

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

From Turner & Co. we have received "The Autobiography of Edward Wortley Montagu." This is a work about which we should like to hear some more definite and authentic information than is contained in a very non-committal preface by Dr. Shelton Mackenzie and the statement of the publishers that they purchased the advance proof-sheets from Thomas C. Newby at an expense of two hundred pounds sterling. It professes to be the autobiography of the son of the celebrated Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, and it is written in such an extravagant vein, and is filled with such extraordinary statements, that it is difficult to regard it otherwise than as a fiction. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and her husband were doubtless quite as odious as they are described to have been in this book, but it is difficult to imagine a son writing about his father and mother in the strain that the author of this "autobiography" does, and we have a right to hesitate about accepting it as a true history unless some more positive information is given with regard to the author than is contained in the narrative. Assuming the work to be, however, what it professes, it is entertaining in many places not very nice reading. Mr. Montagu abuses all his relatives, including his father and mother, in anything but choice terms, and his descriptions of the celebrated men and women of the early days of the reign of George I are not calculated to raise them in the estimation of posterity. According to his own account he was most cruelly ill-used by his parents, and he takes his revenge by exposing all their weaknesses and bad qualities of mind and heart with a malicious pleasure that indicates that he inherited from them a nature that combined most of their evils of disposition. The book is an amusing one in some respects, notwithstanding the apocryphal appearance of some of its passages—such as the account of the interview between Lady Mary and Pope when she rejected his love addresses, and which the son professes to have witnessed from behind a screen. It is known that such an interview took place, and that the conduct of the lady on the occasion was the cause of the subsequent enmity of the pope; but in this instance, as in many others, the writer appears to have built a very large superstructure of fiction on a very small basis of fact. If this autobiography can be proved to be authentic, it will of course have a positive value apart from its literary style and the extravagance of some of its narrations; but it ought to have some responsible certification before it can be accepted as genuine.

The same house sends us *The Transatlantic for March 22* and *Appleton's Journal and Every Saturday* for March 19th.

From T. B. Peterson & Brothers we have received "Hans Breitmann's Ballads," by Charles G. Leland. This handsome volume of 168 pages contains all the Breitmann ballads, and Mr. Leland's other effusions in the same vein. These poems have attained an extraordinary popularity, both in this country and in Europe, so much so indeed that in England a lecturer has been discoursing before one of the learned societies on the Breitmann dialect. We presume that the series may be considered as complete, and that the admirers of the festive, philosophic, warlike, and religious Dutchman may purchase this volume with the assurance that they will find therein the whole career of Breitmann rounded off so that no future additions will be needed. The work is beautifully printed on thick, toned paper, and is bound in handsome style.

From Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger we have received the following new novels published by Harper & Brothers:—"So Runs the World Away," by Mrs. A. C. Steele, is an interesting society novel, in which the various phases of English life are described with much ability.

"Under Foot," by Alton Clyde, is a well-written story, in which the plot is worked out with much skill and the characters are drawn with a firm, decided touch that brings them prominently before the reader. The story is illustrated by a number of excellent drawings by Lawton.

From Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger, and also from Porter & Coates, we have received a "Guide to Williams & Packard's System of Penmanship for Teachers and Adepts," published by Slote, Woodman & Co., New York. This work gives a complete exposition of the Williams & Packard system, with all necessary directions for the learner, and an analysis of all the letters. Beautifully engraved examples conduct the learner from the first elements to the most elaborate penmanship. The work is gotten up in handsome style, and it will be found useful by all who wish to acquire a graceful and elegant method of penmanship.

The Presbyterian Publication Committee send us "Half-Way," by Margaret Starr, and "Helen's Lesson," by E. C. T.; a couple of religious stories for children, suitable for Sunday School libraries.

Peter E. Abel sends us from his literary curiosity shop, No. 131 S. Seventh street, the drama of *Ruy Blas*, translated from the French of Victor Hugo. This is the version performed by Mr. Fechter, and it has an interest at the present time on account of his personation of the hero at the Walnut Street Theatre.

From J. C. Garrigues & Co., No. 608 Arch street, we have received "How to Select a Library," by John S. Hart, LL. D. This is an address delivered on the 21st of February last by Professor Hart before a Sunday School Teachers' Institute. It is an excellent dissertation on Sunday School literature, and will be of material aid to superintendents and teachers in the selection of libraries for their schools. It will be mailed to any address on the receipt of two three-cent postage stamps.

AN ANCIENT SHEET.

Kentucky's First Newspaper. A gentleman who for years has been in the habit of gathering together all the old books, periodicals, and newspapers he could lay hands upon and storing them away, until his library is a kind of curiosity shop, linking together by writing and printing all ages and parts of the world, has sent us a copy of the first newspaper ever published in Kentucky. It is the *Kentucky Gazette*, which was started at Lexington, Ky., on the 28th of August, 1787, by John Bradford.

The paper before us is twelve inches long and eighteen inches wide. Its editorials consist of only five short paragraphs that would be measured by about the space occupied by ten squares of our times. Then there is a little over one column devoted to foreign news, and about as much more to domestic intelligence. The rest of the paper is taken up with advertisements—some for the Federal Government, some for the State, and the rest for private individuals. In other words, about nine-tenths of the paper is devoted to advertising, which shows that even at that early day those who had anything to sell or to buy understood the importance and the value of making known their wants by means of the press.

There are but few now living among us whose lives date back to the birth of this newspaper. The eighty-one years which have passed have carried to the grave nearly all those who could read the *Kentucky Gazette* when it first issued from the press of Mr. Bradford. Indeed, there are none among us whose memory extends unimpaired over the past and brings down to us the events of that day like the little sheet before us. And yet, though these fourscore years and one embrace the entire newspaper history of Kentucky, newspapers were a thing of old when they were but born in Kentucky.

To say nothing of the *acta diurna* of the Romans and the manuscripts of the middle ages, nor even of the written news letter furnished by a kind of minstrel down to a later period, newspapers, as such, have a high antiquity. In England they date back to the days of Nathaniel Butler in 1622, when the *Weekly News* made its appearance. The first daily paper made its appearance in London under the name of the *Daily Courant* in 1702. The *London Times* began in 1785; and its founder, John Walter, grew with it until the fame of both the editor and the paper filled the civilized world. It is probable that in Germany newspapers have an earlier date than in England. The *Frankfurter Oberpostamt Zeitung*, still in existence as a daily at Frankfurt-on-the-Main, claims its origin in 1667.

In our own country, the first newspaper was the *Boston News Letter*, which made its appearance at the "Hub" on the 24th of April, 1704. It was on a half sheet of paper, twelve inches by eight, with two columns of matter on each page. This was eighty-three years before the *Kentucky Gazette* made its appearance in Kentucky. It is possible that there was an earlier newspaper than the *News Letter* in Boston, as far back as 1690. But there was not on number of it issued, as it incurred the displeasure of the colonial legislature, and was suppressed without a second issue.

It seems, therefore, that two and a half centuries cover the whole period in which newspapers may be said to have existed in the world; that about one century and a half compass their duration in the United States, and that a little over three quarters of a century measures their existence in the State of Kentucky. If we take the longest period, two centuries and a half, what enterprise on earth has wrought such wonderful changes in such a length of time? Think of the *London Times*, one hundred thousand strong, issuing every morning, and spreading not only over the largest city in the world, but going by mail wherever civilization has established itself upon the earth!

The time was when none but the wealthy and the powerful could enjoy the luxury of a newspaper. Now the daily is within the reach of almost every one. There is scarcely anything in the world so cheap as the effusions of the press. It is a wonder even to those who understand it how a first-class daily can be furnished at the price it bears in our day.

RAILROAD LINES.

READING RAILROAD—GREAT TRUNK LINE from Philadelphia to the interior of Pennsylvania, the Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Cumberland, and Wyoming valleys, the North, Northwest, and the Canada.

WINTER ARRANGEMENTS of Passenger Trains, December 29, 1869. Leaving the COMPANY'S DEPOT at Thirtieth and Callowhill streets, Philadelphia, at the following hours:—MORNING ACCOMMODATION. At 6:30 P. M. for Reading and all intermediate stations, and Allentown. Returning, leaves Reading at 6:30 P. M., arrives in Philadelphia at 9:25 P. M.

AT 6:15 A. M. for Reading, Lebanon, Harrisburg, Pottsville, Pine Grove, Tamaqua, Sunbury, Williamsport, Elmira, Rochester, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Wilkes-Barre, Pottsville, York, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Pine Grove, etc.

AT 7:30 A. M. train connects at READING with East Pennsylvania Railroad trains for Allentown, etc., and the 8:15 A. M. train connects with the Lebanon Valley train for Harrisburg, etc.; and POINT CANTON, etc.

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RAILROAD LINES.

1869.—FOR NEW YORK.—THE CAMDEN AND AMBOY PHILADELPHIA AND TRENTON RAILROAD COMPANY'S LINES from Philadelphia to New York and 1045 Pinos.

FROM WALNUT STREET DEPOT. At 6:30 A. M. via Camden and Amboy Accom. \$2.50 At 8 A. M. via Camden and Amboy Express. 3.00 At 9 P. M. for Amboy and intermediate stations.

AT 6:30 A. M. and 9 P. M. for Long Branch and points on E. and D. B. R. R. At 8 and 10 A. M., 12 M., 3, 5, 9, and 4:30 P. M., for Trenton and 1045 Pinos.

AT 6:30 A. M. and 9 P. M. for Long Branch and points on E. and D. B. R. R. At 8 and 10 A. M., 12 M., 3, 5, 9, and 4:30 P. M., for Trenton and 1045 Pinos.

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RAILROAD LINES.

PENNSYLVANIA CENTRAL RAILROAD AFTER 6 P. M. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1869. The trains of the PENNSYLVANIA CENTRAL RAILROAD leave the Depot at THIRTY-FIRST and MARKET streets, which is reached directly by the Market Street cars, the last car connecting with each train leaving Front and Market streets thirty minutes before its departure.

AT 6:30 A. M. for Reading, Lebanon, Harrisburg, Pottsville, Pine Grove, Tamaqua, Sunbury, Williamsport, Elmira, Rochester, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Wilkes-Barre, Pottsville, York, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Pine Grove, etc.

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AUCTION SALES.

M. THILMAN & SONS, Nos. 139 and 141 E. 4th Street. Sale at the Auction Rooms, Nos. 139 and 141 S. Fourth Street, on Thursday Morning, March 17, at 10 o'clock, the entire household furniture, including a large assortment of superior household furniture, carpets, and other articles.

CHOICE MADRIRA WINES. On Saturday, March 19, at 10 o'clock, the auction store, by catalogue, 20 demijohns very choice Madeira Wines, part of the private stock of the late Messrs. Bates, including the celebrated "Bates" Madiras, "Blackburn," "Howard," "March & Co.," and "Edward's" Madiras.

BUNTING, DURBOV & CO., AUCTIONEERS. Nos. 323 and 324 MARKET STREET, corner of Bank Street. SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT SALE OF READY-MADE CLOTHING, on Wednesday Morning, March 16, at 10 o'clock, on four months' credit, including a large variety of men's and boys' suits, etc., custom made and regular sizes.

MARTIN BROTHERS, AUCTIONEERS. (Lately Salesmen for M. Thomas & Sons.) No. 704 CHESTNUT STREET, rear entrance from Market. Sale at the Auction Rooms, No. 704 Chestnut street, above Second Street, on Thursday Morning, March 17, at 10 o'clock, the entire household furniture, including a large assortment of superior household furniture, carpets, and other articles.

HANDSOME WALNUT PARLOR AND CHAMBER FURNITURE. On Thursday Morning, March 17, at 10 o'clock, the auction store, by catalogue, the entire household furniture, including a large assortment of superior household furniture, carpets, and other articles.

FIRST SPRING SALE DUTCH FLOWER ROOTS. On Friday Morning, March 18, at 10 o'clock, the auction store, by catalogue, the entire household furniture, including a large assortment of superior household furniture, carpets, and other articles.

THOMAS BIRCH & SON, AUCTIONEERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS, No. 1116 CHESTNUT STREET, rear entrance from Market. Sale on Wednesday Morning, March 16, at 10 o'clock, on four months' credit, including a large assortment of superior household furniture, carpets, and other articles.

SCOTT'S ART GALLERY AND AUCTION ROOM. No. 1117 CHESTNUT STREET, (Guard Row). Furniture sales every Tuesday and Friday morning at 10 o'clock. Particular attention paid to Out-door Sales at moderate rates.