

Editor's Cable.

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

A volume of SERMONS by REV. JOHN KERR, of Glasgow, has been published by Carters, entitled: THE DAY DAWN AND THE RAIN. They are the production of a chaste, disciplined, tasteful and thoughtful mind, so constructed and endowed as to give a wholesome stimulus to all who come in contact with it.

Eldridge & Bro. send us another of "Clarke & Stuart's Classical Series," being SELECT ORATIONS OF MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO. WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES BY PROF. GEO. CHASE. Besides the standard four "Against Catiline," there are ten others in the volume, closing with his first "Against Verres."

SCRIBNER'S ILLUSTRATED LIBRARY OF WONDERS embraces at this writing two volumes: THUNDER AND LIGHTNING and THE WONDERS OF OPTICS. As already stated, they are translations of French works, written with characteristic variety, and appreciation of all that is picturesque and dramatic in their subjects.

SCRIBNER & Co. have also issued in one large volume "CONYBEARE & HOWSON'S standard work on the LIFE AND EPISTLES OF ST. PAUL." This is the unabridged edition complete.

A. S. BARNES & Co. have published, in stiff covers, a BRIEF SUMMARY OF AMERICAN HISTORY, which will be found useful for study and for reference.

Messrs. LITTELL & GAY have published, in their Series of Tales of the Living Age: THE HOUSE OF CARDS, by Mrs. Cashel Hoey. Paper covers.

THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE, 1334 Chestnut St., have issued in elegant uniform style, under the title of "BRAVE MEN AND NOBLE DEEDS," three of their leading publications for the young: Dr. Gillett's "England Two Hundred Years Ago," Dr. Mearns' "Beggars of Holland and Grandees of Spain," and the Life of Martin Luther, edited by Miss Whately.

THE LOST FATHER is a story of a Philadelphia boy, whose trials from an evil associate, from the early death of his mother and the departure of his father to California are worked up with some surprising coincidences and providences into a Sunday-school fiction of a fair degree of merit.

STEPPING STONES OVER THE BROOK, by Mrs. Mary D. K. Boyd, illustrates the power of Scriptural precepts to comfort and strengthen a child under trial and temptation.

Effie Clyde, the little heroine, and her uniform effective influence for good, make up an interesting and profitable story, calculated to encourage the young in efforts to serve the Lord in the humblest stations.

LITTLE MEG'S CHILDREN, by the author of "Jessica's First Prayer," is republished for the second time in America—this time by Claxton of this city. It deserves to be widely read, not only from the skill with which it is written, but from its evangelical tone and genuine pathos.

TWELVE NIGHTS IN A HUNTER'S CAMP, edited by WM. BARROWS, is a delightful series of sketches, the camp-life being that of a party of western gentlemen seeking recreation, and having in their number "The General," whose stories of early life and adventure in the West entertain his associates for "twelve nights."

JACK THE CONQUEROR, by C. E. BOWEN, is a skillfully constructed story of the rise of poor, ragged, neglected Jack, to learning and respectability, by steady perseverance in meeting every sort of difficulty.

MR. JOHN D. BALDWIN, a certain member of the American Oriental Society, publishes, through Messrs. HARPER & BROS., a very ambitious and really somewhat learned book, on PRE-HISTORIC NATIONS. Mr. Baldwin is as enthusiastic in his belief of immeasurable geologic and pre-historic eras, as the freshest and most bewildered neophyte.

Oliver Optic's Weekly Magazine, "OUR BOYS AND GIRLS," for April 3d, contains fine steel portraits of Grant and Colfax, and period, a full-page allegorical picture of the Inauguration, by Nast.

Oliver Optic commences a new story,—"On Time; or, the Young Captain of the Ueayga Steamer." Alice Cary contributes a poem,—"Suppose." There is a timely article on "Velicipes," also illustrated, puzzles, rebuses, &c., all handsomely illustrated, and all to be had for six cents.

Scientific.

WHO FIRST USED THE MARINER'S COMPASS?

By JAMES PARTON.

When I was a school-boy and studied geography, I used to wonder sometimes, as I was poring over a large map of the world, how it came to pass that such a country as Portugal had so many possessions in different parts of the earth.

It is not so surprising that this small kingdom, this odd corner of Europe, this narrow oblong slice of Spain, should have gained possession of most of those islands off the African coast,—the Azores, Madeiras, and the Cape Verde,—because they are not very far from Portugal, and because there is no other Christian country from which they can be so conveniently reached.

And then, on the other side of Africa, there is another extensive region, called Mozambique, which also belongs to Portugal. Here Portugal has a territory as large as the State of Virginia, from which are exported plenty of indigo and rare drugs, fine woods for furniture, elephants' tusks, the teeth of the hippopotamus, and the horns of the rhinoceros; to say nothing of common

things, such as rice, sugar, spice, coffee, and coal. Here again we find a Portuguese city of considerable size, with great barracks for soldiers, with storehouses and wharves, a splendid palace for the governor-general, a cathedral, and several smaller churches and convents.

But this is not all. If you should sail from the ruined walls and wharves of Melinda two thousand miles to the westward, across the ocean, and enter the harbor of Goa, on the coast of India, you would find a Portuguese settlement and city that would fill you with still greater astonishment.

Then there is Macao, a Portuguese city in China, where again we find amazing evidences, in the form of churches, convents and seminaries, of the power once possessed in this part of the world by the Portuguese.

Why, two hundred years ago, there was not a head in all the Eastern world that would not bow low to the Portuguese uniform; and millions of dusky human beings in Asia and Africa toiled from youth to old age to enrich that small and distant kingdom.

I used to wonder at these things when I had but a slight knowledge of them at school; but in later years I found out the reason. I said in my last number that the mariner's compass, very much as we have it now, was invented about the year 1300, and that I was going on to tell what was done with it after it was in the hands of navigators.

THE undersigned would respectfully inform his friends (who have so liberally patronized him in the past) and the public generally, that he has in connection with his old establishment, 1912 Callowhill street, leased the new and centrally located store, No. 54 North Fifth Street, (Apprentice Library Building), especially adapted for sign work, and where he is prepared to execute on a more extensive scale than before, House, Sign, Wall, China Glass, and Ornamental painting, Glazing, Graining, Milling, Brazing, Calcining, &c. &c. Brick fronts renovated quite to new.

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