

Editor's Table.

Publishers will confer a favor by mentioning the prices of all books sent to this Department.

HER MAJESTY'S TOWER, by Wm. Hepworth Dixon, is a series of descriptive and narrative sketches upon the various buildings composing the Tower of London, and the distinguished persons who have found in it their final earthly abode; around which gather all the thrilling associations of "a nation's highest splendor, deepest misery and darkest shame." Very easy indeed it is to invest with interest, upon the printed page, the story of a building which has eight hundred years of historic life, and nineteen hundred of traditional fame; the oldest palace and prison of Europe, of civilization. A dry guide-book would gleam with unearthly light, which simply indicated the chamber where Lady Jane Grey lodged after the literal nine days' wonder of her Queenship; the room where Sir Walter Raleigh wrote his History of the World with the same fingers which felt the edge of the executioner's axe, to learn whether it was sharp enough to do its work well; and the room where Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley searched the New Testament together. But we all know Mr. Dixon is far from being a Dry-as-dust. His skill in picturesque and effective grouping of facts is too well known, indeed is apt to lead him away from the facts themselves. But in the work before us, the facts are too well ascertained to allow of romancing, or too romantic in themselves to need it. The book is dedicated to the Queen by her express permission, and re-published in this country by HARPER & BROS. 12mo. pp. 263, with index. Price 60 cents.

IN PEG WOFFINGTON, CHRISTIE JOHNSTONE AND OTHER STORIES, we have the concluding volume of FIELDS, OSGOOD & Co.'s Household Edition of Reade, a famous and in many respects admirable writer of fiction, whose place can scarcely be reckoned second to any in his department of literature. With the single exception, but a very gross one, his writings can be commended as free from impurity, and as able arguments in the skillfullest form for valuable moral and social ends. The Household Edition, now concluded, is in the neatest and handiest 16mo. form, bound in green cloth, the page being divided into two columns. Price \$1 per volume. For sale by Lippincott.

MEMORY'S TRIBUTE TO THOMAS H. STOCKTON, by Alexander Clark, of the Methodist Church, Pittsburgh, is one of those very few tributes to the departed which not only from its subject, but from the genial, sympathetic and eloquent manner of its treatment, and from the public value of the accompanying documents, deserve to command a wide and interested regard. The report of the prayer offered by Mr. Stockton, at Gettysburg, in hearing which Mr. Lincoln's own mind was, by his own admission, deeply awakened, is alone worth the price of the little volume. New York: S. R. Wells.

PERIODICALS AND PAMPHLETS. Monthlies received for March: MISSIONARY HERALD. LITTLE CORPORAL. MAYNE REID'S ONWARD.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS' NEWS is a weekly paper published by Alfred Martien, and well edited by our friend, Rev. Henry Reeves. It is full of attractive, varied and perfectly wholesome matter for young people of both sexes from ten to eighteen. Illustrated, price \$1 a year.

THE YALE LITERARY MAGAZINE, conducted by the Students of Yale College, has now reached its 34th volume, and is the oldest college periodical in America. We note among its Editors, Mr. Edward P. Wilder, son of the heroic missionary in Kolapoer.

LITERARY ITEMS. BARBARA FRIETZCHIE—A LETTER FROM JOHN G. WHITTIER.—The following appeared in The Washington Star of Feb. 23.

"Recently a communication appeared in The Star claiming for Mrs. M. A. Quantrell that she is entitled to the honors given to Barbara Fritchie (immortalized in Whittier's stirring verse) for displaying the Stars and Stripes while the Rebel troops were passing through Frederick. We have now from Mr. Whittier the following letter, in which he holds to his faith in Barbara, and gives good reason for so doing. As there is no doubt, from the testimony of at least four witnesses, that Mrs. Quantrell's claim is well founded, there seems to be considerable mystification in the matter. Probably the true solution is that both these brave Union women displayed their patriotism and their courage in the same way on the same occasion:

"To the Editor of the Star:—I have received a copy of thy paper, containing a letter from a lady who claims to have been the heroine of the flag at Frederick. I have never heard of her before, and, of course, know nothing of her veracity or loyalty. I must say, however, in justice to myself, that I have full confidence in the truth of the original statement furnished me by a distinguished literary lady of Washington as respects Barbara Fritzie— a statement soon after confirmed by Dorothea Dix, who visited Frederick, and made herself acquainted with many interesting particulars of the life and character of that remarkable woman. Very truly thy friend, JOHN G. WHITTIER.

'Amesbury, 19th, 2d mo., 1869.'—Mrs. Lydia R. Bailey, who died in Philadelphia, Feb. 21, at the age of 91, carried on the printing business in this city for over 59 years. Her husband, Robert Bailey, died in 1808, and she continued the printing until 1861. Previous to the introduction of steam-power presses she had one of the largest offices in the city. She was the "city printer" for some years. —MAYNE REID, in the March No. of his Maga-

zine "ONWARD," explains that chiefly through the "failure or default" of the once great English banking house of Overend, Gurney & Co., he has suffered a financial affliction, compelling him, at a time when he might have expected repose, to renew the labor of a lifetime.

The most famous and most objectionable of Charles Reade's Novels, (Griffith Gaunt), on its first appearance as a magazine serial was very violently and abusively assailed for its impurity, in the ROUND TABLE. Mr. Reade instituted suit against the paper for libel, and the case has just been tried in one of the New York courts. As part of the evidence for the plaintiff, the court permitted the reading of the novel, which was done in part by the veteran reader Vandenhoff. It was described as a tedious operation as far as it went, but on the second day, the court withdrew its permission and the reading ceased. It was in evidence that Mr. Reade received either £3 or 3 guineas per page for "Griffith Gaunt," from the publishers of The Atlantic Monthly, and five or six guineas from The Argosy; also, a percentage on the sales of the story after being published in book form by Messrs. Ticknor & Fields. It was also in evidence, that the circulation of the Round Table at the time of the publication of the alleged libel was 3,725 to 3,750. The defendant (Round Table) opened the case by a motion to dismiss the complaint on the ground that the Court has no jurisdiction, Mr. Reade, the plaintiff, being a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, living in London. The motion was overruled, without requiring an answer from the opposing lawyer. The novel itself, and Mr. Reade's own defence of it, called "Prurient Prudes" were put in evidence to justify the criticism of the Round Table. The counsel for the latter pleaded that the book in question did paint vice in an enticing form, and an honest critic, especially when asked by the author or publisher to criticise it, would condemn such demoralizing books. The jury, March 4th, gave a verdict for the plaintiff and put the damages at six cents.

SCRIBNER'S "Book-Byer," (semi-monthly journal of Literature) has lately been accompanied with full lists of the valuable English works, both old and recent, upon the shelves of SCRIBNER, WELFORD & Co. One department is headed "Bulletin of Books received during the past month," and comprises recent valuable works in Philosophy, Religion, History, Poetry and Fiction, Education, Finely Illustrated, Voyages and Travels, Medicine, Arts and Sciences, Miscellaneous; and which is a deeply interesting study to the literary man, and of the highest value to the enquirer in every department of knowledge. A supplement to the Book-Byer, of Feb. 15th, as noted last week, gave a full catalogue of a single department of this great collection, viz.: that of Arts and Sciences, embracing 64 closely printed pages. A similar supplement contains a descriptive list of Messrs. Scribner & Co.'s Religious and Theological publications.

Another department is the List of Importations, including many scarce, curious and unique books, from Boydell's Shakespeare at \$250, Hume & Smollett at \$125, and Bunsen's Egypt at \$87.50, to Theologia Germanica at \$1.25. One gets a better and wider view of the actual realm of English literature from this catalogue than from many letters of correspondents.

Messrs. CHARLES SCRIBNER & Co. are about to publish Chips from a German Workshop, by Prof. Max Müller, M. A. The work will be produced in two crown octavo volumes, uniform in size and style with Lectures on the Science of Language, by the same distinguished author, and the two volumes will be sold for \$5.

Of English works, we announce a new book by Mr. W. E. H. Lecky, author of the History of Rationalism: A History of European Morals, from Augustus to Charlemagne. Mr. Lecky is a young man believed to be of Irish birth, who spends much of his time travelling on the Continent, and is almost unknown, even to his publishers.—We also note that Mr. John Stuart Mill, since his retirement from political life, is getting out a new edition of his father, John Mill's, Analysis of the Phenomena of the Human Mind, for many years among the rarest of modern books.—And Mr. Rassam makes the most of his Abyssinian captivity by writing a book on it.—A new edition of Rev. Mr. Liddon's University Sermons, uniform with the eminently successful Bampton Lectures on the Divinity of Christ, by the same author.—Mr. Gladstone, true to his early literary love, will shortly publish, through Messrs. Macmillan & Co., a new volume of Homeric Studies, Juvenus Mundi, The Gods and Heroes of Greece.—We also note R. F. Burton's Explorations of the Highlands of Brazil, with a full Account of the Gold and Diamond Mines, and a Canoe Voyage of 1,500 miles down the Great River San Francisco; also Prince Salm Salm's stirring Diary in Mexico, where will be found the fullest account of the last days of the Emperor Maximilian, with whom he was a fellow-prisoner, and whose fate he narrowly escaped sharing.—Also, Doctor Hartwig's Polar World, or Man and Nature in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions; a very important work by Mr. James Fergusson, the historian of Architecture, Trees and Serpent Worship, or Illustrations of Mythology and Art in India, in the first and fourth centuries after Christ, from Buddhist sculptures, &c.; A Memoir of Lord Palmerston, by Sir Henry L. Bulwer.—A charming edition of Horace, illustrated, com amore, entirely from ancient gems, intaglios, &c., by C. M. King, well known by his previous works on that branch of antique art; The Sun, a monograph by Balfour Stewart and J. Norman Lockyer.

A large number of friends of Sabbath-schools, in several States, have called a National Mass and Delegated Convention, to meet at Newark, New Jersey, April 28th, 1869. The place is designated by invitation from the New Jersey State S. S. Association and of citizens of Newark. The object of the meeting is to consult in regard to plans of labor, methods of holding institutes, convention work and organization, normal instruction, in regard to States where State conventions are not yet organized, and in regard to the relations of our work to the Sunday-school work in other lands.

Afflictions are God's workmen upon our hearts to pull down the pride and carnal security of them; and being so, their nature is changed; they are turned into blessings and benefits.

Scientific.

THE NEW CHICAGO TUNNEL.

Mr. T. D. Stetson gives an account of a recent visit to the Chicago Tunnel. He says that some confusion had existed in regard to the tunnel at Chicago. There were two tunnels in that city. One extended under the lake two miles, and was full of water. Through this the city obtained pure water from a point in the lake beyond the influence of the sewerage and filth of the city. But this was not the tunnel he intended to talk about. The other tunnel was under the Chicago River, and was a practical success. This was an interesting topic, now that a tunnel under the East River is talked of. The Thames tunnel had been a success to a certain extent. Foot passengers passed through, but as yet no carriage-ways had been used. But in Chicago carriage-ways were in actual use under the south branch of the Chicago River. This was the only instance where carriages actually drove through a tunnel under a navigable river. This tunnel, at the crossing of Washington St., Chicago, had been made as an experiment, instead of building a drawbridge, such as is found on every other street, crossing the river. A great deal of shipping passed through this river, and over the tunnel. The river was not deep—about 14 feet at the point in question. The depth of the tunnel was 13 feet. It consisted of three arches, two for carriages and one for foot passengers. It was lighted throughout with gas. The width of the river was 220 feet. The tunnel was not constructed by tunneling, in the ordinary meaning of the word. A coffer dam was built, so that one side of the river might be jumped at a time, that navigation might not be interfered with. The tunnel was cut out as a ditch, from the top, and then walled up and arched over. An arrangement had been made for keeping the tunnel dry by a well sunk in the middle, leading to a sewer, which conveyed the water to one side of the river, where it was pumped out. The interior of the arch is of brick, the sides are stone. Bituminous cement on top of the brick, concrete, on that, and flagstone still above, forming the bed of the river. The top of the tunnel is nearly on a level with the bottom of the river. In regard to tunneling the East River from New York to Brooklyn, people had generally an idea that it was to be done by laying an immense iron tube on the bottom. In tunneling in the ordinary way under this river, too very unmanageable materials would be found in the way—quicksand and rock. This was very different from the material met in tunneling the Thames. There, they had simply to cut through a stiff blue clay. There was a similar bed of clay under Chicago. The speaker enumerated the usual difficulties met with in tunneling. The Chicago Tunnel was a practical success. It was 220 feet across the river, and the entire length of the tunnel, to secure a proper grade, was 1,600 feet. Stairways admitted foot passengers at different points. The specifications called for ventilation, but the current of air through the tunnel was quite sufficient, in fact was complained of as being too strong. The grade was one foot in 16. The width of the tunnel was about 30 feet. Mr. Edmund Ferguson presented a model of a section for an iron tunnel to be laid on the bottom of the East River. The shape is oval, and the pressure sustained by arches and pillars of iron. The shell is double, and made of iron plates firmly riveted, and water-tight. These sections are to be laid down one at a time, and the connection made under water. Each end of the section is closed until the connection is made with the preceding section when the partition is removed, and so on across the river. Several gentlemen spoke highly of the apparent feasibility of the plan. Mr. Ferguson estimates the cost, including land rights and other contingencies, at \$2,500,000.—Tribune.

CONCERT PITOH.

This subject is attracting great interest among musicians abroad, and singers in England particularly are complaining that modern music is written so high that the human voice is incapable of reaching the upper notes without straining. For this reason Sims Reeve, the popular tenor, refuses to appear at concerts, as his voice is unable to undergo the strain. In France, a few years ago, the orchestral pitch was lowered half a tone, and is fixed by a decree of the government. Germany has also adopted the French pitch. To obtain the received concert pitch, the following instrument has been devised: Take a stout, smooth piece of board, eighteen inches long and six inches wide, and fasten securely thereon, at a distance apart of twelve and five-eighths inches, two strong blocks, narrowed at the top to an edge. Now take two feet of piano forte wire, weighing exactly thirty-eight and two-thirds grains, and fasten one end into one end of the board, carry the wire over the two bridges, and keep it tightened by a twenty-four pound avoirdupois weight attached to the other end. This string made to vibrate, will give 256 vibrations to the second, and will sound the above middle C at the mean concert pitch.—Ledger.

The model of a proposed rival of the Great Eastern was exhibited in San Francisco. It is to be of the same size as the Great Eastern, except that instead of 28 feet it will draw only 18 feet, and carry proportionally less tonnage. It is designed to carry four times as many passengers as any present style of ship, and to substitute for bunks regular beds; it will also give four times the space to a state-room. The motion of the sea is to be rendered almost imperceptible by a new device. The state-rooms, instead of being at the outside limits of the vessel, are along the center line of the ship, where the roll is scarcely perceptible. The saloon is to be 500 feet long, and clear of obstructions. It is not for dining. Instead of a public table, there are to be two competing restaurants at the extremities adjoining the saloons. The ship will sell passage only; the board being payable as meals are ordered. It is con-

templated to carry second-class passengers and third-class in the same way. The present style of first-class bunks will be third-class berths.

The central line of the solar eclipse, on the 7th of next August, passes from Cape Hatters across North Carolina, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and several of the Territories, including Alaska. Such a phenomenon, so completely within our own territory, has not occurred since 1834, and will be of great importance, not only in its astronomical aspect, but for the opportunity it will afford of studying the peculiar luminous appearance observed in solar eclipses, and the character of solar light, with the advantages afforded by recent improvements in photography and the spectroscopic never before enjoyed. English, French, and German astronomers and physicists were sent to the East Indies and Arabia to observe a similar eclipse, and those of this country now ask for aid in providing for the expenses of transportation and instruments, which few of them are able to afford.

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