LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

—From J. B. Lippincott & Co. we have received "Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California," by J. M. Hutchings. Published by A. Roman & Co., New York and San Francisco. This very handsome volume is intended as a guide-book for tourists in California, and it gives a description of all the great natural curiosities, beautiful scenery, and objects of interest that are worth visiting on our Pacific coast, and particularly of the wonderful Yo Semite valley. With the facilities for travel now afforded California bids fair to rival the most renowned pleasure-grounds of the world as a place of resort, and the Yo Semite valley is a great national park that in point of attraction excels almost any spot in the Old or New World. It is of itself well worthy of a visit to California, and a work like this, that gives a really good literary and historical description of it, will be appreciated by the stay-at-home as well as by the travelling public. * Mr. Hutchings has been a resident for twenty years of California, and for six years he has lived in the Yo Semite valley and made a special study of its scenery and remarkable features. His work is not a mere guide-book, for although it contains all the items of interest, such as tables of distances, rates of fare, hotel charges, and other matters that tourists wish to know, it is a work of much literary merit, and is written in a lively and interesting vein that will make it popular on its own account. It is illustrated with over one hundred fine engravings of scenery, etc., and is printed and bound in handsome style.

—From J. B. Lippincott & Co. we have received "Alboin and Rosamond, and Lesser Poems," by Robert Burton Rodney, U. S. N. The most interesting and remarkable feature of this volume is the dedication, which we copy in full:—

A memorial
by his remote son
to
II. William Rodney, of Rodney-Stoke,
in the county of Somerset, England.
Died June 10, 1669, and buried in Huntspill
Church—That Shire.
A Poet;
His mother cousin-german to Edward VI;
His family ancient and manorial; its Norman
NAME
Spoken with praise and trust by Kings and
Presidents; and identified with
English Glory and American Liberty.

If William Rodney, of Rodney-stoke, whose mother was cousin-german to Edward VI, was a poet, he has transmitted but a very limited amount of the divine afflatus to his descendant, Robert Burton Rodney, U. S. N., over whose verses we gladly draw the veil of a charitable silence.

—T. B. Peterson & Brothers send us the second edition of "Hans Breitmann's Ballads," which they have just issued in handsome style. This is the only complete collection of the Breitmann ballads that has ever been made, and it gives all that Mr. Leland has ever written on this theme. The book is printed on thick tinted paper, and is elegantly bound in green cloth.

From the same house we have also received "Henrietta Temple," by B. Disraeli, M. P. The publication of "Lothair" has excited a new interest in Mr. Disraeli's early writings, and we can assure the readers of that work that "Henrietta Temple" is not a much worse attempt at fiction-writing.

—J. P. Skelly & Co. send us "The Three Rules," by Mrs. Mary D. R. Boyd, a pleasantly-written story, with a moral, for young people.

—From Turner & Co. we have received *Appleton's Journal*, *Every Saturday*, and *Our Boys and Girls* for Saturday, June 4.

—From John Campbell we have received the fourth number of Francis Vincent's "History of the State of Delaware," which gives an account of the controversies between the English and the Dutch for the possession of the territory.

—*Van Nostrand's Eclectic Engineering Magazine* for June has, among other interesting papers, a description of Captain Ericsson's new method of submarine warfare, which will be read with interest.

—*The Little Corporal* for June presents an entertaining variety of stories, sketches, and verses adapted to the tastes of juvenile readers.

—The June number of *The Nursery* has some capital pictures that the little ones will appreciate, and stories that the youngest readers will understand.

—From the Central News Company, No. 505 Chesnut street, we have received the latest numbers of *Punch* and *Fun*.

THE JUNE MAGAZINES.

"OLD AND NEW."

The June number of *Old and New* contains the following list of articles:—"Old and New;" "Gratry on the Infallibility of the Pope," Joseph P. Thompson; "A Crowned Songstress," from the German; "Dead," Martha P. Lowe; "To our Only," D. A. Watson; "George D. Prentice and Kentucky Thirty-five Years Ago," J. Freeman Clarke; "She Writes" (Chap. VII), Elise Polko; "Straw Into Gold," S. H.; "Use of Dictionaries," D. G. Haskins; "Hoping and Waiting," Amy Battles; "Right and Wrong," P. W. Chandler; "A Night of Terror," Mrs. S. De Ponte; "While I May," Hiram Rich; "Winter Sunbeams Unsought," Gail Hamilton; "Miss Bradley's Wilmington Schools," Charles Lowe; "Ten Times One is Ten" (concluded), Colonel Frederic Ingham; "Mother and Son," George Finney; "Protoplasm," Francis Tiffany; "In Sunshine and Storm;" "The Examiner;" "Record of Progress."

From James Freeman Clarke's paper, "George D. Prentice and Kentucky Thirty-five Years Ago," we take the following:—

In those days street-fights and duels were normal facts of Kentucky life. By preaching a sermon against duelling I excited much wonder among the solid and serious citizens. Old Judge Rowan, the famous advocate and senator, expressed his astonishment that I should speak against duels. "He might just as well preach against courage," said he. Judge Rowan was a good friend of mine, used to come to church, and talk to me often about Lactantius and other Latin writers, whom he was fond of reading. The judge was also fond of high play, and many stories were told of his exploits in that direction. People's consciences were not disturbed by what would seem grave delinquencies to Eastern men. Many respectable people never thought of paying their debts. It did not seem worth while to do so. Others, very estimable in other ways, would win or lose a fortune at brag or poker with a charming feeling of innocence in regard to such transactions. To have a *spree*, or fit of drunkenness of two or three days' duration, did not disqualify a man from moving in the best society. Some Mississippi gentlemen on a visit to Louisville, attacked and slew two or three tailors in the bar-room of the Galt House, in a quarrel about a badly-cut coat. This murder was utterly unprovoked and barbarous, but the murderers were so well defended by Judge Rowan that they escaped unpunished, although the prosecuting officer was assisted by the equally celebrated Ben Hardin. But public sentiment was wholly in favor of the Mississippi murderers. What would the world come to if a large Mississippi slaveholder was not allowed to murder a tailor or two, once in a while? The most fashionable ladies sent flowers and pleasant little dinners to those persecuted gentlemen while in prison, and crowded the court-room on the day of trial. In the face of so much beauty, desiring their acquittal, what chivalric Kentucky jury would venture to convict them? The Mississippians went home in triumph, prepared to kill more tailors if they should find it expedient to do so. But I was not sorry to hear that my friend Judge Rowan never received from them the large fee which they had promised to him before the trial.

One morning Mr. John Howard Payne, who was travelling through the West and had brought me a letter, came to my room and said: "I have seen a great variety of life, but never anything exactly like this society in Louisville. I was last night at a ball at the house of Judge Rowan. In the same cotillion were dancing a son of the judge, Mr. Thomas F. Marshall, and two ladies to whom these gentlemen are said to be respectively engaged. Every one in the room knew that Rowan and Marshall were to fight a duel in the course of a week which would probably result in the death of one or both; but no one showed any surprise, and all was pleasant on the surface."

The story of this duel illustrates the features of society at that period. The judges of the courts were paid such small salaries that no good lawyer would accept the position, consequently the judges had little influence, and were treated with small respect by the bar. One day the judge of the Jefferson county district, considering himself insulted by a lawyer, one Colonel Robertson from Virginia, committed him to the county jail for twenty-four hours. The bar, thereupon, agreed to go to jail too, and have a supper. At this supper a slight quarrel occurred between two gentlemen, Mr. Thomas F. Marshall and a younger man named Garnet Howell. A glass of wine was thrown by one in the face of the other, and a duel was the result. Shots were exchanged without effect, and the honor of both parties was satisfied. Then Tom Marshall took his remaining pistol and fired it at a small tree at some distance and the bark flew from the sapling. This he did in order to show that he had purposely spared the life of his opponent. Mr. John Rowan, Jr., who was Howell's second, and no friend of Marshall, thereupon remarked, "It is singular, Mr. Marshall, that you cannot hit a man, since you can hit a tree so easily." To this sarcasm Marshall replied, "If *you* were the man, Mr. Rowan, I should not have missed you." Rowan responded, "I will give you an opportunity to try, Mr. Marshall." So a duel was thereupon arranged, which was likely to be much more serious than the first, as both parties were first-rate shots. In this duel Marshall was wounded in the leg and lamed for life.

We quote the following from the paper on "The Use of Dictionaries" by D. G. Haskins:—

The word *dollar* is derived from the German *thal*, meaning valley. The little town of Joachimsthal (valley of Joachim), in the heart of Bohemia, was the place in which the Counts of Schlick, from the year 1517 to 1526, coined pieces of about an ounce weight, and worth about 113 cents of our money. They were known in use as *joachimsthaler*. This word was afterwards reduced to *thaler*, and still later became Anglicized into *dollar*.

The word *tawdry*, according to Richardson, is formed from *Saint Audrey* (a contraction of Ethelred), and applied originally to laces and similar articles sold at the fairs of St. Ethelred, as the word *Bartlemy* was applied to the fairs of St. Bartholomew.

Bumper is a well-known corruption of the French words *bon pere* (good father), meaning the Pope, whose health was always drunk by the monks after dinner, in a full glass.

Quandary is also supposed to have a French origin, and to be a contraction of *qu'en dirai-je?* (What shall I say?), while the derivation of *chanticleer* from the same source (*chanter clair*, to sing clear), is almost too obvious to need to be pointed out.

Maudlin, Johnson says, "is the corrupt appellation of *Magdalen*, who is drawn by painters with swollen eyes and disordered looks."

The word *grog* has a very curious history. Dr. Worcester, quoting from "Notes and Queries," gives this account of it:—"Old Admiral Vernon, in 1739, first introduced rum and water as a beverage on board his ship. In foul weather he used to wear a grogram cloak, which gained him the appellation of *Old Grog*. From him the sailors transferred this name to the liquor." It would possibly more puzzle our readers now to translate the word "grogram" than the word "grog," although they use neither. In Addison's time grogram was a coarse *camlet*—and even that word is now going out—a rough woollen cloth (*gros-grain* or grosso-granus) used for cloaks.

The word *poltroon* is said to come from the two Latin words *pollice truncato* (thumb-cut); the explanation being that it was an ancient practice for cowards to cut off their thumbs in order to render themselves unfit to be drafted in war. *Soldier* comes from the Latin, "a man who received for his fighting wages a *solidus*," a gold coin in the late days of the empire. *Saunterer* is from the French *Sainte Terre* (Holy Land); a designation given to those who once roved about the country and asked charity, under pretence of going as pilgrims to the Holy Land.

A similar history attaches to the word *roamer*, of which John on says, "It is imagined to come from the pretences of vagrants who always said they were going to *Rome*." The word *buff* is an abbreviation of buffalo; the skin of that animal, when tanned, having the light yellow color denoted by this word.

The words *chapel* and *chaplain* come to us through the Spanish *capa*, meaning hood (as our word *cap* from the same prototype "caput," a head). Long ago the "hood of St. Martin" was valued as a relic possessing miraculous powers. Charlemange was accustomed to carry it with him into the field, and kept it by itself in a tent, which from this relic was called *capella*, while the officer who guarded it was called *capellanus*. Hence the words *chapel* and *chaplain*, applied to places of worship, and those who administer worship, without a fixed and permanent consecration.

Passover, which in accordance with our translation of Exodus xii, 26, is commonly supposed to be compounded of *pass* and *over*, is derived by Talbot, in his "English Etymologies," from the Hebrew *pascha*, itself meaning *to pass over*, and the old word *opfer*, or *offer* a victim. "A lamb for sacrifice," he says, "was therefore an *opfer*, or *offer;* and the paschal lamb was the *pasch-offer*, which has been modernized into *passover*. Such expressions as 'kill the passover;' 'ye shall eat it with your loins girded;' 'Christ our passover is sacrificed for us,' would have no propriety unless a *passover* were a living creature, a *victim* sacrificed or offered."

Cheat, according to Mr. Marsh, is derived from the name (*escheators* or *cheators*) of the officers appointed to look after the King's escheats, whose duties gave them great opportunities of fraud and oppression.

Cock, according to the same authority, is from the cry represented by the French *coquetico*, *cequevicot: coin*, from the Latin *cuneus* (a wedge), French *coin*, *quin*, the steel die with which money was stamped, originally shaped like a wedge.

Curmudgeon is a corruption from the French *cœur* (heart) *mechant* (wicked); and *shabby* from *deshabille* (carelessly or ill-dressed.) *Bedlam* is corrupted from *St. Bethlehem*, the name of a priory in London, which in 1546 was converted into an asylum for the insane; and *crazy* is from the French *ecraser*, to crush, or destroy.

Tribulation comes from the Latin *tribulatio*, *tribulum*, a kind of threshing sledge consisting of a wooden platform studded underneath with teeth of flint or iron.

"The much abused *spinster*," says De Vere, "derives her name from the legal fiction which presumes all elderly unmarried women *to spin*, as well as all good *wives* to *weave*—the words *weave*, *woof*, and *wife* all coming from the same common ancestor."

INSURANCE.

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NORTH AMERICA.

JANUARY 1, 1870.

Incorporated 1794. Charter Perpetual.

CAPITAL.....$500,000
ASSETS.....$2,783,581

Losses paid since organization....$23,000,000
Receipts of Premiums, 1869....$1,991,837'45
Interest from Investments, '69. 114,696'74
$2,106,534'19
Losses paid, 1869.....$1,035,386'84

Statement of the Assets.

First Mortgages on City Property	$766,450
United States Government and other Loan Bonds	1,122,846
Railroad, Bank and Canal Stocks	55,708
Cash in Bank and Office	247,620
Loans on Collateral Security	32,558
Notes Receivable, mostly Marine Premiums	321,944
Accrued Interest	20,357
Premiums in course of transmission	85,198
Unsettled Marine Premiums	100,900
Real Estate, Office of Company Philadelphia	30,000
	$2,783,581

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From Loss by Fire (in the City of Philadelphia only).
ASSETS, JANUARY 1, 1870, $1,572,732'25.

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ASSETS OF THE COMPANY
November 1, 1869.

$200,000 United States Five Per Cent. Loan, ten-forties	$216,000'00
100,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan (lawful money)	107,750'00
50,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan, 1881	60,000'00
200,000 State of Pennsylvania Six Per Cent. Loan	213,950'00
200,000 City of Philadelphia Six Per Cent. Loan (exempt from tax)	200,225'00
100,000 State of New Jersey Six Per Cent. Loan	92,000'00
20,000 Pennsylvania Railroad First Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds	450'00
25,000 Pennsylvania Railroad Second mortgage Six per Cent. Bonds	23,625'00
25,000 Western Pennsylvania Railroad Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds (Pennsylvania Railroad guarantee)	20,000'00
30,000 State of Tennessee Five Per Cent. Loan	15,000'00
7,000 State of Tennessee Six Per Cent. Loan	4,270'00
12,500 Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 250 shares stock	14,000'00
5,000 North Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 100 shares stock	2,900'00
10,000 Philadelphia and Southern Mail Steamship Company, 80 shares stock	7,500'00
$46,900 Loans on Bond and Mortgage, first liens on City Properties	$46,900'00
$1,231,400 Par. Market value, $1,255,270'00. Cost, $1,215,622'27.	
Real Estate	36,000'00
Bills Receivable for Insurances made	823,700'75
Balances due at Agencies:— Premiums on Marine Policies, Accrued Interest, and other debts due the Company	65,097'95
Stock, Scrip, etc., of Sundry Corporations, $4706. Estimated value	2,740'20
Cash in Bank $168,318'88	
Cash in Drawer 972'26	169,291'14
	$1,852,100'04

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1829. CHARTER PERPETUAL. 1870.
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Office, Nos. 435 and 437 CHESNUT St.
Assets Jan. 1, '70, $2,825,731'67

CAPITAL.....$400,000'00
ACCRUED SURPLUS AND PREMIUMS....2,425,731'67
INCOME FOR 1869. $810,000. LOSSES PAID IN 1869. $144,968'42.

Losses paid since 1829 over $5,500,000

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CASH Capital (paid up in full).....$300,000'00
Cash Assets, Jan. 1, 1870.....$524,365'1

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The money is required for the purchase of additional Rolling Stock and the full equipment of the Road.
The receipts of the Company on the one-half of the Road now being operated from Coatesville to Wilmington are about TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS per month, which will be more than DOUBLED with the opening of the other half, over which the large Coal Trade of the Road must come.
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NINETY (90)
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