

LITERATURE

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

Home Without Hands. By Rev. J. G. Wood, M. A., F. L. S., etc. Harper & Brothers, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.
The public have already become tolerably well acquainted with the contents of the work, now issued for the first time in book form, through the medium of Harper's Magazine. We doubt the wisdom of the publishers in filling the pages of their monthly with engravings of books. It makes the periodical interesting, but we should imagine that it would injure the sale of the work. As all of the May readers of the magazine can testify, the engravings are excellent, but then having once seen them, there is little to induce the reader to look at them again. The contents are all instructive as well as interesting, and the book will be an excellent textbook of instruction. It is neatly bound, and is for sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

Land at Last. A novel. By Edmund Yates, Harper & Brothers, Philadelphia agents. G. W. Picher, No. 208 Chesnut street; J. B. Lippincott & Co.

Mr. Yates is certainly manufacturing novels with a frightful rapidity. We had "Broken to Harness" a few weeks since; "Running the Gauntlet" last week; and now "Land at Last" is given to the public. We should judge from what we have had time to read, that the work now in hand is rather more cheerful in its tone than its predecessors. The motto, "Port tenebras lux," is encouraging. We have had no time to critically examine it, but if it be as well told a tale as "Running the Gauntlet," it will add to the author's fame. Both G. W. Picher and Lippincott have it for sale.

G. W. Picher also sends us a little pamphlet by Professor Blot, on Cookery, which contains the composition of erudite dishes, which will be acceptable to a modern epicure.

LITERARY NOTES.

A curious poem called "The World's Epitaph," by an anonymous hand, has just been printed for private circulation in London. The writer, whose ambition has been to avoid the errors of the common run of poets, and produce something worthy of being listened to, gives, among other things, an allegory in which Christ, as a travelling tinker, is represented going about the world, crying "Old souls to mend!" Here are two of the stanzas:—"Still on his way the tinker wends, The job he far between and few; But here and there a soul he mends, And makes it look as good as new, Once set to work, and merrily bled, His dull old hammer moves inspired."

"His task is steady, slow, and sure; He plucks it out, despite the howl, With patient hand and look demure, As cunning maiden drains a bowl. He knows the job he is about to do, And knows that all the he is out."

George Lillie Craik, LL. D., Professor of History and English Literature in Queen's College, Belfast, died on the 25th of June, at the age of sixty-seven. He was born in Fife in 1799, and was the son of a schoolmaster. In 1824 he came to London, and got employment under Mr. Charles Knight and the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. He wrote the "Pursuit of Knowledge under Difficulties," for the Library of Entertaining Knowledge; the "Pictorial History of England," "Sketches of Literature and Learning in England, from the Norman Conquest to the Accession of Elizabeth," "History of British Commerce," "Spenser and his Poetry," "The English of Shakespeare," and "The Romance of the Pezarae." He has been Professor in Queen's College, Belfast, since 1840. His last important work was a "History of the English Language and Literature." A son of Professor Craik married Miss Malock.

Among recent French books are "Etude sur le Caractere et la Politique personnelle de Louis XV, d'après sa correspondance secrète inédite," by M. M. Boutaric; a work on the Suez Canal, by M. L. Le Saint; "L'Esthime de Suez. Essai de Canalisation dans les Temps Anciens et au Moyen Age. Projet de M. de Lesseps. Phases diverses de la Question. Travaux accomplis de la Méditerranée à la Mer Rouge" and the first number of Gustave Dore's illustrated edition of Gautier's "Le Capitaine Fracasse," which will consist of sixty numbers, two of which are to appear weekly.

The London Review, in a not very favorable notice of Professor Agassiz's lectures on "The Structure of Animal Life," gravely informs its readers that they were read "before an American musical academy." This blunder is accounted for by the statement on the title-page of the book, that they were delivered "at the Brooklyn Academy of Music."

The Hon. Mrs. Norton's story of "Old Sir Douglas," which has been publishing for some time in Macmillan's Magazine, has come to an untimely end, without being finished. The editor wishes his readers to understand that this "is from a cause which could not be foreseen, and which it has been found impossible to obviate."

The Round Table is a double-leaded article entitled "Wanted—Writers," in which it argues in favor of an increase in the number of writers in our country. We do not agree with our contemporary. What we want is better authors, and not more poor ones. Let the ones we have excel, and they will be full enough to cover the field.

Mr. Herbert Spencer has reconsidered his determination to suspend the publication of his "System of Philosophy" on account of the small number of subscribers, and has recently issued the sixteenth number of the series, being a continuation of the section of "Morphological Development."

The second volume of the Emperor's "Life of Caesar," has not only revived the old controversy as to the place of the Roman general's landing in Britain, but has even called out a historical free-thinker named Surtees, who has written a book on the bold inquiry whether Caesar ever crossed the Channel at all.

A telegram from Rome says that the Congregation of the Index has condemned "Les Apôtres," by M. Renan; "Le Catholisme Romain en Russie," by M. Tolstoy; "La Bible et l'Évangile," by Michelet; and "L'histoire de la Littérature Anglaise," by Taine.

The Albert God Medal of the Society of Arts has been presented to Professor Faraday, for his discoveries in electricity, magnetism, and chemistry, which, in their application to the industries of the world, have so largely promoted arts manufactures, and commerce.

Mr. G. H. Calverley, late fellow of Christ's College, has recently published a volume of "Translations into English and Latin," which is very well spoken of. It contains the first two books of Homer's "Iliad," the whole of Virgil's "Bucolics," fifteen odes and one epode of Horace, and three pieces from Sophocles, Virgil, and Catullus. The Homeric translation is in blank verse, and it is pronounced more like Homer than most of the blank-verse translations of the day. How it compares with Lord Derby's version may be inferred from a passage taken from both:—

Lord Derby. He said, and from the council led the way. Up rose the scepter'd monarchs, and obey'd Their leader's call, and round them throng'd the crowd. As swarms of bees that pour in ceaseless stream From out the crevice of some hollow rock, New clusters, and anon into several flows, Some here, some there, some busy hummers fly; So to the assembly from their tents and shrines The council tribes came thronging in, in their midst, By Jove excited, Rumor urg'd them on, Great was the din; and as the mighty mass Sat down, the solid earth beneath them groan'd.

Mr. Calverley. He spoke, and slowly from the council moved, They rose, and followed in their leader's wake, Those scepter'd kings, the host lock'd round them. As when from some rock's hollow, swarm on swarm, Rise multitudes of thickly surging bees, And hum in clusters on the flowers of spring, And fly in myriads, this way some, some that; They in such multitudes from tent and shrine, Skirting the bottomless sea-sand, march'd in troops to Calverley. With them sped a voice of fire, Bidding them on; Zeus sent it; and they met, Unquely they met: Earth groan'd beneath The trampling of the hoists as they sat down, And there was tumult.

The latest poems of Christina Rossette have been published, from which we select the following, which are so sweetly rhythmic, though having no melody:—

SONG. When I am dead, my dearest, Sing no sad songs for me; Plant thou no roses at my head, Nor shady cypress tree: Be the green grass above me With showers and dew-drops wet; And if thou wilt, remember, And if thou wilt, forget: I shall not see the shadows, I shall not feel the rain; I shall not hear the larks sing, As if in pain; And dreaming of the twilight That doth not rise nor set, Happily may I remember, And happily may I forget.

The one given below is less musical, but more truly poetical:—

UP-HILL. Does the road wind up-hill all the way? Yes, to the very end. Will the day's journey take the whole long day? From morn to night, my friend. But is there for the night a resting-place? A roof for when the slow dusk covers the sky? No, the darkness here is from my face! You cannot miss that inn. Shall I meet other wayfarers at night? Those who have gone before. Then must I knock, or call some plain-inn sign? They will not keep you standing at that door. Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak? Of labor you shall find the sum. Will there be beds for me and all who seek? Yes, beds for all who come.

A Paris correspondent says:—

"The quarrel between M. Victorien Sardou and M. Paul Feval has been happily, terminated without blood, and in a time so peace as the abundant laurels he has already gathered, one of the closest as well as most profitable of his laurel-leaves being his last creation, 'The Benoiton Family,' which, after a short pause, has resumed its course of its successes as brilliantly as ever. The wonderful costumes of the actresses in this popular piece have done far more to stimulate the existing passion for costly dress than the moral of the play will ever do to restrain it, and ever since this trade against extravagant dressing has been upon the boards of the Vaudeville, all the wantonkind of the capital has been assiduously imitating the 'ravishing toilettes' of the Benoiton ladies. We have had the Benoiton chain and bonnet, and dresses, jet, gold, silver, straw, and glass, and on foulards, muslins, silks, and ribbons. We have crinolines, skirts, paletots, boots, bracelets, parasols, and horsewhips à la Benoiton, and now we have pastilles, bouquets, and lastly, sticks of apple-sugar rejoicing in the same name as the Benoiton family."

Mr. Frederick Muller, of Amsterdam, is publishing a complete edition, for the first time, of the works of the Polish Reformer:—"Joannis a Lasco Opera ten edita quae inedita. Recensuit, et vitam auctoris enarravit A. Kuiper, Th. Dr."—Mr. Plumtree, the translator of Sophocles, has published a volume of poems called "Master and Scholar," etc. etc.

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