

Editor's Table.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

AMERICAN.—Quite a flight of song-birds has been noticed in our American literary heavens. We give such brief notices of them as our space allows:—

Alfred B. Street's Poems have been re-issued in two 12mo. vols. Our readers know him as the author of the stirring and noble poem, "The Day Forest Eagle."—Forney's Wilson's Poems from Ticknor & Fields, are somewhat Emersonian.—We gave a pleasing specimen of Mrs. F. Gage's "The Farmer's Wife," in our last.—(pp. 100-101.)—Amanda T. Jones' chief Poem, "Lullaby," is a classic subject applied to our own present condition, grandly treated, in a new style, with mingled beauty and strength of rhythm.—(Hurd & Houghton.)—Robert K. Lee's verses are scrappy, but of a thoughtful quality.—(Leypoldt.)—S. Dryden Phelps writes the "Poet's Song for the Heart and the Hand," religious in tone.—(Sheldon & Co.)—Bridges Jefferson Cutler's War Poems, only 13 number, are effective, patriotic, and ably written.—(Little, Brown & Co.)—Rev. Wm. Allen D.D., a veteran in this line, issues "Poems of Faith and of the Cross." Though the subjects are familiar, they are treated with freshness and individuality.—(Bridgman & Childs, Northampton.)—Poems and Translations by Emma Sears, purport to be the work of a miss from the fourteenth to her seventeenth year. They surprisingly elaborate for such an age. The translations are from Heine and Victor Hugo.—(Hurd & Houghton.)—"Antonius," a dramatic Poem by J. C. Heywood, author of Heroic plot founded on the Druidical Rites in Britain; bold in conception, vigorous in execution, takes a high rank.—(Hurd & Houghton.)—"King Rene's Daughter" is a dramatic Poem by Herriek Herz, translated by Theodor Martini, a fine piece of historical romance.—(Leypoldt & Holt.)—A. D. F. Randolph has issued, through Scribner, "Hopefully Waiting" and other Poems.—John James Platt, of Cincinnati, writes "Poems in Sunshine and Fire," and John A. Dorgan, of this city, after giving a third edition of "Stanzas," recognized by critics as exhibiting many of the best indications of poetic power, a few days ago submitted to the editor a new volume, which he is understood to have left behind him manuscript poems sufficient to form another volume, which may very likely soon be printed. They are in the hands of the poet's sister.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.—Presbyterian Publication Committee, Philadelphia.—"Faith and Victory: a Tale of Bengal," by the late Mrs. Mullens, of Calcutta.—Messrs. Ticknor & Fields announce diamond editions of Dickens' works, uniform with their exquisite diamond Tennyson. They also announce Longfellow in the same style at \$1.25 a volume. Their list of forthcoming works embraces: Poems, Grave and Gay, by George Arnold; "The Tent on the Beach, by Whittier; Records of Five Years, by Grace Greenwood; Greece, Ancient and Modern, by C. C. Felton, LL.D.; Famous Americans of Recent Times, by Parton; Religious Poems, by Mrs. Stowe; May Day, and other Pieces, by Ralph Waldo Emerson.—G. F. Carleton & Co., New York.—A new volume by Dr. Cumming, author of "The Great Tribulation," etc.—Leypoldt & Holt, New York.—The Protestant Galley Slave, from the French; "Gull's Meditations on Christianity, and the Attacks now made upon it, from the French; Lessing's Nathan the Wise, with an Essay by Fischer, from the German.—D. Appleton & Co.—American Annual Cyclopaedia for 1866; Ritter's Comparative Geography of Palestine and Syria, 4 vols. 8vo., \$14; New Testament History, by Wm. Smith, 1 vol. 12mo., \$3.—E. P. Dutton & Co., Boston.—The Restoration of Belief, by Isaac Taylor, a new revised edition, with an additional chapter.—Gould & Lincoln.—The New Birth, or the Work of the Holy Spirit, by Austin Phelps, Professor in Andover Theological Seminary, pp. x., 253.—Hurd & Houghton.—Paradise Lost, a new edition, with explanatory notes, pp. xiv., 409.

ROBERT CARTER & BROS. announce:—Curlew Chimes, by Rev. Dr. Maeduff; Out of Harness, by Rev. Dr. Guthrie; My Father's Business, by the same; Jugged Tools, by the author of "Win and Wear;" Bonar's Hymns, third series; Yesterday, To-day, and Forever, by Bickelstein; Life of Rev. Dr. Marsh, by Miss Marsh; The Lake of the Woods, and the Wanderer in Africa, by A. L. O. E., and the other new volumes of the same author already announced.

SCRIBNER is about to put into the market new issues at a reduced price, of those standard works of learning and thought by George P. Marsh, "Lectures on the English Language," "Origin and History of the English Language," and "Man and Nature;" and likewise of President Woolsey's "International Law," and of Maine's "Ancient Law."

A. STRAHAN, London and New York, has issued Mansel's Philosophy of the Conditioned, comprising some Remarks on Sir William Hamilton's Philosophy, and on Mr. J. S. Mill's Examination of that Philosophy; also Herschel's Familiar Lectures on Scientific Subjects, pp. xii., 507.

W. J. WIDDLETON, New York, will immediately bring out an octavo of nearly 400 pages, entitled "Philip II. of Spain," written by Charles Gayarre, author of the well-known "History of Louisiana"—a work of which Mr. Bancroft, who largely quotes from it, has said, "There is little need of looking beyond Gayarre, who rests his narrative on authentic documents." The same publisher also issues the American reprint of Congdon's Aeneid at \$2.50; also Herschel's Translation of the "Iliad" of Homer into English Accented Hexameters. He also announces the first American edition of the Proust Papers, in two volumes, with a portrait of the author (Rev. Francis Mahony), additional poems not heretofore collected, notes, various readings, and an original biography.

"BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF BOOKS RELATING TO AMERICA."—The first part of Mr. Joseph Sabin's work under this title is now ready. Mr. Sabin informs us that nearly four years of labor have been spent in arranging and classifying the material which had accumulated on his hands in the course of fifteen years of research.

LEXICOGRAPHY.—The following announcement will prove interesting to all students of the Hebrew Scriptures: A Hebrew and Chaldean Lexicon to the Old Testament, with an Introduction, giving a Short History of Hebrew Lexicography, by Dr. I. Fuerst. Third Edition, improved and enlarged, containing a Grammatical and Analytical Appendix. Translated from the German by Samuel Davidson, D.D. Roy. 8vo., pp. xxxvi., 1511. N. Y.: Leypoldt & Holt. Sheep binding, \$11. The work is printed for the American publishers in Leipzig, and is far from dear for one of that high character.

CLARK & Co., Chicago, advertise in New York what will probably be an important addition to our recent political history. It is "A History of President Lincoln and the Overthrow of Slavery," intended to give an inside view of the recent administration. It is sold by subscription only.—McPherson's Political Manual for 1866 has sold to the extent of 20,000 copies since the middle of July.

EXTRAORDINARY CHEAPNESS OF RECENT BRITISH PUBLICATIONS.—Literature of every kind, from the daily paper and the child's spelling-book to the commentaries, encyclopedias and law books of the professions, is a luxury with us as it used to be in England. See what it is in England now. The editor of the *Royal Table* speaks of having seen one of the set of the "Waverley Novels" to be published by an Edinburgh house. The volume is printed in a beautifully clear though small type, upon nice paper, has an illustrated title-page, and is in every way a pleasant edition of these novels. The retail price of this book in England is sixpence; in New York it is sold wholesale at the rate of fifteen cents per copy, retail at, perhaps, twenty-five cents. If made here, it could not be retailed at less than seventy-five cents. The other book is the first volume of an edition of "Shakespeare"—which should be completed in fifteen volumes, or thereabouts, as this one contains three plays—issued by Messrs. Bradbury, Evans & Co., of London. "The little book, about the size of one's vest-pocket, is exquisite in typography and cream-tinted paper—as delightful a 'Shakespeare' as one need wish to read from. The English retail price of this is a shilling, and its wholesale price here probably about thirty cents, inasmuch as the New York dealers can afford to retail it at fifty cents. A cheapness of book-making which seems almost incredible is now established in England. Messrs. Macmillan & Co., for instance, publish "Shakespeare" complete, in handsome form, for two shillings and sixpence (62 cents). Mr. Murray, for half-a-crown (rather less than a dollar, with allowance for the premium on gold,) publishes, in handsome shape, a complete "Byron." A Glasgow house sells the complete "Pilgrim's Progress," 255 32mo. pages of it, for twopence; or bound in cloth for fourpence; while, to return to "Shakespeare," a complete edition is returned for a shilling; out its appearance is unpleasant.

Rural Economy.

INFLUENCE OF WATER ON THE PRODUCTION OF MILK.

In a communication to the French Academy of Sciences, Dr. Dancel discusses the influence of liquid food and of water upon the quantity of milk secreted by herbivorous animals. It is found that by inciting cows to drink large quantities of water, the quantity of milk yielded by them can be increased several quarts per day without materially injuring its quality; the amount of milk obtained is approximately proportional to the quantity of water drunk. Cows which, when stall-fed with dry fodder, gave only from nine to twelve quarts of milk per day, at once produced from twelve to fourteen quarts daily when their food was moistened by mixing with it from eighteen to twenty-three quarts of water per day. Besides this water taken with the food, the animals were allowed to drink at the same intervals as before, and their thirst was excited by adding to the fodder a small quantity of salt. The milk produced under the water regimen, after having been carefully analyzed and examined as to its chemical and physical properties, was adjudged to be of good quality; excellent butter was obtained from it.

The precise proportion of water which can thus be given to cows with advantage is a point not readily determinable, since the appetite for drink differs very considerably in different individuals. But by observing the degree of the appetite for drink in a number of cows, by taking note of the quantity of water habitually consumed by each of the animals in the course of twenty-four hours, and contrasting this quantity with that of the milk produced, Dancel asserts that any one can see that the yield of milk is directly proportional to the quantity of water absorbed. He asserts, moreover, in as many words, that a cow which does not habitually drink as much as twenty-seven quarts of water per day, and he has met with such, is actually and necessarily a poor milk-er; she will give only from five and a half to seven quarts of milk per day. But all the cows he has seen which drank as much as fifty quarts of water daily were excellent milkers, yielding from nineteen to twenty-three quarts, or more, of milk. In his opinion, the quantity of drink consumed by a cow is a valuable test of her worth as a milk-producer.

In the main, these experiments do but illustrate with greater precision facts which have long been familiar to practical men. The nurse, when suckling the human infant, does not naturally consume much more solid food than before, but of liquids she drinks much larger quantities. After a cow has begun to give milk she drinks far more water than before; the quantity of water consumed increasing, according to Dancel, from between eleven and eighteen quarts per day, or even less, to twenty-seven, thirty-six, or forty-five quarts, or more—at least for the breed of cattle upon which he has experimented.

As far as practical information goes, we have gained very little on Virgil (Georgics, III. 394):

"At cui lactis amor, cytium lotosque frequentes Ipse manu salsaque ferat presepibus herbas. Hinc et amant fluvios magis, et magis ubera tendunt, Et salis occultum referunt in lacte saporem."

We are only able to state, somewhat more precisely than Virgil did, the effect of following these excellent directions.

As Dancel justly urges, however, the principle here laid down has hitherto not been sufficiently recognized by men of science in many of the experiments which have been undertaken for the purpose of comparing the value of different kinds of fodder, and of determining the influence which they severally exert upon the production of milk.

Though presented as a physiological disquisition, and by no means without value from the physiologist's point of view, Dancel's paper will be more likely to attract general attention from its bearing upon the vexed subject of adulteration. If the accuracy of the proposition be admitted, that by inducing a cow to drink every day twenty-odd quarts of water more than her accustomed ration, several additional quarts of milk can be obtained from her, and if the practicability of the operation be accepted as proved, then the question at once arises as to whether or no the method now under discussion will be in any way preferable to the time-honored custom of adding a certain amount of water to the milk after it has left the cow. The customary method, at first sight, certainly seems to be simpler than the plan now hinted at, of pouring six times the needful quantity of water down the cow's throat; but it is well-nigh certain that the milk thus indirectly "extended," *a la Dancel*, will be superior in quality to milk watered to the same extent after the milk has been taken from the cow. Not only will analysis be like to exhibit a far closer approximation to the composition of ordinary normal-milk in the former case than in the latter, but we may be sure that milk diluted within the animal will receive a certain share, at least, of that elaboration and commingling of its ingredients which is as yet inimitable by man, and which so widely distinguishes organized matter from that which is unorganized. The milk of the water-soaked cows must still be regarded as milk, not as adulterated milk. Milk of quality somewhat inferior to the ordinary it may be, in spite of M. Dancel's opinion to the contrary, but it is still the animal secretion, milk, and not a mere mixture of milk and water. Here, as in a host of other cases of so-called adulteration, it would be well if dealers would only adopt some system of just adaptation of price to quality; just as in the Russian markets one may choose between first, second, and third quality eggs, according to the length of his purse and the delicacy of his taste. N. Y. Nation.

Scientific.

HERRING.

An eminent French writer has remarked that "the herring is one of those natural productions, the use of which has decided the destinies of nations." This may seem to be an exaggeration of the importance of a little fish, whose extreme length is but a few inches; but the history of the herring fisheries shows that the remark is eminently just, and it is an illustration of the common principle that the smallest matters may by combination be elevated to the highest rank. The time was, not very long ago, when the entire product of cotton in this country was a few hundred pounds, but it soon rose to millions of pounds, and then to millions of bales, and it has exerted the most powerful influence upon the destinies of more than one nation. It is many hundred years since the leading maritime nations of Europe devoted a large attention to fostering the herring fisheries, not alone for their immediate products, but for the education of a hardy race of seaman to man their navies and to add to their prowess in obtaining the supremacy of the seas. The value of the fish, also, as a cheap and agreeable food for the people, which was soon in great demand, enabled the government easily to induce their adventurous sons to engage in these fisheries. Holland was one of the first countries to enter largely in the herring fishery, and her subsequent greatness as a commercial and a warlike nation was in a great measure owing to the profit derived from it. Amsterdam, we are told, from a village of herring-catchers' cabins and curing-sheds, rose by the skill and enterprise of those in one way and another connected with the business, and by the traffic immediately springing from it, to a pitch of affluence and grandeur scarcely paralleled. The saying that "Amsterdam is founded on herring-bones" is almost historically as well as proverbially true. The French, many centuries ago, perceived the importance of fostering this branch of national enterprise, and if they were not as great consumers of the article as the Dutch, they contribute very largely toward the supply of the rest of the world. Nor were the English behind their neighbours across the channel in making war upon this small specimen of the funny tribe.

To the scientific and curious the herring has been one of the most remarkable and interesting of the inhabitants of the ocean.—Its habits have been a subject of study for ages, and although we cannot be said to have arrived at accurate knowledge in regard to all their modes of life, yet enough has been learned to repay study and to stimulate the cultivation of a better acquaintance. It is the common belief that the herrings spend the winter in the arctic regions, and that they live there upon the insects with which those northern seas swarm. Some, on the other hand, maintain that they merely retire from the vicinity of the land to the deep waters of the ocean on the approach of winter, and return again from no distant parts to the shores. But the fact seems to be well

established that they make their appearance on the coast of Europe in the spring, from the far north, from which they come down in immense quantities, thickening the water of the ocean for miles and miles, as the swarms of locusts in the East fill the air like thick clouds. An eminent naturalist describes their appearance off the British Islands as follows:

"This mighty army begins to put itself in motion in spring. They begin to appear off the Shetland Isles in April and May. These are only the fore-runners of the grand shoals which comes in June; and their appearance is marked by certain signs, such as the numbers of birds, like gannets and others, which follow to prey on them; but when the main body approaches, its breadth and depth is such as to alter the appearance of the very ocean. It is divided into distinct columns of five or six miles in length, and three or four in breadth. They drive the water before them with a kind of a rippling. Sometimes they sink for the space of ten or fifteen minutes, and then rise again to the surface; and in fine weather reflect a variety of colors, like a field of most precious gems. The first check this army meets in its march southward is from the Shetland Isles, which divide it into two parts. One wing takes to the east, the other to the western shores of Great Britain, and fill every bay and creek with their numbers. The former proceed toward Yarmouth, the great and ancient mart of herrings. They then pass through the British Channel, and after that in a manner disappear. Those which take toward the west, after offering themselves to the Hebrides, where the great stationary fishery is, proceed to the north of Ireland, where they meet with a second interruption, and are obliged to make a second division. The one takes to the western side, and is scarcely perceived, being soon lost in the immensity of the Atlantic; but the other, that passes into the Irish Sea, rejoices and feeds the inhabitants of most of the coasts that border on it.—These brigades, as we may call them, which are thus separated from the greater columns, are often capricious in their motions, and do not show an invariable attachment to their haunts. This instinct of migration was given to the herrings that they might deposit their spawn in warmer seas, that would mature and vivify it more assuredly than those of the frozen zone. It is not from defect of food that they set themselves in motion, for they come to us full of fat; and on their return are almost universally observed to be lean and miserable."

INSECTS FABRICATORS OF IRON.

It is well known that some insects are skilful spinners, but it is not known that some of them fabricate iron. A Swedish naturalist, Sjogreen, has published a curious memoir on this subject. The insects in question are almost microscopic, they live beneath certain trees, especially in the province of Smaland, and they spin, like silk worms, a kind of ferruginous cocoons, which constitute the mineral known under the name of "lake ore," and which is composed of from 20 to 60 per cent. of oxide of iron, mixed with oxide of manganese; ten per cent. of chloric, and some centimetres of phosphoric acid. The deposits of this mineral may be 215 yards long and from 18 to 30 inches thick.

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