THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 69.

LITERATURE. REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

-From J. B. Lippincott & Co. we have received "Hints for a Six Months' Tour in. Europe," by John H. B. Latrobe. This volume is an amplification of the author's note-book, and it is designed especially for the guidance of those who visit Europe without any settled ideas as to where they ought to go, and how they can pass their time most advantageously. The work is neither a guidebook nor a narrative of travel, but in a pleasant and entertaining manner it sketches the programme of a tour through France, Italy, Austria, Saxony, Prussia, the Tyrol, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, England, and Scotland, such as the author made himself during the summer of last year. Mr. Latrobe is an intelligent traveller, and while his book is pleasant reading, it gives valuable hints as to what to see and how to see it, and it can scarcely fail to be useful to European travellers, especially those whose time is limited, and who desire to make the most of it.

-From Turner Brothers & Co., the Philadelphia agents, we have received "Game Fowls: their Origin and History," by J. W. Cooper, M. D. This work is an amplification of a treatise put forth by the author ten years ago, and it contains a complete description of the various breeds of game fowls, strains and crosses; the American and English modes of feeding, training, and breeding; how to breed and cross, improving quality and preserving feather, together with a description and treatment of all diseases incident to game fowls. Dr. Cooper is well known as a gamecock fancier, and this work is full of information of all kinds which persons interested in the breeding of game fowls will appreciate, and it will doubtless be received as the standard authority on the subject.

-"The Mississippi Valley," by J. W. Foster, LL. D., published by S. C. Griggs & Co., Chicago, is an important and valuable work. The author describes in a comprehensive form the physical geography of the great Mississippi Valley, and particularly that which lies west of the Mississippi river. As this region is rapidly being settled and brought under cultivation, a carefully prepared and scholarly work like this, which explains the characteristics of the country in a clear, precise, and comprehensive manner, will be read with pleasure by all who are interested in the development of our resources. Mr. Foster has not intended this to be a purely scientific work, but he has attempted to present a series of graphic sketches of the great phenomena of the region in a form which should interest and instruct the general reader, and at the same time to explain those natural laws to whose operations these phenomena are due. The work is handsomely printed, and it is a highly creditable specimen of Chicago bookmaking.

-From J. B. Lippincott & Co. we have received "Problematic Characters," by Friedrich Spielhaven. Translated by Professor Schele de Vere. This is a novel by a German writer who has a great reputation in his own country, and whose talents will doubtless receive a fitting recognition here. It is a story of singular interest and profound thought, which the admirers of the higher grades of fiction will be glad not only to read, but to place upon the shelves of their libraries for repeated perusal. The story is prefaced by an interesting sketch of the author from the Westminster Review. -From D. Ashmead we have received "Primary Truths of Religion," by Thomas M. Clark, D. D., LL. D., Bishop of Rhode Island. This work is designed to meet the unsettled condition of mind, in regard to the fundamental principles of morals and religion, which appears to be prevalent at the present time. Bishop Clark does not discuss the peculiar doctrines of revelation, and he stops short of the threshold of dogmatic theology, intending only to present the primary truths of religion in a clear and forcible manner, illustrating them by facts and arguments that no reader will have any difficulty in comprehending. -Messrs. T. B. Peterson & Brothers send us a handsome edition of "Hans Breitmann's Ballads," printed on fine paper and attractively bound. This edition contains all of Mr. Leland's verses on this theme, and the admirers of "Breitmann" will be glad to have him presented in such attractive style. A glossary is appended for the benefit of the uninitiated.

SKETCH OF MENDELSSOHN. Among the few who have been true sor

eants of art-of art in its highest form and In its perfect realization-Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy is worthy of a noble name and of the warm and grateful remembrance of every one whose heart can be touched and moved t emotion by the power of music. As we follow in this sketch the course of his short but beautiful life, we shall be the more interested if we keep in mind that he lived almost in our own times, and that his soul was subject to many of the same influences which we feel He belongs to us, almost as much as to-day. does Tennyson or Longfellow, and we fin l in him as much sympathy and love as is to be found in the works of those masters of wordmusic

Mendelssohn's career is remarkable for the great contrast which it presents to the lives of so many men of genius. He was not subjected to pinching poverty; his lot was not to struggle for his very existence, while pursuing his calling with almost superhuman zeal and energy; his piano was not his food, and clothing, and fuel, as in the case of some whose career has been traced. His happy lot was so far from this that he was born in luxury, with kind and appreciative parents, and with everything that could be desired to make life happy and prosperous. He had health, perbeauty, intellectual culture, a refined sonal and dearly-loved home, a beautiful and affectionate wife, and the admiration, nay, almost the worship, of the public that awaited with longing and received with the greatest joy every fresh creation of his mind, Yet in all this prosperity we find him, not the spoiled child of fortune, but her dutiful and loving son, amiable and philanthropic, devoted to his art for his own sake, not for the sake of the emoluments and honors which it brought him, with its conscience ever true and always obeyed, and with his energy of character unimpaired. With truth we can say, most happily was he named Felix.

He was born at Hamburg on the 3d of Feb. ruary, 1809. He was the second of four children, the eldest of whom was the sister Fanny, afterwards Madame Hensel, who was also possessed of rare musical abilities, and whose warm sympathy won for her a place nearer her brother's heart than was occupied by any of his other relations.

Felix's musical abilities were manifested at a very early age, and his mother devoted herself to his education with care. The family finally removed to Berlin, where the boy was placed under the tuition of Zelter, the Director of the Berlin Singing Academy, for thorough-bass and composition. Berger was his instructor upon the piano-forte, and occasionally he took lessons of distinguished professors residing for short periods in Berlin, among whom were Hummel and Moscheles He played publicly for the first time in his ninth year, at Berlin, and that, too, "with so much lightness, certainty, and spirit, that it was beyond the power of the most practised critic to detect from the performance that there was only a child nine years old seated at the piano-forte." Meanwhile his father had planned small family concerts at intervals of a fortnight; and at these little assemblies were produced the symphonies that Zelter had induced his pupil to write for the quartets of stringed instruments.

When twelve years old he went with Zelter to visit Goethe, who quickly perceived the genius of the boy, and continued to be his warm friend ever afterwards. Of all the letters of the composer which we have, perhaps the most interesting are those written during visits to Goethe, for in them we find recorded the close relations of friendship between two of the greatest artists that have ever lived, and can trace the bonds of affinity between two great and noble souls. In his sixteenth year Mendelssohn wrote the Ottett for stringed instruments, which will always be considered a masterpiece of chamber music, and the overture to the Midsummer Night's Dream was composed only two years later. But all this time his attention was not devoted exclusively to his own special subject. For more than a year he was a matriculated student in the University of Berlin, and a proof of his proficiency is to be found in a masterly translation of Terence's "Andria," which was printed at the time for private circulation, and a copy of which he sent to his friend Goethe. In 1829 Mendelssohn went for the first time to England, where his double character of pianist and composer won for him the valuable friendship of many most distinguished men in his profession. Afterwards proceeding to Scotland for a tour among the Highlands, his mind received impressions from which resulted the "Overture to the Hebrides," and his Scottish symphony in A minor. Soon after this journey, his operetta of Son and Stranger was produced for the occasion of the silver wedding of his parents, which fell on Christmas day. In the spring of 1830 he left home again for a longer tour, and it was during this absence that the letters from Italy and Switzerland, published by his brother Paul, were written. It is from these letters we can get a better idea of his character than, perhaps, from any other source. They are full of intellectual vitality and spiritual life and activity, conveying readily to the mind of the reader a conception of the mobile and sensitive character of their author. For this purpose, however, a little book, recently pablished, called "Reminiscences of Mendelsby Elise Polko, a book of which I sohn.' cannot help speaking, is particularly serviceable. It is hardly a biography-it tells neither when he was born nor when he died: yet it is better than a biography; it is more than a book of remembrances; it is almost Mendelssohn himself, and in reading it one seems to see the slender, agile form of the master wielding the baton, or bending over the score with his head resting on his hand; while at other times we thrill with emotion at hearing the grand music in the Gewandhaus Hall. The two greatest works of Mendelssohn the oratorios of St. Paul and Elijah, are those upon which his fame chiefly rests. The latter was written expressly for the festival held at Birmingham, England, where it was performed August 26, 1846. He had been engaged nine years on its composition, and had resigned the post of inspector of music, which he had filled for some time in Berlin, in order to superintend the performance in England. Mendelssohn writes after his return to Leipsic, in reference to this first presentation of his great work, "The first performance of my Elijah exceeded all the wishes which the composer may feel at such an important moment, and the evident goodwill of all the artists in the orchestra, as well as the kindness with which the audience received the work, will be as long as I live a source of grateful recollec-Elijah was represented a second time tion. in England at London during the following year, and on this occasion, also, the composer was present. His medical adviser had already forbidden him to play any more in public, and yet he undertook this great labor, so much did he love to insure the successful rendering of the music that had sprung from his own soul. The effort was too much for his health, and he was much prostrated. While in this weak

state, the news of his beloved sister's dauth reached him. He fell into a sottled and profound melancholy. Music, without which he could never be happy before, now affected him painfully, even to tears. His wife, finding all her previous efforts to arouse him unavailing, finally proposed a tour in Switerland, and with his family, accompanied by his brother Paul and his wife, and by Fanny's husband, Professor Hensel, he went to Interlaken to spend the summer. Of his life here he writes:—"I have begun to write music very busily, the three elder children work with me in the forenoon; in the afternoon, when the weather permits, we all take a walk together." And in another letter:-"We walk a great deal, the children do their lessons, Cecile paints Alpine roses, and I write music; so the days pass monotonously and quickly.

The winter came and he returned to Leipic, but only to meet there face to face the foe with whom he had been secretly contending for so long a time. He sat one day at the piano, playing as usual, when he suddenly raised his hands to his head as if in pain. He nickly became insensible, and though he rallied from this first cerebral attack, another soon seized him, and on the 4th of November, 1847, he peacefully breathed his last, surrounded by his family and a little group of intimate friends.

The early death of such an artist was felt by those who knew him best to be an irreputable loss, "He lived years whilst others would have lived only weeks," Mr. Benedict has said of him; and there is no doubt that this unremitted activity of body and mind hastened the wear and tear of his constitution. He was what may be called a strictly conscientious composer, for we find in his works not a passage written "merely to fill in. Every part of his work was brought to his ideal of expressiveness before he left it, and the perfect work of a master hand is perceptible in everything that we have from his pen.

I feel that I cannot do better than to close this article with his own words, so expressive as they are of the spirit that animated him in all his labors. The words are in a letter to his old master, Zelter, and they must receive the assent of every one who listens to the St. Paul and Elijah.

The great master said:-"I require no undercurrent of thought when I hear music, which is not to me a 'mere medium to elevate the mind to piety,' as they say, but a distinct language, speaking plainly to me; for, though the sense is *expressed* by the words, it is equally contained in the music."

THE SITUATION IN TEXAS.

The following extract from a private letter written by an officer in the army to a friend in this city gives a forcible description of the condition of affairs in the southeastern portion of Texas. The letter is dated from the stockade at Jefferson, June 6:-

One would readily think the war was not over yet, from the vast amount of bloodshed and cruelty still raging in these parts; and I think, to speak truly, it is not. The constant reports of crime which reach our cars daily justify me in saving that society is in quite a chaotic state and not yet recovered from the horrible influences of the war. Much has been said about the condition of affairs in Texas; many reports and contra reports, so I shall not pretend to have you to form an opinion upon my say so, but will give you a number of examples, from which you or any one else may draw your own conclusion. With one or two exceptions, I will con-fine my examples to crimes committed since my arrival here. As you know, I arrived here on th 17th of March last. Upon my arrival I found that my first tour of duty would be at what I am now doing, guarding prisoners in the stock ade. On my first tour of duty I receipted for about twenty prisoners, nearly all confined for murder. This morning I receipted for fortythree, all confined for murder. Of this number twenty-three are confined for the murder of Hon. George W. Smith and four Frenchmen and an attempt to murder Judge Colwell and others. These are now being tried by a military commission, of which General Hatch is Presi dent, and Colonel Dudley, Colonel Starr, Colone Thofler, Major Bissell, Major Gordon, and Captain Schwink are members. The murder was committed on the night of the 4th of October last, at what is called the Calaboose. Smith was a Northern man, who came down here with a large stock of dry goods (if I am properly in-formed), belonging principally to his uncle. After remaining here some time in the pursuit of his business he began to enter into polities on the radical ticket, and was sent to the State Convention called for the purpose of forming a new Constitution in harmony with the require-ments of the Reconstruction acts of Congress. Of course his main support was the negroes, whose votes elected him. His politics very soon relieved him of any white friends he may have had in the community, except a few radi-cals. About the 8th of October last he got into some trouble, and (it appears by testimony in the case now on trial before the commission, as does all I have written) that, in self-defense, he fired a shot or two from a revolver at some person or persons who had fired on him. He was arrested that night and put in the calaboose, as also were some negroes. The following night. after the usual taps upon the bell for such pu poses, the honorable members of the "Kuight-of the Rising Sun" collected themselves together as a Sabbath sun was setting, and bravely marched forwards to the cataboose in a mot variously estimated at from 60 to 260, where with arms of all descriptions and disguised by masks, etc., they assaulted and murdered Smith and the negroes. They are now on trial before the commission. The prisoners are members of the families of this city-many of them are called the best families. I have no doubt the commission will do them justice. It is now 2 o'clock in the morning. I sit in my little wall-tent inside the stockade, keeping vigilant watch over these "citizens of Texas." It might be interesting to you to know what the thing looks like. Of course, at this time in the morning everything is as still as death. It is meet that all things should be quiet and still around such a mass of sin. The stockade proper is made b digging a trench about 200 feet long by 100 fee broad, and about one foot wide. Large plac-logs are cut, say 15 feet long, and set up end-ways in this trench (the ground packed in around them) close together, entirely around forming a compact wall, in which are portholes cut for the purpose of defense from inside. In the centre of this fitclosure is a building of strong planks one story high, 25 by about 100 feet, set directly in the centre, and divided into three apartments, with two small cells at one end for desperate characters. In this are these "citizens of Texas" quietly slumbering to-night, and I keep watch outside. Near the top of the stockade is built entirely around it a causeway, on either side of which is a sentry diligently pacing his beat. These four sentries, the turakey who manages the big gate, and myself, form the guard for to-night to hold in custody these "citizens." What a pleasant duty-lorty-three murderers ! Don't you envy me ? I have said twenty-three are on trial; of the remaining twenty, six have turned State's evi dence, which leaves fourteen yet in the stockade unaccounted for. Of these one is named Green, a prominent citizen of one of the adjoinin unties, and a man of about thirty years of age About six weeks ago four negroes were taken out, and shot or hung. Captain Wagner, of my regiment (a Pennsylvanian, from Pottsville, Pa.), was sent to the place to make an investigation, and find out, if possible, the murderers. Lieu-tenant Ryan, of the 15th Infantry, was with him. They were sitting in a room at a village near by where the crime was committed, making som inquiry and researches, when in stepped the man above mentioned (Green), with coat thrown back and revolvers well exposed, and stepping up to Captain Wagner, he exclaimed, "I am the

man, I guess, rou are hunting for; I was the man who did that little trick." Captain Wagner replied, "You are the man we are bunting for;" apon which Mr. Green touched his revolver in telligently: however, evidently not noticing Lientenant Ryan, who sat in the adjoining room with coat off and cigar in mouth, who quietly rose up, pulled on his coat with a revolver in it. and stepping into the adjoining room, at th and stepping into the adjoining room, at the same time drawing his revolver in a concealed manner until at Green's side, when he quickly presented the muzzle of the same in close prox-imity to Green's throttle, exclaiming, "It you move hands or body you are a dead man." Mr. Green, being a man of quick perceptibility, la-stantly saw the situation and suffered Captain Wagner to disarm him, after which he took up his line of march with the aloreadd granteeper his line of march with the aforesaid gentlema for this place, and has since been boarding in the stockade. The proprietor, Uncle Sam, gives good and substantial board at moderate prices. is very magnanimous, and takes no offense when any of the friends of his boarders feel in clined to give them a few relishes or delicacies and even suffers his servants to carry them in and return the vessels used in transportation Another man confined is one Rose, who som two or three months ago saw an enemy of his sitting at the table in one of the hotels down in town, and, thinking it a fine opportunity, raised his revolver, fired, and shot him dead; another is a man named Weaver, who, with others, mardered two soldiers of the 6th Cavalry; another by the name of Robinson, for the murder of a mau named Salmon; another is a man named Fakey, confined for the murder of a man named George Mann; another, named Bishop, was a member of Baker's band of bandits, who have murdered scores of whites and hundreds of negroes, and who a short time before I came down here was shot (Baker, I mean) and brought here to the commanding officer of the post, for whose body a reward, both by the civil and military, had

been offered. Three others, Denton, Ward, and Blake, were brought in a few days ago from a county north of us, for the murder of several citizens. The rest are all confined for horse-stealing and murder. A few weeks ago, a noted outlaw and leader of a band of outlaws, named Bickerstaff, and one of his men, were murdered some dis tance west of us. About two weeks ago one of our soldiers was murdered down in town by a negro, who stabbed him nine times. An evening or two since that a white man was shot in town, and I think afterwards died. I am not certain, because murders are so frequent, and the particulars of them confused in my mind. Last week there were three murders at Marshall, a little town twenty miles from this. Among the number murdered was the sheriff of the county, a noted and persistent Union man. had this from Captain Wagner, who commandthe post, a day or two since, who is personally cognizant of every case. To-day a strong guard of cavalry left here for Marshall, as I understand, to insure the safer execution of the law in hanging two murderers, who are to be hung there to-morrow.

As my friend and fellow officer, Lieutenant Colby, was on his way down here from Greenville, this State, a couple of weeks ago, his party and escort were fired on (we never travel ten miles without an escort); he followed the party, fired on them, and wounded dangerously one man. When the 6th Cavalry came into the neighborhood of Greenville, which is about a hundred mlles west from this, Capt. Tolmau, one lieutenant, and thirty men were surrounded by about two hundred of these bandits, and held in slege tor. I think the captain told me, two weeks. This happened a month or more ago. Since this trial by the military commission began, a couple of men who gave State's evi-dence and testimony in the case have been threatened with their lives, and are obliged to leave this country. They are now making pre-parations to go, and although one of them has nearly a hundred thousand dollars' worth of property here, he does not dare to go

from under military protection, such he state of society here. I might out is the state of society spend a half day relating crimes which have been committed within a space of a hun-dred miles west of the Louisiana border at this point, and fifty miles north and south of this. But I will not weary your patience. It will take some little time yet to settle up matters and reduce society to a civil status. It is probably not known to you that there has been quite a number of troops sent to this State, and nothing ould have been done for the State to facilitate reconstruction more than this. The Rebel element were fast annihilating the few sparks of lovalty and Unionism which had existed and sprung up in their midst, and which was and is destined to ameliorate society and inspire loyalty and good feeling toward the General Govern-ment, and re-establish a State government loyal to the General Government. The case above mentioned of the murder of the Hon. George W. Smith and four freedmen was a political murder. The parties murdered were loyal, and supported the Reconstruction acts of Congress, whom the Rebel element, not being able to control, de-stroyed. At that murder which was committed at "the Calaboose" (a jall), fifteen United States soldiers, on guard for protection of Smith and the negroes, were disarmed and held in custody by the mob while the murders were committed. There were, however, here only about thirty men stationed at the post, entirely unable to withstand so many outlaws-all of whom were armed with double-barrelled shot guns, revolvers, We have now, however, a larger garrison, composed of portions of the 11th Infautry and the 4th and 6th Cavalry. The country feels the relief given by the presence of troops and loyal men breathe more freely. The cavalry have been kept quite basy scouting in squads for these fugitives from justice, or rather criminals, who have hitherto had no justice to fear.

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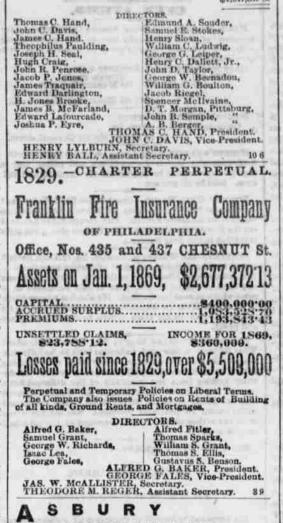
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Also "Stretton," an interesting novel by Henry Kingsley.

-From D. Ashmead we have received "The Dead Guest," by Heinrich Zschokke, translated by George C. McWorther, and "The Lost Manuscripts" a novel by Gustav Freytag, translated by Mrs. Malcom, being Nos. 7 and 8 of the "Library of Choice Fiction."

-"Annie's Gold Cross and its Mysterious Motto" and "Frank Harvey in Paris" are a couple of religious juvenile stories suitable for Sunday-school libraries.

-A. Winch, No. 505 Chesnut street, sends us the latest numbers of Temple Bar, Panch, Fun, Reynolds' Miscellany, and Bow Bells,

WESTERN LANDS.—A long pending suit has just been decided in Chicago by Judge Drummond, of the United States District Court for Northern Illinois, of which the subject matter fornishes a striking Illus-tration of the enormous appreciation in value, within a period of thirty-four years, of Western lands. In the year 1555 an agreement was made between a period of lifty-four years, of western lands. In Heury Seymour, of Utica, N. Y., and Jeremiah Price, of Chicago, by the terms of which the latter was to invest for the former, in eligible lands, the sum of \$5600. Accordingly, 2240 acres of land were purchased, with the understanding expressed in the agreement that they were to be sold again for the benefit of Mr. Seymour two weres from the time. agreement that they were to be sold again for the benefit of Mr. Seymour five years from the time of purchase. Before that time elapsed Seymour died, the creash of 1657 unaetted all business, and no steps were taken by Mr. Price or the heirs of Seymour to orary out the original terms of the agreement. In 1564 Price, and in 1567 this administrator, stated in a communication to the court that about two hundred acres had been sold for the sum of \$70,000. The decree just pronounced by Judge Dummond is final as to the sale of the residue of the land, though an appeal may be taken which may affect the distribu-tion of the proceeds. Should the whole purchase bring as large a price as what has already been sold, the original investment of \$50,000, an increase in yalue of iwy hundred ford.

JUDGE CHASE.—A Chicago radical paper con-tains the following special despatch from New York : "A movement has been commenced among some dissatisfied Republicans for pressing Salmon P. Chase for President in 1872, and with the supposed Chase for President in 1852, and with the supposed intention of coalescing with the Democrats. Hugh Hastings, of the Commercial Advertiser, David Dudley Field, Thomas C. Murphy, and George Opdyke are mentioned as among the parties interested, and two or three meetings have been held to arrange plans. A meeting was arranged for last night at the St. James Hotel, but there were not enough present to organize. Some who went into the movement at first have dropped out on account of its strong bear-ing towards Talinnany Democracy, and a suspicion that it was intended to carry Conservative Republic that it was intended to carry Conservative Republi cans into the Democratic ranks .- N. Y. World.

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