers, though thoroughly educated at the military school, and anxious to master their profession, had been allowed few opportunities of experience and instruction, except in the subordinate details of the particular arm to which they were attached. The great body of the artillery even served as infantry. There were no engineer troops, and little or nothing had been done in the instruction of special arms, excepting the light artillery. The army had been regarded more as a police force to maintain forts, and guard our Indian frontier, than as an embodiment of the military skill and science of the country. A great portion of the rank and file were foreigners. There had been no legislation to bring a material into the army comparing favorably with that to be found in the several trades and occupations of civil life. The army contemplated in the military polity of the country had not been cherished by its legislation. No system had been adopted, considering the army as a whole, impressing each officer and each man with the spirit of his relations to it, and opening to all a professional career.

"It must be considered as one of the most happy chances of this contest, that the troops who kept the flag of their country high advanced on the battle-fields of the Rio Grande had been previously in training for this very emergency, in their six months' camp at Corpus Christi, and thus had been raised to a point of discipline and efficiency, which, with proper forecast on the part of the Government, might have been imparted to the whole army.

"Grave errors, too, were committed in the mode of enlarging the public force, and in not taking a sufficiently extended view of the chances and vicissitudes of the campaign. There were three modes of enlarging the public force: 1st. By an extension of the frame of the old army, increasing the companies of the regiments to 24, organized in three battalions, as in the French service; advancing all the officers, and filling the vacancies at the foot of the list by selections from civil life, and increasing the number of men in a company to 150. Thus would the veteran organization have been more than quintupled, regiments and companies have been commanded by experienced officers, and a portion of the new troops have been saved from the privations and sufferings arising from the inexperience of new officers, who have to learn the making out of the ordinary returns, to say nothing of more important matters. 2d. By adding new regiments of regulars. 3d. By calling out volunteers. We think the calling out of volunteers, organized in regiments officered by themselves, was a happy thought, in accordance with the spirit of our institutions, and as best calculated, in an emergency, to get troops promptly to the threatened point. But, conjoined with this, we think it was an oversight in not giving a greater increase to the regular force. One regiment of rifles and a company of engineer soldiers were added to the regular organization, and the number of privates in a company was raised to one hundred. With the expansion of the frame of the organization which we have indicated, and which has its analogies in foreign services, we should have provided for the emergencies which actually occurred, and which a wise forecast would have anticipated in embarking in a war. It would have increased the regular force to 50,000 odd, rank and file, the whole of which, with proper exertions, could have been raised in the summer of 1846; and which, allowing one-fifth at the depots, or *en route* for the seat of war, and one-fifth for the permanent sick-list, would have left three-fifths, or 30,000 regulars, for field service at the beginning of the healthy season in the fall.

"But the capital error of the Government, and one for which it cannot be held blameless, consisted in not placing a proper confidence in the counsels of some of the ablest military men of the country—men who had devoted their lives to the military profession, and had seen service in former fields. Both the President and the Secretary of War, experienced as statesmen, were totally inexperienced in military affairs; and it was a violation of the plainest principles of administration to endeavor to organize campaigns without reference to the views of those who had made campaigns their special study. It was unfortunate that General Scott, altogether the ablest military man then known to the country, was not admitted to the confidence of the Executive, and the plan of campaign modified to suit his views. They did not suit, however, the impatient spirit of our Government and people. Results were eagerly grasped at, and though sound policy approved the plan of seizing New Mexico and California as indemnity for the war, yet the plan of General Scott, to call out the volunteers and place them in camps of instruction at home, should have been pursued. They would have acquired a respectable degree of discipline, have become inured to the privations of the field, and have thus been enabled to resist the inroads of disease in an unhealthy climate. In the mean time, information could have been obtained, depots established, means of transportation collected, and a plan of campaign could have been decided on. Had this course been pursued, when our army did move, one vigorous blow, one onward resistless march, and the contest would have been over. We do not say this in disparagement of the patriotic services of the President and his Secretary. We are not unmindful of the fact that it is easy to write these things after the event. The claims of these high functionaries to the gratitude of their country lies in the fact that they did pursue a practicable, energetic course, that they did apply with energy and success the public means to the prosecution of an inevitable contest, and that they availed themselves of the high state of exaltation of the public mind to enlist troops and send them to the field. It is just, however, to present their mistakes in an impartial view of this matter, so that we may profit by our own blunders, the readiest mode of getting wisdom, both on the part of nations and of individuals." * * * *

"But the Administration did not appreciate the difficulty of moving troops in an enemy's country, and amidst a sparse and impoverished population; nor did it consider that while it was an easy matter, with our immense steamboat facilities, to disembark reinforcements near the base of the Rio Grande, it was a work of time to organize the wagon trains to transport the same into the interior.

"It would seem, indeed, that while so much vigor was shown in transporting troops to the Rio Grande, very little was exhibited in furnishing the means for transporting them after their disembarkation. *It was the duty of the authorities to see that the usual supplies, means of transportation, &c. were sent with them, leaving it simply to the General in the field to make requisitions for unusual supplies and means of transportation.* Thus, while some twenty thousand volunteers were sent to the theatre of war, not a wagon reached the advance of Gen. Taylor till after the capture of Monterey."

This seems to be a rule of such vast importance, and which it has cost the Treasury so much to learn, that we hope it may not be forgotten by the Quartermaster's Department in all time to come. In a country so wide as ours, nothing but extraordinary calls for supplies should be expected by the commanders on the frontiers; all else should be anticipated and supplied by the Departments at the seat of Government.

Major STEVENS thus describes General TAYLOR's policy in his advance on Monterey:

"Confident that it would be adequate to the single object of reducing Monterey, and concurring with the Government in the policy of vigorously prosecuting operations, Gen. Taylor determined upon advancing. Having arrived before Monterey, on the 19th of September a vigorous reconnaissance was ordered of the various approaches, which resulted in the determination of Gen. Taylor to occupy the Saltillo road by Worth's veteran division, holding the remainder of the army in position on the eastern side of the town. Previous to arriving before Monterey, Gen. Taylor had contemplated a movement of this kind, with the view of intercepting reinforcements, and capturing the enemy's entire force. And, within twelve hours after his arrival, Major Mansfield, with a squadron of Texan horse, had gone over the whole distance to the Saltillo road, and had ascertained the entire practicability of the movement.

"On the Saltillo side of the town were the two imposing heights of Independence and Federation, defended by the respective works of the Bishop's Palace and old Fort Saldado. The possession of these works made certain the reduction of the city. Worth was put in movement on the 20th, and, to distract the enemy's attention, the remainder of the army was displayed on the eastern front of the city. Worth encamped about three miles from the Saltillo road, and at daybreak the next morning resumed his march. After a sharp skirmish at the junction of the Saltillo road with the one he was pursuing, the enemy was repulsed and the Saltillo road was gained. Putting his train in a secure position on the Saltillo road, and diposing his troops for its protection, he made his arrangements to storm the heights of the Federation. Suffice it to say, that it met with the most complete success. Capt. C. F. Smith conducted the front attack against the heights with a chosen body of 300 men, while Col. P. F. Smith, with the 5th and 7th Infantry, directed another more to the south and west, directly against Fort Saldado itself. Col. Smith's movement, made on his own responsibility, against the Saldado, was in happy conjunction with that of Capt. Smith, made somewhat earlier, against the highest point of the Federation. The garrison of Saldado, shaken by Capt. Smith's appearance on this height, was in no condition to resist the charge of the 5th and 7th. But before Worth's stormers had crowned the height of the Federation, the other side of Monterey had been penetrated, and a decisive triumph had been achieved over the main bulk of the enemy's force.

"On the northern and eastern fronts of the city the ground was low, and the view obstructed by corn and chaparral. On the morning of the 21st Gen. Taylor displayed his whole command, and ordered forward Major Mansfield and three battalions of Twiggs's division under Garland, to make a close reconnaissance of the enemy's works, and, if circumstances favored, to seize a position in the city itself. In the execution of this order, Mansfield, supported by two companies of Garland's command, cautiously advanced, and came upon an abandoned field-work, at only a stone's throw from some deserted stone houses in the suburbs, affording excellent cover for troops, and apparently giving access to the gorge of a redoubt on the extreme left. This redoubt, called the Tannery Redoubt, was the key-point of the enemy's defences on this front of attack, and its possession was indispensable to the effective prosecution of operations.

"Word was now sent to Garland to come on, and Mansfield moved down the street in search of a way to move to the left on the gorge. Before this was accomplished the whole command of Garland came into the suburb on the run, without suffering material loss, and, pushing eagerly forward, became exposed to a severe fire from masked batteries beyond the San Juan. Mansfield still advanced with the companies of Backus and Lamotte, and a position was taken in a tannery, whence a severe fire was directed upon the gorge of the redoubt and upon another tannery which protected this gorge. But this attack was not supported, and Garland's command was withdrawn out of range, at the very moment the 4th Infantry and three regiments of volunteers under Gen. Butler were sent to its support. These troops gallantly advanced upon the tannery redoubt; and its garrison, all the while severely pelted by Backus and Lamotte, immediately took to flight and crossed the San Juan. Operations were still further prosecuted, and attempts were made to storm the Tête de Pont, and a redoubt to the left of the tannery redoubt, but after experiencing considerable loss they were abandoned. No further attempts were made to effect a lodgment in the streets of the city. Garland's command was stationed as a guard to the tannery redoubt, and the remainder of the troops were withdrawn to the camp of San Domingo. This severe conflict, involving a loss of 394 men, killed and wounded, completely withdrew the attention of the enemy from the western front, and opened the way for Worth's success. It covered the time occupied by Worth from his movement in the morning to his seizing the height of the Federation.

"On the 22d, Worth followed up his successes by the storming of the Independence, closely followed by that of the Bishop's Palace. On the eastern front, the body of the enemy occupied their position of the previous day, and poured a storm of fire upon the tannery redoubt. A road thereto from the camp was constructed, entirely sheltering the troops from the flank fire of the Citadel, except for about the last hundred yards. The strength of the tannery redoubt itself was also increased by additional works.

"In the night of the 22d and 23d the enemy concentrated the bulk of his troops in the vicinity of the main plaza, and on the morning of the 23d the troops on the eastern front occupied several of the works in the vicinity of the tannery redoubt. General Taylor directed the cautious advance of Quitman into the city. Quitman, by 2 o'clock, had approached to within a square of the plaza. But Gen. Taylor, although he had been engaged full four hours, hearing up to this time nothing from Worth, concluded that no attack would be made by him during the day, and he accordingly withdrew the troops to the edge of the city, to concert a combined attack. Worth, notwithstanding, had been making his arrangements to attack the western portion of the city. He organized two parties, which, working from house to house with picks, made good every step of their advance. Towards nightfall Worth established the mortar, which had been sent round from the other front, within effective distance of the heart of the city, and threw a shell into the main plaza every twenty minutes during the night.

"On the morning of the 24th a proposition to capitulate was submitted by Ampudia to the American General, and, after several meetings on the part of commissioners from the two parties, terms were agreed upon. The city and the military stores of the Mexican army were turned over to the Americans; the garrison marched out with the honors of war, retaining their arms and a field battery of six pieces; and an armistice of eight weeks was agreed upon, subject to the approval of the respective Governments. * * * *

"We cannot see how General Taylor could have made a better plan for his operations against Monterey, or a better general disposition of his troops. Nor will it be denied that his operations as a whole were characterized by vigor, boldness, and judgment. Upon these considerations must rest the vindication of his qualities as a commander.

"We now come to the capitulation of Monterey, and feel bound to express our entire dissent from Major Ripley's views.

"General Taylor, though in the first instance disposed to insist upon the surrender of the Mexican army as prisoners of war, finally agreed to the capitulation for the following reasons:

"1. His army was not large enough to make a complete investment of the city, and he could not prevent the enemy evacuating it during the night.

"2. He was assured by General Ampudia that the new Mexican administration was favorable to negotiations, and he was induced to grant the mild terms of the capitulation, providing for an eight weeks' armistice, in the belief that it would be an auspicious entering upon a more friendly intercourse between the two Governments, and would end in a treaty of peace.

"3. Considerations of humanity to non-combatants."

This review increases in interest as it goes into the examination of the masterly movements of General SCOTT, from the landing at Vera Cruz to the capture of the city of Mexico—a campaign which, in the opinion of the greatest living military authority, "has never been exceeded in brilliancy and success."

No one could have written this pamphlet not acquainted with the very springs of action—one who could with propriety say with Æneas, "All which I saw, and part of which I was."

MACKEREL FISHING IN BOSTON HARBOR.—A fleet of between 30 and 40 mackerel smacks made their appearance off Point Alderton and Hull, on Thursday. They were following a shoal of mackerel which had been working up the south shore during the past week. One vessel on Wednesday caught fifteen barrels in three hours. They fish during the day as well as the night. At daylight the fishermen commence throwing over their bait, which brings the mackerel to the top of the water, when they commence fishing, catching as fast as they can swing the line into the water and pull it out. Capt. Tower once caught a barrel in ten minutes with one hook—*Boston Traveller.*

MECHANISM, No. XI.—BY JOSIAH HOLBROOK.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

The scale, dividers, and triangle are "THE THREE TOOLS" for juvenile mechanism. No child over eight years old, either at home or at school, ought to be without them. They may furnish more instruction than ten times, probably a hundred times, their cost expended in books. They also give to books a value which they cannot possibly possess by themselves alone. They render books practical and entertaining, and schools places of delightful resort. They are the instruments of "SELF-INSTRUCTION."

For young pupils a six-inch scale, made of wood, brass, or ivory, is convenient. Many others, varying in material, length, graduation, and use, may be had as occasions should call for them. The dividers should be furnished with a point, pencil, and pen. The triangle should have one right-angle, one angle of sixty degrees, and the other will be necessarily thirty degrees; as the three angles of a triangle in all cases amount precisely to a hundred and eighty degrees. Both the scale and triangle should be marked with inches and parts of inches. The former should also contain the line of chords and the scale of equal parts.

Such a triangle is probably the most comprehensive little instrument that exists, or that can exist. It contains the elements of the equilateral triangle and square; and those two figures together constitute the elements of universal mechanism; both of divine and human origin. The entire simplicity, with the boundless and endless uses of the three tools, fits them for training young hands and eyes, and for instructing, entertaining, and refining young minds, to an extent much beyond any book, or any number of books, which can be provided for them; at the same time greatly increasing the value of books. By their very great simplicity they can even be made by the pupils needing them. Several boys, not long since, made some dividers of wood, fitted with a point, pencil, and pen, which they found to answer a good purpose. By making smooth and straight a thin piece of board, with inches marked on it, the scale is provided. By setting a pair of dividers with the points distant just six inches, an equilateral triangle, with sides of that length, can be drawn in an instant—say on pasteboard. A line drawn from one corner of that triangle to the centre of the opposite side, will form two triangles precisely of the character proposed. The pasteboard, thus divided by lines as described, can be cut by scissors into the very triangles desired—each having one right angle, one angle of sixty degrees, and one of thirty.

The variety of work capable of being executed by these three juvenile instruments is literally boundless and endless, and applicable to every human pursuit, whether connected with the highest departments of science, or the most common operations of the farmer, mechanic, or housekeeper. They also afford to the users pleasure so high and so pure, and usefulness so illimitable, both pleasure and usefulness constantly increasing, as to afford a surer safeguard against juvenile pleasures of an immoral or doubtful tendency, than can possibly be provided by attempted restraints upon the exuberance of feeling or the energy of action, constantly and necessarily exhibited wherever the creatures of God, possessing muscle, mind, and soul, are to be found. It is hence proper here to express an opinion, founded upon very long and very large experience, that no better instruments of instruction or of entertainment can possibly be put into young hands than "THE THREE TOOLS" for juvenile mechanism. Their uses, though slightly understood at first, will become more manifest the more they are used.

EXPERIMENTS.—Several boys, much noted as truants, were not long since put in charge of a lady, who provided for them various kinds of work, including both using and making the scale, dividers, and triangle. In that school not one was known as a truant. Their drawing and other work soon became the admiration of their parents, many pieces of which were contributed for sending abroad to let their light shine. These same boys, on being transferred to another school, where "BOOK LESSONS" were only given, again became truants—rather deserters from school—their parents entirely failing to secure their attendance.

ABOUT THE NIGHTINGALE.

JENNY LIND IN AMERICA. By C. G. Rosenberg. Stringer & Townsend, New York.

This (says the New York Evening Post) is an account of Jenny Lind's tour in the United States and Cuba during the past year. It is a small, handsomely printed and bound volume, and, as a memorial of Miss Lind's wonderful career in the new world, will be gratifying to many who desire some record of her successes more enduring and accessible than the notices of them contained in the newspaper press of the country. The writer seems to have accompanied the Nightingale in all her professional journeyings, from her arrival in New York until the close of her engagement with Mr. Barnum. Some of his descriptions of scenes and incidents are lively and picturesque. We give an example:

HOW JENNY WAS BORED AT NEW YORK.

"It would, perhaps, be half-past nine in the morning, and two or three of the servants of the hotel would have been deputed to guard her rooms until she could manage to breakfast. A lady, however, who is well dressed, is not to be stayed by a man servant in this country, and Jenny's drawing-room would already be half full of visiters on 'particular business,' who had crowded past, insisting upon an entrance. Many were applicants for charity—some came in the capacity of autograph-hunters—others to make her acquaintance—and several to introduce new improvements in gloves, buttons, parasol-handles, or some equally precious and invaluable display of the inventive faculty to her notice. Once or twice, indeed, during this period, I saw the onslaught of these intruders, and, to tell the truth, I was not a little astonished to mark her quiet and placid endurance of an intrusion which is not a whit the less annoying and wearisome that it induces a smile at the pertinacity which is displayed in it.

"First, a person would make a bow to her who had sent a musical box, or a curiosity of some class, form, or shape, for her approbation. As, however, it had not been returned, (the rascal omitted stating that he had never called for it,) and he concluded she intended or wished to become its owner, he would be most deeply obliged if Jenny would have the kindness to let him have the price he rated it at—ordinarily not more than triple its value. Jenny naturally enough knew nothing of it, and her maid was summoned. She had a vague remembrance of 'something' which had mysteriously found its way into her mistress's room some day or two since. It was accordingly pointed out by her, and the man was told that he was perfectly at liberty to remove it. This, of course, he could not do without remonstrance and argument. Then advanced the 'lady beggars,' who, in such scores of instances, have wrung money from her that it would here be useless to attempt any thing approaching individual description of a character whose name is legion. To such unexamined and unexpected applicants, Mademoiselle Lind has usually offered twenty or thirty dollars as the shortest way in which she could rid herself of them. In nine instances out of ten would this sum be returned to her with some ungracious remark as the following: 'Scarcely did we expect that *you* would have offered us this pittance;' 'We have indeed been mistaken in your character, madam, for we had heard that you were generous;' or, perchance, 'Excuse us, madam, we came for a donation, and not for alms.' Fortunately, Jenny had received this class of visiters in Europe as well as on our own shores, and is well aware that this species of sponge is to be found in all great cities. With these visiters would be mingled applicants for musical employment—ladies who performed 'wonderfully' on the guitar, or gentlemen who played 'admirably' upon the cornet-a-piston—passionate female admirers, who had come to express their raptures to her in their own persons—some half-dozen ladies, of every variety of age, from eighteen to fifty, carrying that abomination of civilized society called an album—one or two with things they had worked for her, and for which, by unmistakable tokens, a diamond ring would be considered sufficient to cancel the obligation—a gentleman who was indignant and reproachful that a note which he had addressed to her had not been answered—besides scores of messengers from those who had professional and other authorized errands requiring an answer. Letters and notes came in during the morning at the rate of one every other minute, in addition to which she generally received some forty or fifty letters per day through Mr. Barnum's hands."

QUICK TRAVELLING.—The Liverpool *Times* cites the following example of the rapidity of communication with China by means of the overland route by way of the Isthmus of Suez:

"The Indus, which arrived at Southampton on the 19th instant, had on board Mr. FORBES, of Boston, who left Hong Kong on the 26th of April, and left this port for New York in the Africa, which sailed on Saturday last. He will most probably arrive at the latter port about the 1st of July, and will have traversed nearly fourteen thousand three hundred miles in sixty-five days, including stoppages at various ports."

The Africa in fact arrived at New York June 29, two days sooner than estimated in the above paragraph, reducing the passage to sixty-three days. Mr. Forbes arrived at his home near Boston before the 1st of July.

Three persons were drowned at Cleveland on the 10th instant by an omnibus backing off the pier into the river.