M. MALL

# Evening Telegraph

SUPPLEMENT.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1866.

### LITERATURE.

LABOULAYE'S FAIRY BOOK. By Edouard Laboulaye. Harper & Brothers. Philadelphia Agents: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

To write a really good fairy story is an undertaking which few authors are able to accomplish. There are but few of all our litterateurs who can pen a book which will be interesting to children. It requires a peculiar tact to so frame your story and your sentences as to be able to catch the ear and fix the attention of a child. The many utter failures of those who make the attempt best attest the extreme difficulty of the task. Yet in Edouard Laboulaye we find that peculiar turn of mind required. He writes the best children's stories that we have ever seen. His volume is filled with illustrations, and is of deep interest. It is just such a work as would be acceptable to a child. We have read the book, and find it full of well printed and a Imirably selected fairy tales. Before us is spread the realm of romance, into which we can look from the Pisgah of manhood, but cannot enter. It is reserved for the full imagination of the child to revel in its fields. We cannot picture the fairies, the palaces, the wonderful wand, and the ten thousand mysteries which we all could invest with a definite shape. But we can see how our little ones will be able to fill all the land with giants and dwar's, prin es and marvellous magicians. Yet the field is there, the country flowing with milk and honey, the country of childhood's fancy; and we can see it open to the little ones as they read the tales of Laboulaye. The book is a most acceptable Christmas gift, and is printed in! large clear type, which cannot injure the eyes of the little reader.

#### Notes on Poems and Reviews.

I have now undertaken to write a few words on this affair, not by way of apology or vindication, of answer or appeal. I have none such to offer. Much of the criticism I have seen is as usual, in the words of Shakespeare's greatest

"As if a man should spit against the wind; The nith returns in's face."

Certain poems of mine, it appears, have been mpugned by judges, with or without a name, as indecent or as biasphemous. To me, as I have intimated, their verdict is a matter of infinite indifference; it is of equally small moment to me whether in such eyes as theirs I appear moral or immoral, Christian or Pagan. remembering that science must not scorn to investigate animalcules and infusoria, I am ready

for once to piny the anatomist.

With regard to any opinion implied or expressed throughout my book, I desire that one thing should be remembered-the book is dramatic, many faced, multifarious; and no utterance of enjoyment or despair, belief or unbelief, can properly be assumed as the assertion of its author's personal feeling or faith. Were each poem to be accepted as the deliberate outcome and result of the writer's conviction, not mine alone, but most other men's verses would leave nothing behind them but a sense of cloudy chaos and suicida, contradiction. Byron and Shelley, speaking in their own persons, and with what sublime effect we know, openly and insultingly mocked and revited what the English of their day held most sacred. I have not done this. I do not say that, if I chose, I would not do so to the best of my power; I do say that hitherto I have seen fit to do nothing of the kind.

It remains then to inquire what in that book can be reasonably offensive to the English reader. In order to resolve this problem, I will not fish un any of the ephemeral scurrilities born only to sting if they can, and sink as they must. will take the one article that lies before me; the work (I admit) of an enemy, but the work (I seknowledge) of a gentleman. I cannot accept a a accurate; but I readily and gladly allow and it neither contains nor suggests anything Talse or filthy. To him, therefore, rather than to another, I address my reclamation. Two

g my poems, it appears, are, in his opinion, onally horrible." Good. Though the e be somewhat "inexpressive," I am conto meet him on this ground. It is some-g-nay, it is much—to find an antagonist and honor is mark out the lists in which he, the challenger, desirous to encounter the challenged.

The first, it appears, of these especially horrible poems is "Anactoria." I am informed, and have not cared to verify the assertion, that this noem has excited, among the chaste and candid critics of the day or hour or minute, a more vehement reprodution, a more virtuous horror, a more passionate appeal, than any other of my

I have never lusted after the praise of re-viewers; I have never feared their abuse; but I would fain know why the vultures should gather here of all places; what congenial carrion they smell, who can discern such (it is alleged) in any rose-bed. And after a little reflection I do know, or conjecture, Virtue, as she appears incarnate in British journalism and voluble through that unsavory organ, is something of a compound creature-

## "A jump neither alive, nor dead, Dog-headed, bosom-eyed, and bird-tooted;" nor have any dragon's jaws been known to emit

on occasion stronger and stranger sounds and odors. But baving, not without astonishment and disgust, inhaled these odors, I find myself at last able to analyze their component parts, In this poem I have simply expressed, or tried to express, that violence of affection between one and another which hardens into rage and deepens into despair. The key-note which I have here touched was struck long since by Sappno. We in England are taught, are com-pelled under penalties to learn, to construe, and to repeat, as schoolboys, the imperishable and incomparable verses of that supreme poet; and I at least am grateful for the training.

I have abstained from touching on such details, for this reason, that I felt myself incompetent to give adequate expression in English to the literal and absolute words of Sappho;" and would not debase and degrade them into a viler form. No one can feel more deeply than I do the inadequacy of my work, "That is not 'Sappho,'" a friend said once to me. I could only reply, "It is as near as I can come; and no man can come close to her." remaining verses are the supreme success, the final achievement, of the poetle art.

What is there now of horrible in this? the expressions of fierce fondness, the ardors of passionate despair? Are these so unpatural as to affr ght or disgust? Where is there an unclean detail? where an obscene allusion? A writer as impure as my critics inlight of course have written, on this or on any subject, an impore poem; I have not. And if to translate or saraphrase Sappho be an offense, indict the heavier offenders who have handled and rehandled this matter in their wretched versions of the ode. Is my now more more thandled. of the ode. Is my poem more passionate in de-tail, more unmistakable in subject? I attirm

that it is less; and what I affirm I have proved.

Next on the list of accusation stands the poem
of "Dolores." The gist and bearing of this I
should have thought evident enough, viewed
by the light of others which precede and follow it. I have striven here to express that transient state of spirit through which a man may be supposed to pass, foiled in love and weary of loving, but not yet in sight of rest; seeking refuge in those "violent delights" which "have violent ends," in fierce and trank sensualities which at least profess to be no more than they

are. This poem, like "Faustine," is so distinctly symbolic and fanciful that it cannot justly be amenable to judgment as a study in the school of realism. The spirit, bowed and discolored by suffering and by passion (which are indeed the same thing and the same word), plays for awhile with its pleasures and its pains, mixes and distorts them with a sense half humorous and half mournful, exults in bitter and doubtful

"Moods of fanisatic sadness, nothing worth." It sports with sorrow, and jests against itself; cries out for freedom and confesses the chain; decorates with the name of goddess, crowns anew as the mystical Cotytto, some woman, real or ideal, in whom the pride of life with its companion lusts is incarnate. In her lover's half-shut eyes, her fierce unchaste beauty is trans-figured, her cruel sensual eyes have a meaniog and a message; there are memories and secrets in the kisses of her lips. She is the darker Venus, fed with burn offering and blood-sacrifice; the veiled image of that pleasure which men impelled by satisty and perverted by power have sought through ways as strange as Nero's before and since his time; the daughter of lust and death, and holding of both her parents; Our Lady of Pain antagonist alike of traits. Our Lady of Pain, antagonist alike of trivial sins and virtues; no Virgin, and unplessed of men; no mother of the Gods or God; no Cybele, served by sexless priests or monks, adored of Origen or of Atys; no likeness of her in Dindy-

mus or Loreto.

The next act in this lyrical monodrame of ssion represents a new stage and scene. The worship of desire has ceased; the mad commo-tion of sense has stormed itself out; the spirit, clear of the old regret that drove it upon such violent ways for a respite, healed of the fever that wasted it in the search for relief among herce fancies and tempestuous pleasures, dreams now of truth discovered and repose attained, Not the martyr's ardor of selfless love, an un-profitable flame that burnt out and did no service—not the rapid rage of pleasure that seemed for a little to move the flesh divine, to clothe the naked senses with the flery raiment of faith; but a stingless love, an innocuous desire. peria," the tenderest type of woman or of dream, born in the westward "islands of the blest," where the shadows of all happy and holy things live beyond the sunset a sacred and a sleepless life, dawns upon his eyes a western dawn, risen as the nery day of passion goes down, and rises where it sank.

Here, between moonrise and sunset, lives the love that is gentle and faithful, neither giving too much nor acking—a, bride rather than a mistress, a sister lather than a bride. But not at once, or not forever, can the past be killed and buried; hither also the huntress follows her flying prey, wounded and weakened, still fresh from the fangs of passion; the cruel hands, the amorous eyes, still glitter and a lure. Que a bu boara: the feet are drawn back towards the ancient ways. Only by lite-long flight, side by side with the goddess that re teems, shall her slave of old escape from the goddess that consumes; if even thus one may be saved, even thus distance the bloodhounds.

It would seem indeed as though to publish a book were equivalent to thrusting it with violence into the hands of every mother and nurse in the kingdom as fit and necessary food for female infancy. Happily there is no fear that the supply of milk for babes will fall short of the demand for some time yet. There are moral milkmen enough, in all conscience, crying their ware about the streets and by-ways; iresh or stale, sour or sweet, the requisite fluid runs from a sufficiently copious issue. In due time, perhaps, the critical doctors may prescribe a stronger diet for their hypochondriac patient, the reading world; or that gigantic malade imaginaire called the public, may rebel against the weekly graught or the daily drug of MM. Purgan and Diajoirus. We, meanwhile, who profess to deal neither in poison nor in pap,

may not unwillingly stand aside.

These poems thus disposed of are (I am told) those which have given most offense and scandal to the venal virtue of journalism. As I have not to review my reviewers, I need not be at pains to refute at length every wilful error or unconscious he which a workman that way inclined might drag into light. To me, as to all others who may read what I write, the whole matter must continue to seem too pitiable and trivial to waste a word or thought on it which we can help wasting. But having begun this task, I will add yet a word or two of annotation. I have heard that even the little poem of "Faustine" has been to some readers a thing to make the scalp creep and the blood freeze. It was issued with no such intent.

The chance which suggested to me this poem was one which may happen any day to any man -the sudden sight of a living face which recalled the well-known likeness of another dead for centuries; in this instance, the noble and faultless type of the elder Faustina, as seen in coin and bust. Out of that casual glimpse and sudden recollection these verses sprang and

These poems do not seem to me condemnable, unless it be on the ground of bad verses; and to any charge of that kind I should of course be as unable as reluctant to reply. But I certainly was even less prepared to hear the batteries of virtue open fire in another quarter, Sculpture I knew was a dead art; buried centuries deep out of sight; with no angel keeping watch over the sepulchre; its very grave-clothes divided by wranging and impotent sectaries, and no chance anywhere visible of a resur-

I have now gone over the poems which, as I hear, have incurred most blame; whether de-servedly or not, I have shown. For the terms in which certain critics have clothed their sentiments I bear them no ill-will; they are wel-come for me to write unmolested, so long as they keep to simple ribaldry. I hope it gives them amusement; I presume it brings them profit: I know it does not affect me. Absolute falsehood may, it it be worth while, draw down contradiction and disproof; but the mere cailing of bad names is a child's trick, for which the small try of the press should have a child's cor-rection at the hands of able editors, standing, as these gentlemen ought to do, in a parental or pedagogic relation to their tender charges. They have, by all I see and hear, been sufficiently scurrilous-one or two in particular.

"However, from one crime they are exempt; They do not strike a brother, striking me." I will only throw them one crumb of advice n return; I fear the alms will be of no avail, but it shall not be withheld: -

Why grudge them lotus-leaf and laurel, Or toothiess mouth or swinish maw, Who never grudge you belts and coral, Who never grudged you troughs and straw? Lie still in kennel, sleek in stable, Good creatures of the stall or sty; Shove snouts for crumbs below the table;

Lie still; and rise not up to be. Literature, to be worthy of men, must be large, liberal, sincere; and cannot be chaste if it be prudish. Purity and prudery cannot keep house together. Where free speech an I fair play are interdicted, foul hints and evil suggestions are natched into fetid life. And if literature indeed is not to deal with the full life of man and the whole nature of things, let it be cast aside with the rods and rattles of child-hood. Whether it affect to teach or to amuse, it is equally trivial and contemptible to us; only less so than the charge of immorality. Against few really great names has not this small and dirt-encrusted pebble been thrown! A reputation seems imperfect without this tribute

also; one jewel is wanting to the crown. It is good to be praised by those whom all men should praise; it is better to be reviled by those whom all men should scorn. When England has again such a school of poetry, so headed and so followed, as she has had at least twice before, or as France has now; when all higher forms of the various art are in cluded within the larger limits of a stronger race: then, if such a day should ever rise or re-turn upon us, it will be once more remembered that the office of adult art is neither puerite nor feminine, but virile; that its purity is not that of the cloister or the harem; that all things are good in its sight, out of which good work may be produced. Then the press will be as important as the pulpit to dictate the laws and remove the landmarks of art; and those will be laughed at who demand from one thing the qualities of another—who seek for sermons in sonners and morality in music. Then all accepted work will be noble and chaste in the wider masculine

sense, not truncated and curfailed, but out-spoken and fott-grown; art will be pure by instarct and fractual by nature no clipped and forced growth of unbealthy heat and unnatural from it, and be forgotten; and no one will then need to assent, in deceme of work done for the work's sake, the simple laws of his art which no one will then be permitted to impugn.

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FRILADELFHIA, December 13, 1866.

DIVIDEND AOTICE.

The Transfer Books or this Company will be closed on TUESDAY, December 18, and reopened on TUESDAY, the listic of January next.

A Dividend or FIVE FIR CENT, has been dec ared in the Pre erred and Common Stock, clear of National and State taxes payable in cash or common stock at par, at the option of the acider, on and after the list instant to the holders thereof, as they shall stand registered on the books of the Company, on the 18th instant. All payable at this office in Fhiladelphia.

The option as to taking stock for this dividend will cease at the close of business hours on Saturday, 3v.h. Each next.

All orders for dividends must be witnessed and S. BRA DFORD, Treasurer. TO ARCHITECTS-

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR NEW BUILD-INGS FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT AT WASH-INGT: N. D. C.

Architects are invited to prepare plans and specifications and estin a es of cost ion new fire-proof buildings for the War Department on the site now occupied by the War Department and adjacent vacant ground, in Washington D. C.

The buildings required should have a superficial area as large as the site selected will admit of. Photographs of site and all their mformation relating to the subject will be nurnished to architects desiring to compete for the work upon application, personally or by letter, to the understand

A premium of \$3000 for the first of \$2000 for the second, and of sitto for the third most acceptable plans and specifications received, will be awarded, upon the approval of the Hon. Secretary of War, by the Board of Offices charged with the duty of selecting a site and preparing plans and specifications for the buildings of the War Department under act of Congress approved July 28-1866

The pass and specifications must be sent to the office of Brevet i feutenant of one? J. Treadwell, Recorder of the Board of Gronance Office, Winder's Building, Washington, D. C., on or before the list day of February, 1867.

The Board will reserve the right to reject any or all

The Board will reserve the right to reject any or all

plans submitted, should none be deemed sultable for he purpose, as well as to retain any or all of such By order of the Board.
20 Im] T J. TREADWELL.
Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, U. S. A., Recorder

F F I C I A L

EXAMINATIONS FOR THE NAVY.

TO VOLUSTE: ROSFICERS

WASHINGTON, D. C. SOSEMBER 29 1896. 5

All persons who have served as volunteer efficers in the United States Navy for the term of two years, and who desire to be examined for admission to the regular Navy as provided in the act of congress approved July 28, 1866 with at once make application addressed to commodore 8 P. Lee, Hartford, connecticut who will notify them when to appear. Those who do not make application prior to the latt of January next, or who do not present themselves when notified will be considered as having waived their claim for examination. Candidates will take with them, when summoned, their official papers showing it cir naval record.

Gill-EON WELLES,

11 23fmwlm. Secretary of the Navy. Secretary of the Navy.

MERCANTILE BENEFICIAL ASSOCI-ATION.—The terms of admission are; as fol

A MEETING OF COLORED PEOPLE A SIESTING OF COLORED FEJPLE of Camden, to rejoice over the passage of the Found suffrage Bu i for the District of Columbia, will be held on Thursday Byening, Decomber 29, at 7 o'clock at Washington Hall, South Camden. A beautiful silk flag will be presented to flow James M. Scovel, Rev. Doughty Mi ler Isalah Ware, and others. Eminent speakers will address the meeting.

12 19 21\* Chairman of Committee of Airtngements.

FAIR! FAIR! FAIR! FAIR! FAIR! Sale of ancy and Useful Articles in the Lecture Room of the FIRST PRESBY FERIAN CHURCH, N. L. BUTTON WOOD Street, below Sixth, EVERY DAY BUTTONWOOD Street, below Sixth. EVERY DAY
from 3 to 10 o'c ock P. M., closing on FRIDA & EVEN
ING. 21st instant. 12 18 44\*

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE PHILADELPHIA, December 17, 1886.

NOTICE TO L ANHO, DERS.

As the banks will be closed January 1, the INTEREST ON CITY LOAN, due on that date, will be paid on and after January 2, 1867. HENRY BUMM,

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE .. THE ASCIENCE OF FIGURE 1866.

PHILADELIFIIA, December 17, 1866.

NOTICE TO LOAN-HOLDERS.

The CITY LOAN Smaturing January 1 will be paid on and after January 2, 1867. By order of the Commissioners of the Sinking Funds.

12 17 4t HENRY BUMM, City Treasurer.

SOUTHWARK NATIONAL BANK.

\* HILADELPHIA, December 10, 1836.

The Admual Election for Directors wi. be he d at the Banking House, on TUESDAY MORNING January 8, 1867, between the hours of 10 and 12 o clock.

1. 10 mwilst

P. LAMB, Cashier.

CORN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK Fill ADELPHIA, October 16, 1866.
The Vice-President of the Bank, Alexander Whilden, Fsq. having in May last, to view of a prolonged absence in Europe resured his position, the Board of Directors to day elected J. W. Torre, Esq., Vice-President, and H. P. Lehetky, Esq., Cashier.

16 17 ALEXANDER G. CATTELL, President.

FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NA-TIONAL BANK.

PHILADELPHIA, December 7, 1886.

The Annual Flection for Directors of this Bank will be held at the Banking House on WEDNESDAY, the bin day of January next, between the nours of 16 o'clock A. M. and 3 o'clock F. M.

W RUSHTON, Jr, Cashier.

NEW LONDON COPPER MINING COMPANY —A special meeting of the stock-holders wil, be held on Fallay, December 21, at the office No. 129 couth FRONT, at 339 P. M., to decide upon the future course of the Company, and other matters of importance.

SIMON POEY, Recretary.

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