

Editor's Table.

BOOK CRITICISMS.

A correspondent in the Northwest, who wields a sharp pen, has sent us a communication on "Newspaper Reviews," which we insert verbatim et literatim in another part of the paper.

Like all writers in the slashing style, our correspondent somewhat overdoes his subject, while saying forcibly and well some true and needed things. We think there are few weekly religious or secular papers who would think of calling the brief notices of books, which they generally publish under the head of "Editor's Table," Reviews. They are simply notices, aimed at little else than announcing the book, with the most general idea of its drift and character.

Readers wish to know, as much as publishers wish to tell them, promptly, what new works are out; and the newspaper editor or publisher feels it part of his multifarious duties to inform them, so far as it is in his power. This is as much and as important a part of the news department as battles and murders. It is quite as interesting to readers of religious papers to know that a minister has written a book, as that he has received an honorary title, gone to Europe, labored in the battle-field of the camp or the hospital under the Christian Commission, received a call or enjoyed a revival in his charge.

THE GREAT PRINTERS STEPHENS. We conclude our extracts from the article on this topic in the last London Quarterly. The writer dwells upon a point of interest to all, though few give it any thought, which was especially important at the era of which he is writing.

ORIGIN OF THE FORM OF OUR PRINTED LETTER.

The earliest printed books differs in nothing from the MSS. of the same date, except in the fact that in the latter the letters are formed with a pen; in the former they are impressed from a stamp. The outline of the letter employed by the first generation of printers is therefore a fac-simile of those employed by the contemporary generation of scribes. Just so, the earliest wood engraving closely copies the style of illumination which was then fashionable. The printer took up and continued the business of the transcriber. The press in each country—Holland or Germany—reproduced exactly the script-hand of each country, Holland or Germany. A striking instance is afforded by the earliest Italian press. The "Lactantius" of 1465, the first (or second) book printed in Italy, was printed by two of Fust's German workmen. Accordingly its types, though distinctly not German, exhibit more or less the German or Gothic forms. Within a very few years, however, the correct and classic eye of the Italian discarded the barbarous flourishes of the Gothic letter. As early as 1470 Jensen engraved at Venice a letter which, with trifling modifications, is that to this day in general use by the printing presses of Western Europe, and known as Roman. It has been said, and often repeated, that this Roman letter was an eclectic letter, invented by the Venetian designers, after a comparison of many alphabets. We are satisfied that this is an error. The Roman type of Jensen was simply an engraved copy of the Italian script-hand of the period. It was not in the power of the early printer to introduce a new letter. The printer was a competitor in the market with the transcriber. He was under a necessity of producing the same article as the rival whom he was seeking to undersell. The commission he gave his engraver was therefore to furnish him with a type closely conformed to the hand in established use by the copyist. Otherwise the public could not have read his books with sufficient ease. The Italian transcriber of the fifteenth century has thus had the unexpected honor of fixing the letter-forms of France, Spain, Holland, England, and through them of a large part of the world.

THE GREEK LETTER.

Angelo Vergείο was the last of the professional calligraphers. The Press, which was yearly perfecting itself as a mechanical art, made, under the superintendence of Robert Estienne, an attempt to reproduce the graces of the pen. Vergείο designed, and Garamond, the first French engraver of the day, executed, the sets in various sizes known ever afterwards as the "Royal Greeks." With these types were produced the Greek books of Robert I., of his son Henri II., and of other of the Estienne, beginning with the Eusebius of 1544. They were liberally communicated to other publishers, and were used not only at Paris by Morell and Turnebus, but also at Heidelberg and Basle. Even those printers who did not obtain founts directly from these

famous moulds, gradually conformed the design of their letters to their model. It requires a very experienced eye to pronounce if a book has been printed with these types, or with a new type designed from them. Thus Vergείο and Robert Stephens had the honor of fixing the forms which the Greek Press all over Europe followed for more than two centuries. It is only within the last hundred years, that as beauty has gradually given place to mechanical perfection, a new type has been introduced into our Greek presses, which is as remote from the Hellenic form of letters as our barbarous enunciation is from the true sound of the language.

The Geneva Printing Establishment fell into the hands of Henri, eldest son of Robert, known as Henri II., to distinguish him from his grandfather of the same name. His brother, named Robert, had forsaken his father and his father's faith, and returning to Paris, set up his press in the old house. Little is said of this Robert by the reviewer. Having submitted to the Papal yoke, there was little chance for him to maintain or add to the lustre of the family name, in an art whose vital breath is liberty.

Henri II. was initiated into the work of his life at seventeen, having assisted in correcting the Dionysius of Halicarnassus which Robert brought out in 1547, an ED. PRINCEPS, and a splendid volume. From that moment he devoted himself as a laborer of love, not of profit, to the reproduction of the works of the ancients,—a task to which he remained constant to the last, a period of fifty years.

From the first, there was in his character an element of restlessness which developed finally almost into lawlessness. At first his long journeys were scholar's pilgrimages bearing directly on his art and profession. For nearly twenty years he toiled with all the herculean energy and profuse results which marked the career of his father.

A mere enumeration of the publications which issued from his press conveys no measure of the amount of this work. He was not a publisher in our sense, but himself supplied the greater part of the material for his own press. If he printed a Greek author, he corrected the text himself; edited it himself; revised when he did not make the Latin version, and often added notes and appendices. His series of editions was accompanied by a bye-play of brochures, grammatical or critical, written in the intervals of press-labor. The year 1566 is pointed to by M. Rénouard as the most prolific in Henri's career. M. Rénouard, himself a practical printer, knew what a compositor's room could do. In the two years, 1566-7 taken together, Estienne put out,—1. A Greek Anthology, in seven books; 550 small folio pages of Greek type. 2. A Corpus of sixteen Greek poets who wrote in heroic hexameters; 1300 pages of Greek, in large folio. 3. A second edition of his Pindar, with revised Latin translation, 570 pages of small 16mo. Greek. 4. Herodotus, with Valla's translation, revised by H. S.; 750 folio pages. 5. A new edition of the Greek Testament, with the Vulgate, and Beza's version in parallel columns. 6. The medical writers, Hippocrates and Galen excepted, in Latin versions; 3500 folio pages. 7. The works of the Greek Sophists; 88 4to. pages. 8. Eight selected tragedies of Sophocles, Æschylus, and Euripides. 9. A Sophocles, though it does not appear in M. Rénouard's list, and we have never seen it. (See App. to Anth. Græc.). In all these he not only corrected the press, but corrected the text; the reader will please to observe the distinction between these two functions. His textual labors may not have a high critical value; but the attention demanded by this revision of some 4000 pages of Greek text is a drain upon the energies to which few men are equal. Yet during this very time he was writing his "Defence of Herodotus," a volume of 600 closely printed pages; not, indeed, a labored production, but certainly original, and full of matter.

At this time, his fortunes having been ruined by expensive publications, for there was no adequate demand, he commenced another and far different career, one of seemingly aimless vagrancy among the courts of Europe, in which we need not follow him. He died in 1598, at Lyons. We will close with a single extract illustrating

ROYAL MUNIFICENCE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

Estienne had not been long in Paris when he was sent for by the King. The conversation turned upon the French language. Next to Greek, this was Estienne's favorite theme. Fresh from the publication of his "Dialogues" on the corruption of French by Italian modes, he harangued fluently on this abuse, and maintained the superiority of French to every modern tongue. The King requested him to write down his thoughts at more length. Estienne would have excused himself on the ground of not having his notes, or any books, at hand. "Trust to your excellent memory," was the royal answer. He sat down to the task, and the "Précéllence du Langage François," thrown off in little more than a fortnight, was the result. It was beautifully printed by Mamerot Patisson, who had married the widow of Robert II., and succeeded to his business. It was presented by the author, in proper form, to the King, who expressed his satisfaction. For some months liberal promises were made, but they remained promises; yet Henri III. was "liberal au-delà des tues lois." At last, August 12, when Estienne was on the point of leaving France in despair, came actually a patent conferring a life-pension of three hundred livres annually upon Estienne, "in consideration of services rendered by himself and ancestors to the Crown of France." Nor was this all. The pension was only to be the retaining fee: the "Précéllence" was to be separately paid by a douceur of a thousand crowns. Munificence truly royal! and fully bearing out d'Aubigné's character of the monarch. A thousand pounds was a sum which Estienne

had probably not handled for many a year. He hastened to the Exchequer to cash his draft. The cashier offered him six hundred down on receiving his receipt in full, Henri indignantly refused. "Very well," was the contemptuous reply; "vous reviendrez à l'offre et ne la retrouverez pas." He did think better of it, and the cashier was as good as his word. By the advice of those who understood better than himself what royal finance was, Henri offered to take the six hundred, and got—nothing! M. Rénouard suggests that the cashier found means, notwithstanding, to make the whole sum figure in his accounts. Considering the profound corruption of the French administration before Sully, we cannot say that the suggestion is an improbable one; and Pierre Mullen—that was his name—even in that time, was noted as "grand larron." We do not know that the pension had a similar fate. But we may infer it with probability from a letter of Melissus, of some years later date. Melissus, writing in 1580, to Estienne, then at Geneva, to congratulate him on his resolution he had taken to set his presses to regular work again, expresses the wish, "that his better genius had guided him back to Geneva sooner, instead of leaving him to be deluded by the empty promises of the Court of France." ("Inani Aulæ Gallicæ pollicitatione deceptum.") Such language would hardly have been addressed to him had he been in receipt of a pension from Henri III.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ENGLISH PUBLISHERS.

Mr. Murray's quarterly list of works in the press embraces: "A Narrative of an Expedition to the Zambesi and its Tributaries, and of the Discovery of Lakes Shirwa and Nyassa, 1858-1864," by David and Charles Livingstone.—"The Correspondence of King George III. with Lord North, 1769 to 1782, during the American War," edited, with notes and introduction, by W. Bodham Donne, Esq.—"Lectures on the History of the Jewish Church," Part II.: Samuel the Captivity, by Dean Stanley.—"Domesticated Animals and Cultivated Plants, or the Principles of Variation, Inheritance, Reunion, Crossing, Interbreeding, and Selection under Domestication," by Charles Darwin.—"Memorials of Service in India," from the Correspondence of the late Major Maeperson, C. B., Agent for the Suppression of Human Sacrifices in Orissa, and at the Court of Seindiah during the Mutiny.—"Studies of the Music of Many Nations," including the substance of a Course of Lectures delivered at the Royal Institution, by Henry F. Chorley.—"History of the French Revolution, 1789-1795," by Professor Von Sybel, translated from the new edition, under the author's sanction and superintendence.—"The Harvest of the Sea," a Contribution to the Natural and Economic History of the British Food Fishes, with Sketches of the Fisheries and the Fishes, Folk, &c., by James G. Bertram.—"The Agamemnon and Bacchantes of Euripides," together with Fragments of the Greek Lyric Poets, translated by Dean Milman.—"A Descriptive Catalogue of the Works of Sir Joshua Reynolds," more complete than any yet published, with Notices of their present Owners and Localities, by Tom Taylor and Charles W. Franks.—"Peking and the Pekingese, during the First Year of the British Embassy at Peking," by Dr. F. Rennie.—"St. Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians," with Critical Notes and Dissertations, by Dean Stanley.—"The History, Geography and Antiquities of Media, Babylonia, and Persia," being the third and fourth volumes of "The Five Ancient Monarchies of the East," by Professor Rawlinson, M. A.—"Chinese Miscellanies," by Sir John Davis, Bart.—"The Works of Alexander Pope, with a new Life, Introductions and Notes," by Rev. Whitwell Elwin.—"The Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem," being the Substance of Two Lectures delivered at the Royal Institution, February, 1862, and March, 1865, by James Ferguson, F. R. S.—"Life, Journals and Letters of Jonathan Swift, Introductory to a New Edition of his Works," by John Forster.—"The New Biographical Britannica, Lives of the Worthies of Great Britain and Ireland," by various Writers.—"The Student's Blackstone, a Systematic Abridgment of Sir W. Blackstone's Commentaries, Adapted to the Present State of the Law," by Dr. Malcolm Kerr.—Works by Dr. William Smith.—"A Classical and Biblical Atlas," constructed by George Grove, Esq.—"A new English Latin Dictionary," compiled from original sources.—"A Dictionary of Christian Antiquities," by various Writers.—"The Student's Manual of Modern Geography," by Rev. W. L. Bevan, M. A.—"The Student's Manual of Scripture History," and "The Student's Manual of Moral Philosophy," by Dr. Fleming.

Messrs. Blackwood and Sons have in the press: "The History of Scotland from Agricola's Invasion to the Revolution of 1688," by John Hill Burton, author of "The Scot abroad."—"Narratives of Arctic Voyages and Cruises in Japanese and Malayan Waters," by Captain Sherard Osborn.—"A Second Series of Essays on Social Subjects," from the "Saturday Review."—"The Iliad of Homer," translated into English Verse in the Spenserian Stanza, by Philip Stanhope Worsley.

Messrs. Rivington are preparing for publication: "The Book of Common Prayer Annotated," by the Rev. John Henry Blunt.—"Post Medieval Preachers, Select Specimens of Pulpit Oratory, with Biographical Sketches, and an Historical Introduction," by the Rev. S. Baring Gould.—"A Latin Version of the Book of Common Prayer," edited by the Rev. W. Bright and the Rev. P. G. Medd.—"The Annual Register," a Review of Public Events at Home and Abroad, for the year 1864, being the second volume of an improved series.—"The Missing Doctrine in Popular Preaching," by the author of "The Life of Christ, a Manual of Christian Knowledge."—Vol. II. Part I. of Dean Alford's "The New Testament for English Readers."—"The Holy Bible, with Notes and Introductions," by Archbishop Wordsworth; Part II., completing the Pentateuch.

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. will publish immediately: "Recent British Philosophy; a Review with Criticisms," by Professor Masson.—Dr. Todd's "Descriptive Catalogue of the Waldensian Manuscripts," which will prove that the original MSS. made use of by Jean Leger, in compiling his "His-

tory of the Vaudois," are now in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin; and will also contain an account of the supposed loss of the Morland MSS. from the University Library, Cambridge, and their recent recovery.—Mr. G. O. Trevelyan (the son of Sir Charles Trevelyan, and a nephew of Lord Macaulay) has now ready "Cawnpore," drawn from authentic, and, in many cases, new sources, and illustrated with a plan of Cawnpore, and two engravings from photographs of the burial ground and the well. Messrs. Macmillan have also in preparation an important work on the Coal Question, by W. Stanley Jevons, being an inquiry concerning the probable exhaustion of our coal-mines, based on geological and statistical science.

Messrs. Hurst and Blackett have in preparation: "The Life of his Eminence Cardinal Wiseman,"—"Religious Life on the Continent," by Mrs. Oliphant, author of "Life of the Rev. Edward Irving."—"The Life of Josiah Wedgwood," with an introductory sketch of the art of pottery in England, by Eliza Meteyard.—"Brigid Life in Italy," by Count Maffei.—"Adventures amongst the Dyaks of Borneo," by Frederick Boyle, Esq.—"Social Life in Florence," by Count Charles Arrivabene, author of "Italy under Victor Emmanuel."—"Agnes," by Mrs. Oliphant; and "William Shakespeare," by Cardinal Wiseman.

Messrs. Sampson, Low & Co.'s forthcoming books include: "A Winter in Algeria in 1863-4,"—"The Great Schools of England," by Howard Staunton.—"A Reference Edition of Milton's Complete Poetical Works," with a Concordance Index by Charles D. Cleveland.—"A Walk from London to the Land's End," by Elihu Burritt.—"Like unto Christ: A New Translation of Thomas à Kempis," with a Vignette from an Original Drawing by Sir Thomas Lawrence, by J. Hain Friswell, Esq.—"The Second and Concluding Volume of the Life and Correspondence of Dr. Lyman Beecher."—"A Handbook of Missionary Geography."

THE HOLY LAND.—Mr. Hepworth Dixon, who has been travelling in the East, is about publishing his travels in Palestine, in two volumes, with steel illustrations and wood-cuts.

NEWSPAPER REVIEWS.

We have a general and well grounded distrust of quack medicines, German in twelve lessons, twenty dollar gold watches, and newspaper reviews. We wish to impress our readers with the same dislikes, to such an extent as to induce them with one voice to demand, that editors of newspapers shall confine themselves to their own vocation, leave the publishers to do the puffing in the appropriate column, and the reviewers to do the reviewing according to their respective creeds.

Notwithstanding Sydney Smith's celebrated refusal to read a book he was about to review, lest he should contract a prejudice against it, mortals of duller wit will find that plan of procedure greatly inconvenient and inconsistent. An editor receives a dozen volumes from a publisher, about the first of December, each of which would demand a month to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest, in such wise as to give any profitable opinion of its contents, and of their meaning. The publisher, however, cannot wait a twelvemonth. He wants to sell his books during the holidays, and to have them puffed by the editors previously; and his advertising business adds weight to his wishes. But the editor who has the affairs of the nation to review; the care of all the churches upon his shoulders; editorials to write upon negro suffrage, reconstruction, new school heresy, or old school bigotry, with a review of the markets, and a painful weekly examination besides of the lists of delinquent subscribers, not to speak of two hours' calls from country clergy, and letters from strong-minded sisters to reply to, has not got the patient reading-machine into which books may be poured by the bushel, and the sense extracted into a phial in two hours. What then is he to do?

He may proceed on faith in the intelligence and integrity of publishers; and taking it for granted that they have sense enough to imitate the example of the Carters, (who have made a fortune by publishing no books which they have not read,) receive every book the publishers send him as good in its way, and dip into it here and there to find some sparkling passages for extracts. Some publishers, knowing the pressure on his time, mark these gems in pencil, and turn down the leaf. Then he goes to work with a tolerable supply of adjectives and phrases—enterprize, typography, obligations of the public to the publisher for this valuable work, original, brilliant, learned, suggestive, with a saving clause of not endorsing everything it contains, and scribbles off a quarter column of commendation.

It is very difficult however to produce a dozen such reviews sufficiently varied, and the stereotyped phrases soon become ridiculously familiar, and then stupid. Then it is a preposterous position for a grave Presbyterian to be found endorsing some abominable Socinianism, a Reformed Dutchman introducing Gail Hamilton's marriage system, or an orthodox Baptist commending an Episcopal hymn book; and a pious Methodist lauding Herbert Spencer's infidel philosophy. The honest man meant no such thing. They simply had not time to read the books carefully, or know what the writers were driving at. We submit that this absurdity has now become so ridiculous that editors should refuse any longer the prospect of the pillory.

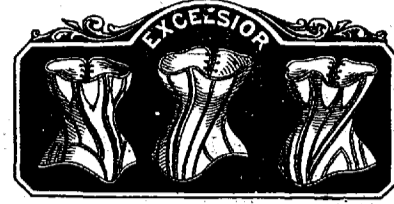
Besides, there is no regular tariff for these editorials—often an editor makes a fool of himself for nothing. He might read a withering exposure of his commendation of nonsense in the columns of his rival, without injury to his eye-

sight, were it shaded by a suitable green-back; but publishers don't pay for reviews, they pay only for their advertisements.

We suggest then a meeting of the trade to resolve that henceforth publishers write their own newspaper reviews, insert them in the advertising columns, and pay for them, and that editors give up the business of reviewing books to men who have time to read them.

R. P.

For the Ladies.



To the Ladies.

Look o'er the fashions which old pictures show, As they prevailed some fifty years ago; At least that phase of fashion which conveys Hints of those instruments of torture—crural And then compare the old, complex machine, With that which in these modern days is seen: No more a steel and whalebone in the chest, Or staid, or liver, terribly compressed; No more a curving rib, or waving spine, Twisted and tortured out of Beauty's line For skill and science both unite to show How much of 't health to dress do women owe.

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