

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

"The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex," by Charles Darwin, M. A. F. R. S., etc., published by D. Appleton & Co., is a continuation of the subject which the author broached some years ago in his "Origin of Species," and which has served to excite controversies of the most violent description in both scientific and theological circles.

The April number of The Transatlantic contains an admirable series of short stories selected from the best English periodicals. A good short story is something that every reader can enjoy, and The Transatlantic always contains the best there are going.

The Children's Hour for April has abundant entertainment for the young people in the shape of pretty pictures and readable stories and sketches.

The Lady's Friend for April contains a variety of illustrations of the latest novelties in feminine attire, and a series of literary contributions which are up to the usual standard of excellence.

Mr. Turner also sends us The Miner's Journal Coal Statistical Register for 1871. This valuable compilation gives the statistics of the coal trade for 1870, with the prospects of the trade in 1871, a history of the causes of the great suspension of 1870, an abstract of the report of the mine inspectors, and much other interesting information.

MYSTERIES OF EVERY-DAY LIFE. The ingenious and delightful author of the "Miserables of Human Life" left his task but half accomplished. They have multiplied since in fresh and unlooked-for variety; and a pleasant chapter or two may be written on the subject hereafter.

Philosophers are proverbially skin-deep only; as a prominent instance of which I may remark, in relation to the present subject, that the inquiring mind which, some time since, led the writer of "Two o'clock in the morning" to investigate the causes why, at that particular hour, the clock ticked unusually loud, or the bed-room door opened of itself, might have still farther extended its researches with advantage into the mysteries of every-day life.

Porter & Coates also send us of the recent publications of D. Appleton & Co. a well-written and entertaining narrative of a trip across the American continent by way of the Pacific Railroad, by W. F. Rae. The book is entitled "Westward by Rail; or, The New Route to the East," and is made up of a series of letters to the London Daily News, largely rewritten and augmented by the addition of new matter.

Nothing gratified me more than the feeling of kindness towards the Old Country which I found pervading the American people. The bitter and undying animosity about which much has been written exists on paper only, or in the disordered minds of irascible Fenians. In this particular the press is not a faithful exponent of the public sentiment. A disposition to construe in the worst sense the actions of the United Kingdom, and to discredit her on every occasion, and in every imaginable way, is certainly the characteristic of the press of New York.

Englishmen commit a fatal error when they try to convince themselves that the press on this subject does not express the prevailing sentiments of the people of the United States. "Fun Better than Phisic; or, Everybody's Life Preserver," by W. W. Hall, M. D., published by H. N. McKinney & Co., No. 16 North Seventh street, is a series of brief maxims with regard to the best method of preserving health, many of which contain much sound sense and not a few much nonsense.

"Crucel as the Grave," by Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, published by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, is a story in which the pepper and spice are as lavishly used as in any of the previous performances of the same pen. The admirers of Mrs. Southworth will find "Crucel as the Grave" abundantly entertaining.

From the Central News Company, No. 505 Chesnut street, we have received the latest numbers of All the Year Round, The Cornhill Magazine, Temple Bar, Punch, and Fun.

or its being an especially inviting aspirate, therefore always put in; but why the rule of wrong should be no unexceptionally adopted, as often under circumstances of extreme difficulty to cause the pronunciation of the unhappy consonant where it does not exist, and the omission of it where it is, is a mystery that has cost me years of fruitless investigation, and gives me almost a headache to think of. The favorite cockneyism of the Weller school, the substitution of 'r' for 'c', and so on, has become comparatively extinct, so ceases to trouble me.

Will any one account to me for a phenomenon of daily life, I may almost say hourly, occurrence, viz., the manner in which inanimate objects get themselves out of the way the moment there is a demand for their services? This applies to everything; the very pen with which I wrote the foregoing passage has sui proprio motu got from my study-table into the next room, and is found upon my dressing-glass, near which I am not been since nine this morning! If I am going from home for a few days, my clothes all seem to be aware of the intention, and hide themselves in places where they never were before; my papers—usually more regular in arrangement of a sudden become topsy-turvy; a Love-ditty gets into an Essay on chemistry, and a Christmas tale into the British Constitution. For the faculty of jumbling themselves together in inextricable confusion, however, on these occasions, and at the shortest moment, commend me to the keys!—they beat all. The scissors you have just laid down may indeed be found in a book you have not opened for months; the razor you shaved with this morning, in a drawer locked up last summer; and you are informed that it is that same razor which is the opportunity of getting into the deepest corner of a portmanteau you do not intend opening till your journey's end days be over. But all these are nothing to the keys; there they are, a bunch stuck together in a manner that defies all attempts at extraction; the large keys have got into the small one; the small ones, webs, pipes, rings, and all spontaneously intermingled with a complexity of entanglement that hours of perseverance would not have enabled one to achieve. I would like, too, to be informed what it is that takes possession of my pens. I am most particular about them; yet I constantly find their nibs in one of two conditions—either the form of a letter V split-up to the feathers; or as sharp, and for the purposes of writing, as useful, as a skewer.

Why, again, do two left-hand gloves always find their way into the pocket of my evening-coat, and in the effort to accommodate myself to circumstances, cause me to appear as though I had paralysis in the right? The alternative to this disaster is the fate by which I meet a rural friend of warm temperament, who grasps me fervently by the hand, bursting my glove up the back, whilst the button hits the opposite side. I stop not to inquire why all your 'swell' friends meet you when you do not want them, and never when you do. This is simply the contrariety of human nature. But I should like to know why an individual—be it man or woman—with whom for ages I may not have corresponded, invariably is seized with a fit of writing to me at the same moment as I break silence to him or her, our two letters crossing each other with an exactness no pains could insure? Has any one, I would ask, ever yet taken up what he thought was the poker, that he did not find it the shovel? or was a pair of bellows or tongs ever yet found in any inn or lodging-house? When was that enormous stock of hair-cloth sofas and chairs constructed, which abound in every one of the side inns or lodgings, and whose cushions invariably loose, and their padding composed of shingle? Who grow the worsted flowers that flourish there? and what fish ever inhabited those brown shells now devoted to earwigs? Why is No. 199 the only room ever vacant at any hotel when I arrive en garcon, although there is not the slightest evidence of there being any other traveller in the house? But why, O why, do things and people all get astray that you do want; and why are those always in evidence when you don't, and even they disappear when at last their presence would for once be desirable? And why don't things happen—yes, happen—that is (my belief is, everything happens, and life is passed in a chronic condition of toss-up)—why, I ask, don't things happen just the reverse way of what they do? And then another thing would happen; and that is, that I shouldn't have written this article; and you would have lost a great opportunity of improving your mind and enlarging your understanding! Adieu.

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COTTON—MIDDLING FAIR AND MIDDLING GUIN, Alabama and Uplands, samples, clean stain, etc., for sale by WILLIAM M. GREINER, No. 109 CHESNUT STREET.

PROPOSALS. UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE, BALTIMORE, MD. FAYETTE STREET, NEAR CHARLES. Third-story Union Bank Building. MARCH 15, 1871.

SEALED PROPOSALS in duplicate will be received at this office until 12 o'clock M., MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1871, for furnishing the Subsistence Department U. S. A.,—

CITY ORDINANCES. AN ORDINANCE To Empower the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with the Mayor for the Killing and Removing of Dogs found Running at Large in the City.

MERCHANTS' FUND. This Institution was incorporated by the Legislature of Pennsylvania in 1854, its benign object being to furnish relief to indigent Merchants of the City of Philadelphia in cases of fire and other calamities. The claims upon the Fund are so numerous that the appropriations for the relief of its beneficiaries are already in excess of the regular income, and it is with the hope of eliciting more general sympathy and aid in sustaining this excellent charity that the Managers make this appeal to our citizens.

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SHIPPING. CLYDE'S STEAM LINES. PHILADELPHIA, RICHMOND AND NORFOLK. STEAMSHIP LINE THROUGH FREIGHT AIR LINE TO THE SOUTH AND WEST.

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