THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPH

LITERATURE.

6

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. By John William Draper, M. D., LL. D. In three volumes. Volume 2. Pablished by Harper & Brothers.

The story of the great American Rebellion, that stupendous wickedness, which, under the providence of God, was the means of putting an end to that still greater orime, human slavery, is too familiar to us of the present generation who have participated in the conflict, for us to require the services of the historian to impress the facts upon our memories. The history of the war is yet to be written, for the man is not living now who is equal to the task. With our eyes still smarling with the smoke of battle, with the noise of the guns still ringing in our ears, and engaged as we are in the great labor of re. pairing the devastations of a civil war of four years, it is impossible that the work of recording events and drawing the proper deductions from them can be approached in that calm, impartial, and philosophical spirit which is necessary for the historian when discussing a great crisis like that which was precipitated when old Edmund Ruffin fired the first shot on Fort Sumter. The railroads, the telegraph, the press, and other appliances of modern life which bring the confines of the continent nearer together than the boundaries of a State were a hundred years ago, offer facilities, however, for collecting and disseminating information which were unimagined by the old time chronicler. The labors of the future bistorian will therefore be moreased as well as lightened, and his greatest difficulty will be to digest the mass of information which has been collected.

With a full appreciation of the importance of the subject, care has been taken to collect the materials for the history of the war, and to put them into shape; but, in the archives of the Confederate Government, and among the sol' diers and people of the Southern States there are records of facts and statements of events from a rebel point of view which would throw much light on doubtful points, and which it is essential that the historian should be acquarated with before he can be properly fitted for his work.

Contemporary history, however, has a value of its own as being the testimony of eye-witnesses, and Dr. Draper's work is the most elaborate, and the most satisfactory account of the rise, progress, and final downfall of the Rebellion that has yet appeared. In the volume before us the narrative includes the period between the 4th of March. 1861, and the 1st of January, 1863, or from the first inauguration of Mr. Lincoln to the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

It is too much the fashion of the present day to speak flippantly about the judgment of those who previous to or even after the battle of Bull Run failed to appreciate the magnitude of the impending conflict. The fact was, however, that there were only a few far-seeing men who were impressed with any adequate idea of the real nature and objects of the battle which was to be fought. The attack on Fort Sumter aroused the loyal portion of the nation to armsbut the numerical strength of the North was so great that the general impression was that the contest would be short, sharp and decisive, and it required such a disaster as that of Bull Run to bring about a realizing sense of the greatness of the work which had been undertaken. The downfall of slavery was hoped for rather than graphic and perspicuous manner, and events expected by a comparatively small number, and the main idea with those who volunteered their subject in understandable style. In the composervices after the proclamation of the 15th of sition of the work he has been assisted by the April, 1861, was the preservation of the Union | advice and counsel of some of the chief actors at all hazards; and if the annihilation of the in the events described, who have given him slave system had been announced as the policy much important aid and often confidential of the Government at that time it would only have given strength to the Southern cause. It of this history will contain the events from the was not until defeat after defeat had taught us | Emancipation Proclamation to the close of the what war really was that the Northern people began to appreciate properly the fact that slavery was at the bottom of the trouble, and that the appointed time had come for removing that blot upon our escutcheon. Mr. Lincoln understood the real issue as little as any one, and Mr. Lincoln, as the representative man of the nation, was extremely reluctant to take decisive action in this matter: but in the fullness of time he grew in knowledge and grace, like many others, and when the proper moment arrived he issued the immortal document which for the first time in our history made the words of the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created free and equal," anything more than empty mockery. Generals Hunter and Fremont were sharply rebuked for their interference with the slavery question, and on the occasion of an interview with a delega, tion from Chicago, who urged upon him the necessity of emancipation, Mr. Lincoln explained his views of the matter as follows:-"What good would a proclamation of eman-cipation from me do as we are now situated? I clipation from me do as we are now situated? I do not want to issue a document which the whole world will see must necessarily be inope-rative, like the Pope's Bull against the Comet. Would my word free the slaves, when I cannot even enforce the Constitution in the Rebei States? Is there a single court, or magistrate, or individual that would be influenced by it there? And what reason is there to think it would have any greater effect upon the slaves than the late law of Congress which I approved, and which offers protection and freedom to the slaves of Rebel masters who come within our lines? Yet I cannot learn that the law has caused a single slave to come over to us lines? Yet I cannot learn that that law has caused a single siave to come over to us— "Now tell me, if you please, what possible result of good would follow the issuing of such a proclamation as you desire. Understand, I raise no objections against it on legal or consti-tutional grounds; for, as commander-in chief of the army and navy, in time of war I suppose I have a right to take any measure which may best subdue the enemy; nor do I urge objec-tions of a moral nature in view of possible con-sequences of insurrection and massacre at the sequences of insurrection and massacre at the South. I view this matter as a practical war measure, to be decided on according to the ad

seemed more than likely that the Rebels would be in a position to dictate their own terms. The strong feeling that impressed the President more and more every day, that he was but an instrument in the hand of the Almighty, now became predominant, and he was fully a wakened to the fact that it was his duty to remove the real cause of all the blood which had been shed. "I made a solemn vow before God," said Mr. Lincoln subsequently, "That if General Lee was driven back from Maryland, I would crown the result by a declaration of freedom to the slaves.' The battle of Actietam was fought, Lee was driven back on the 19th of September, 1862, and on the 22d of the same month Mr. Lincoln issued his proclamation announcing his intention on the 1st of January, 1862, to declare all persons held as slaves in the Rebel States thencefor ward and forever free; at the same time he considerately offered compensation to all slaveholders who would submit to the authority of the Go. vernment. The effect of this announcement was to excite the Revels to greater wrath, while mony loyal men trembled at the probable result. The proclamation of freedom was issued nevertheless, in spite of the rage of enemies

and the trembling of friends. We quote the following eloquent passage, in relation to this great event, from Dr. Draper's prevoration :--

"From the rivers of Virginia to the Mexican confines of the republic arcse a mournful wall —How long, O Lord ! how long ! It came from the weary laborer, leaning on his hose in the cotion-field under the noonlide sun—it came through the moaning midnight forests, solemn and clear above their multitudinous inarticu-haic sounds—it came from children torn from their parents. from wives and husbands parted their parents, from wives and husbands parted at the auction block, from mothers in despair, from strong men falating under the lash, from the sged whose heads were frosted by time. In their quaint prayers the Africans talk to God as a man talks face to face with his friend. Slavery bad made Him their friend. By the flickering fires of their cabins they stealthly spelled out the Bible to see what He had pro-mised to them. It was their dreadful lot that had caused Jefferson, himself a slave-owner, to expostulate solemnly with his countrymen, and to deprecate the wrath of God. For who shall escape when from the hand of Eternal Justice her scales have dropped as useless— when from her brow the bandage has been raised that her uncovered and angry eyes may gaze upon unuterable wrong—when her up-hited arm, quivering with indignation, is ready their parents, from wives and husbands parted hited arm, quivering with indignation, is ready to strike a blow that shall make a whole conti-nent tremble? 'On the evening of the last day of the year

1862, many of those Africans, who were living in towns, and who were connected with various Christian denominations, repaired to their places of worship, and walted for the midnight clock to strike. Many of those who were living on plantations kneit down in their humble cubins with their buyes and children. Many cabins, with their wives and children. Many of those who were alone, and had no friend in the world, went into the woods, in presence of that eye which pierces the dargness as well a the light. They prayed that Almighty God would take pity upon them, and strengthen the band of Abraham Lincoln on the coming day.

The events related in the volume under con. sideration are connected with the great work which the forces of the Government were called upon to perform during the first period of the war, as thus stated by the author in his Pre' face :- "To put the seceded States, on their inland, river, and sea boundaries, under strict blockade. This beleaguering, or state of siege. was effectually accomplished. To open the Mississippi river, obstructed by the inhabitants on its lower borders. The achievement of this constituted the idea of the free West-To capture Richmond. This constituted the popular idea of the East." The innumerable battles and sieges, the vast military campaigns, as well as the political movements of the period between the accession of Mr. Lincoln and the issue of the Emancipation Proclamation, are related by Dr. Draper in a are grouped together so as to present the whole information. The third and concluding volume war.

LITERARY NOTES.

-The London Magazines for September ran strongly to politics. With the near approach of the election-its beginning fixed now for the the election-its beginning fixed how for the listh November-no other topic has a chauce, "Frascr" reviews its pittless attacks on Mr. Disraeli, with an exposition of "The Religions Creed and Opinions of the Caucasian Champ on of the Church"-brilliant and bitter, but not more bitter than its subject deserves. The "Cornhill" discourses on "Pocket Boroughs." The "Contemporary Review" has an article by Dr. Brady on the "Irish Establishment," and by Mr. F. M. Loudow on Mr. Hard's utonian scheme Mr F. M. Ludlow on Mr. Hare's utopian scheme "Blackfor the representation of everybody. woed" continues its romantic biography of Mr. Disraeli, whom it caunot enough admire as plain Mr. and hands down to posterity as The Right Honorable Benjamin District - a string of preixes which posterity will soon the of repeating. In "Macmil-lan," Mr. Dicey has an easy talk about "The Candidates for next Parliament" - an atti-cle which is not meant to be protound but is cle which is not meant to be protound, but is full of the sort of information which only he can supply who knows London and its clubs, in-cluding Parliament itself, "the best club in London," as it is often called. It is no doubt true, as Mr. Dicey says, that the character of the next Parliament is determined in advance. Out of 1200 or 1400 candidates already in the field, an overwhelming majority belong to one or another of the classes which were dominant in the House, the representatives of land or of money, who have been more picturesquely described as country squires and retired scap-boilers. They are the last men in the world to reform or to innovate, and be their constituen-cles never so radical, it is idle to expect from them any voluntary measures of reform in respect to property. They will go so far as they

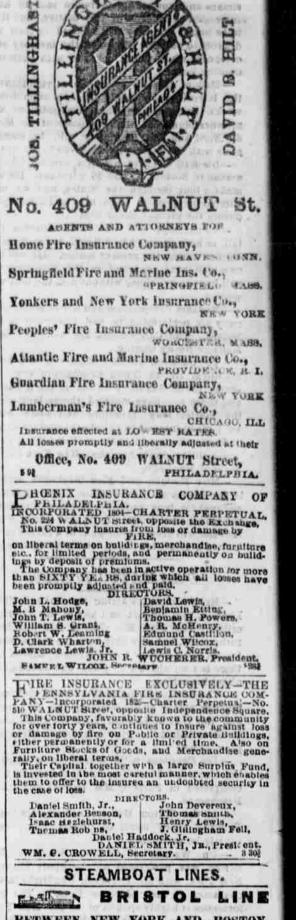
must, not a step farther. —At a late meeting of the Parls Academy of Medicine, a curious paper was read, on behalf of M. Dubois, of Amiens, entitled "Investigations into the death of Julius Casar." M. Dubois having locked up the various passages refer-ring to this famous historic incident to be found in Dion Cassius, Plutarch, Suctonius, Applan, etc., and comparing them with one another, has fixed the spots where the four first wounds were inflicted, and the names of the conspirators who inflicted them. The first blow, struck by one of the brothers Casca, produced a slight wound underneath the left clavicle; the second, struck by the other Casca, penetrated the walls of the thorax, towards the right; Cassius inflicted the third wound in the face. Decimus Brutus gave the fourth stab in the region of the groin. Contrary to the general opinion. Marcus Brutus, though one of the conspirators, did not strike the Dictator. After conspirators, did not strike the Dictator. After the first blows Casar fainted, and then all the conspirators hacked his body. He was carried by three slaves in a litter to his house. Anstis-tius, the physician, was called in and found thirty-five wounds, only one of which was in his opinion fatal, that of the second Casca. —The cheap magazines of a low class which are presented for the use of a low class which

are prepared for the use of juveniles have often been denounced, but never with so much rigor, so far as we have observed, as by a writer in Mr. Spurgeon's journal, called The Sword and the Trowel. There is, we are told, a 'dew of ndelicacy" over these publications. The "human fiends" who carried on the slave traffic indelicacy" in America were bad enough, but the offenses of these and other wicked personages enume-rated by the writer are slight compared with "the Salanic crime of those who, recking with the foul sulphur stench of the kennels of heil, the four surprise teners of the senters of here, trample conscience under foot, obtain their degree in the highest college of Hades, and set themselves up in a sin-blighted world as the instructers and corrupters of youth." In this interesting magazine there is altogether a great

-That indefatigable cultivator of Shakei-pereian studies, Count Carlo Rusconi, has pub-lished the fifth part of his translation of Shakespeare with the original text, being Julius Casar Indeed, Shakespeare influences are every day more and more in the ascendant in the Italian literature and drama. One of the most interesting course of lectures given during the past winter and spring in Florence was that of Professor dall'Ongaro on the Italian sources of Shakespeare's plays; and Salvini, the first ac or of Italy, whose "Othello" has long been so cele-brated, is now making preparations to bring out at the Politeana Rome and Dutet. at the Politeama Romeo and Juliet. -The Duchy of Saxe Weimar has establish

a press law which abotishes printers' licen caution money, the preliminary deposit o copy with the Administration, the penal against alleged complicity between the ed and the printer, etc., and substitutes for the the application of the common law to journal it also imposes on the judge the duty of rend ing his sentence, with the reasons it rests within two days after the seizure of a journa printed work. -Mgr. Luigi Fillppi, Bishop of Aquila, published a curious work on modern spirite ism. His Eminence expounds the doctrine the Church on the subject of good or rebeiling angels, and shows that the present facts w which people occupy themselves now a-d have their prototype in the Old Testament well as in the annals of the Church. -Mr. Van Lennep, a novel writer and p who had achieved celebrity, has died at Obbeek in his sixty-sixth year. Some of his bo had been translated into foreign languages. -The Atheneum states that Mr. Will Michael Bossetti has undertaken to prepare the Chaucer Society a detailed comparison Boccaccio's "Filostrato," with Chaucer's "Tr lus and Cryseyde."

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After this came Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania. The capital was threatened, and it their corn.

CHILDBEN WITH THE POETS. By Harriet B. McKeever. Published by Claxton, Remsen & Haffelünger.

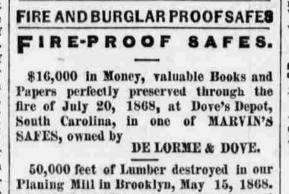
The compiler of this volume has had in mind the important influence which genuine poetry exerts in cultivating the minds and refining the tastes of the young. Having been for a number of years engaged in the work of education she has felt the want of a suitable book of poetry to be put in the hands of children as a class-book, and this collection is an attempt to supply the desideratum. The selections are adapted to the capacity of children between the ages of eight and fourteen, and while many of the poems are by English, American, and German authors of eminence, a large portion of the work is composed of gems gathered from the corners of newspapers, old scrap books, and similar sources. Miss McKeever has exercised much judgment and good taste in her selections, and most of them are well calculated to interest as well as instruct the minds of children, and, in the language of the compiler, "to inculcate a reverence for holy things and places, for goodness in every rank, pity for all the woes of man, tenderness towards the enemy, and lorgiveness to those who have wronged us." A few of the pieces are hacknied, such as Clement C. Morris' 'Night Before Christmas;" Mrs. Hemans' "Casa Bianca;" and Miss Jane Porter's "Chatterbox;" and we would be glad to see a book of poetry for children in which they were not included. At the end of the volume Miss McKeever has given seven poems of her own, which are equal in merit to the most of those which precede them.

-From G. W. Pitcher, No. 808 Chesnut street we have received "Grace Owen's Engagement," the latest issue of Loring's tales of the day. This story is a reprint of Blackwood's Magazine, and it represents the perplexities of an artist who fell in love with one young lady while he was sugaged to another. The ending is tragical, but the story is well written, and very interesting.

-J. P. Skelly & Co., No. 27 S. Seventh street, sends us "Grandma's Wardrobe," a religious story adapted to the mental capacities of young children.

-"Godolphin," just issued by J. B. Lippincott & Co., completes their "Globe" edition of Bulwer's novels, which have been in course of publication for many months past. The low price, \$1.50 per volume, and the neat manner in which this edition is gotten up has made it very popular. The paper is good, the type clear, and the binding tasteful. The twenty-two volumes, comprising the series, will make an altractive appearance on the shelt of a library.

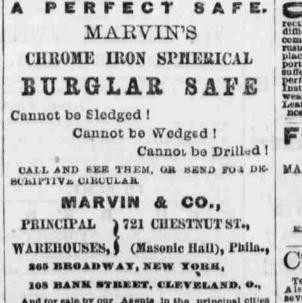
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