THE CREAM OF THE NEW BOOKS.

Bryant's Homer's Iliad.

Not falsteat among the signs of a ripening civilization is the distinction of producing elegant and sympathetic copies. Bryant, Shakspeare, and Homer are the least popular of these, and in manner as he has always been in his style, has made a version of the Iliad worthy of himself. Fields, Osgood & Co. publish the volume, which may be placed in libraries beside Longfellow's Dante.

We can best show the quality of Mr. Bryant's translation by a few extracts, which, to reveal all further his place in the translating competition which distinguishes the day, we will compare with passages from other versions, especially using for the purpose Lord Derby's, a particularly interesting study, from its rapid appearance, its popular success, and the late lamented death of its author.

We begin with the beginning, which Mr. Bryant translates thus:

BRYANT'S VERSION.

"O Goddess! sing the wrath of Peleus's son,
Achilles; sing the deadly wrath that brought
Woes numberless upon the Greeks, and
hurl
To Hades many a valiant soul, and gave
Their limbs a prey to dogs and birds of air,—
For so Jove appointed;—from the time
When the two chiefs, Atrides, king of men,
And great Achilles, parted first in foes."

And Lord Derby thus:

LORD DERBY'S VERSION.

"Of Peleus's son, Achilles, sing, O Muse,
The vengeance deep and deadly; whence to
Greece
Unnumbered ills arose; which many a soul
Of mighty warriors to the viewless shades
Untimely sent; they on the battle plain
Unburied lay, a prey to ravening dogs
And carrion birds; but so had Jove decreed,
From that sad day when first in words of wrath
The mighty Agamemnon, King of men,
Confronted stood by Peleus's godlike son."

We next cite (because we suspect the reader will look for it) the famous description of the watch-fires, at the end of the Eighth Book.

First, Mr. Bryant:

BRYANT'S VERSION.

"So, high in hope, they sat the whole night
through
In warlike lines, and many watch-fires
blazed.
As when in heaven the stars look brightly
forth
Round the clear-shining moon, while not a
breeze
Sirs in the depths of air, and all the stars
Are seen, and gladsome is the shepherd's
heart,
So many fires in sight of Ilium blazed,
Lit by the sons of Troy, between the ships
And edging Xanthus: on the plain they
shone
A thousand; fifty warriors by each fire
Sat in its light. Their steeds beside the
cars—
Champing their oats and their white barley—
stood
And waited for the golden morn to rise."

Mr. Bryant omits the lines we are going to bracket in Mr. Tennyson's translation, for the reason (stated in his preface) that they are regarded by the best critics as not properly belonging to the text, but as transferred to it by some interpolator from another simile in the Sixteenth Book.

TENNYSON'S TRANSLATION

of this same passage:

"And above all shone night upon the ridge of war
Sad glowing; many a fire before them blazed;
As when in heaven the stars about the moon
Look beautiful, when all the winds are hush,
And every height and every jutting peak
And valley, and the immeasurable heaven
Break open to their highest, and all the stars
Shine and the shepherd gladdens in his heart;
So many a fire between the ships and stream
Of Xanthus blazed before the towers of Troy,
A thousand on the plain; and close by each,
Sat fifty in the blaze of burning fire;
Anear; nine shooting heralds strove to hush
The noisy crowd to silence, that at length
The heavy-breathed monarchs might be
heard."

LORD DERBY'S VERSION OF THE ABOVE.

"He said, and from the council led the way.
Upon the sceptred monarchs, and observed
Their leaders call, and round them strong
the crowd,
As swarms of bees, that pour in ceaseless
stream
From out the crevice of some hollow rock,
New clustering, and anon 'mid vernal flowers,
Some here, some there, in busy summons fly;
So to th' Assembly from their tents and ships
The countless tribes came thronging; in their
midst,
By Jove exhilarated, Rumor urged them on.
Great was the din; and as the mighty mass
Sat down, the solid earth groaned beneath
their weight;
Nine heralds, raised their voices loud, to quell
The storm of tongues, and bade the noisy
crowd
Be still and listen to the Heav'n-born Kings."

A passage from the Fifth Book, selected to show Bryant's simple strength, must, with exactness made in previous issues, close our quotations from the volume:

BRYANT'S VERSION.

"Sa spake she, and her bidding was obeyed
By nine-eyed Pallas. Into the midst
Daughter of mighty Saturn, laid in haste
The harness, with its ornaments of gold,
Upon the horses. Hebe rolled the wheels,
Each with eight spokes, and joined them to
the
Of the steel axle—fellies wrought of gold,
Round with a brazen rim to hold the tire—
A wonder to behold. The hollow naves
Were silver, and on gold and silver cords
Was slung the chariot's seat; in silver hooks
Rested the reins, and silver was the pole
Where the fair yoke and poitrels, all of gold,
Were fastened. Juno, eager for the strife,
Led the swift-footed steeds beneath the yoke.
Pallas, the Aegis, daughter of the god who bears
The aegis, on her father's palace floor,
Let fall in dainty folds her flowing robe
O'ermany colors, wrought by her own hand,
And, pulling on the mail of Jupiter,
The Cloud-compeller, stood arrayed in arms
For the stern tasks of war. Her shoulder
bore
The dreadful aegis with its shaggy brim
Of terrors, Terror—dread Discord, Valor
there
Was furious, and there was fierce Pursuit,
And there the Gorgon's head, a ghastly
sight,
Deformed and dreadful, and a sign of woe
When borne by Jupiter. Upon her head
She placed a golden helmet with four crests
And nine gilded, and so, clad in armor bright
withstand—
The armed battalions of a hundred towns;
Then stepped into her shining car, and took
Her massive spear in hand, heavy and huge,
With which whole ranks of heroes are o'er-
thrown
Before the daughter of the Mighty One
incensed against them Juno swung the
lash
And swiftly urged the steeds. Before their
way,
On sounding hinges, of their own accord,
Flew wide the gates of heaven, which ever-
more
The Hours are watching—they who keep the
mount
Olympus and the mighty heaven with power
To open or to close their cloudy veil.
Through the gates they urged the obedient
steeds,
And found the assemblies where he sat apart
From the other gods, upon the loftiest height
Of many-peaked Olympus."

LADY BYRON.

Everything that has transpired about Lady Byron speaks of a woman alike of bad judgment and of a somewhat ambitious intellect—a character, in fact, not proportion to its powers—and of this Mrs. Stowe gives us no conception. Her marriage was, as she herself, we suppose, afterwards believed, a fatal mistake, and as Lord Byron malevolently hinted, on the very day of his wedding, an unfortunate mistake, a mistake half rooted in the belief that she would have the power and influence of a Madame de Staël, or the charm and science of a Wickliffe did not pretend to be ignorant. No doubt the literature of the day, which was always drawing pictures of young girls reforming noble-minded rakes by their love and self-denial and nobility as wives, was likely enough to have fostered this great enterprise in her, and to have made her personally forward. But there can be no sort of doubt that there was a fine, and a very original one, somewhere, in her intellectual nature and practical judgment.—[*Spectator.*

LITERARY.

Putnam's Magazine.—We are glad to have to state that this magazine will take a new lease of prosperity from the felicitous engagement of Mr. Parke Godwin as editor. Mr. Godwin will assume his duties from the April number and so following. This ripe scholar, finished stylist, and cultivated critic and poet will doubtless establish the magazine on a firm basis of excellence. He has been associated with it, in fact, as contributor, from its start in 1853, when his portrait appeared inside and the names of George William Curtis and Mr. Miller on the cover. Mr. Godwin, we presume, has got his History of France so well into shape that he can afford to leave his European home and access to foreign libraries, for this country and for an exacting and onerous responsibility. Mr. Godwin is an experienced editor, having long held a position on the staff of the New York *Evening Post*, of which paper his father-in-law, the poet Bryant, is chief proprietor, and to which he lent that tone of literary excellence, and that activity in spreading the news of letters, which are characteristics of his own. The following passage, from Mr. Godwin's salutatory, has the right ring:

"We shall not forget that the proper function of a Magazine is to amuse as well as to instruct, or, rather, is to instruct by means of amusement; and we hope to gather, therefore, out of the intellectual life and culture of the republic, criticisms, sketches, tales, poems, etc., that shall be an adequate expression of our new conditions and our abounding vitality. This, we are told, is the temperament of a magazine editorship: our best mind, it is said, turns itself toward practical pursuits. Pacific Railroads are our epics, and the flight of hammers and anvils our lyrics: while the fine arts—the arts in which all that is grand and beautiful and subtle in a nation's genius is embodied—are left to certain 'delicate nobodies,' as one of our cynical friends phrases it, who are without positive personality, and confess to no higher inspiration than that of broadening for the moment.

"If such were our notions we should despair, not only of our literature, but of the Republic itself; for literature is but the outflowing of the national heart, and since we have given of late such ample evidence that our heart is dead, we need entertain no fears of the answering capacities of the head. The flowers and fruits of genius will come in their own way and time, if we who set ourselves to watch for them, are not too dull to recognize their coming, or too inhospitable to tender them a generous welcome when they arrive."

The magazine has been conducted, of late, by Mr. Putnam himself, without that powerful assistance which should have been rendered. The March number, the last to appear under his supervision, will, however, be an interesting one, with a personal article on "Bear-hunting in Southern Illinois," from "our Secretary;" an account of the Viceroy's fête by Elisée Reclus, traveling for the magazine; a note by the incoming editor, etc.

With No. 43 of *Appletons' Journal*, Anthony Trollope's new novel, "Ralph the Heir," was commenced in a Supplement. This novel will appear in monthly parts in London, and each monthly instalment will be issued in a supplement to the *Journal*, without extra charge, simultaneously with its publication in England. The second monthly instalment appeared in supplement to No. 46 of the *Journal*, issued February 1st.

CITY ORDINANCES.

COMMON COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA.

CLERK'S OFFICE,
PHILADELPHIA, FEB. 7, 1870.

In accordance with a Resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of Philadelphia on Thursday, the third day of February, 1870, the annexed bill, entitled

"AN ORDINANCE

To create a loan for the building of a bridge over the river Schuylkill, at South Street, and for the payment of ground rents and mortgages,"

is hereby published for public information.

JOHN ECKSTEIN,
Clerk of Common Council.

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A LOAN FOR THE BUILDING OF A BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER SCHUYLKILL AT SOUTH STREET, AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF GROUND RENTS AND MORTGAGES.

SECTION 1. The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do ordain, That the Mayor of Philadelphia be and he is hereby authorized to borrow, at a less than par, on the credit of the City, from time to time, one million five hundred thousand dollars, to be applied as follows, viz: *First*—For the building of a Bridge over the River Schuylkill, at South street, eight hundred thousand dollars. *Second*—For the payment of Ground Rents and Mortgages, seven hundred thousand dollars, for which interest not to exceed the rate of six per cent. per annum shall be paid half-yearly, on the first days of January and July, at the office of the City Treasurer. The principal of said loan shall be payable and paid at the expiration of thirty years from the date of the same, and not before, without the consent of the holders thereof; and the certificates therefor, in the usual form of the certificates of the City Loan, shall be issued in such amounts as the lenders may require, but not for any fractional part of one hundred or one thousand dollars; and it shall be expressed in said certificates that the loan therein mentioned, and the interest thereof, are payable free from all taxes.

SEC. 2. Whenever any loan shall be made by virtue thereof, there shall be, by force of this ordinance, annually appropriated out of the income of the corporate estates, and from the revenue of the City, a sum sufficient to pay the interest on said certificates; and the further sum of three-tenths of one per centum on the par value of such certificates so issued shall be appropriated quarterly out of said income and taxes to a sinking fund, which fund and its accumulations are hereby especially pledged for the redemption and payment of said certificates.

H. C. PUGH,
Secretary.

PROPOSALS FOR COMMISSIONERS.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE ERECTION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17, 1870.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received for the following work and materials required in the execution of the WALNUT-Street Bridge of the PUBLIC BUILDINGS, to wit:

For all the excavations, including the trenches for the foundations. The price to be stated per cubic yard, which is to cover all digging, hauling away the surplus earth, and cutting down and removing whatever trees may come in the way of the excavations, without extra measurement or allowance.

For staking down the terrace wall, cleaning the bricks, and piling them up adjacent to the buildings, taking down the iron railings, the gate piers, the coping of the wall and the steps, and depositing the stone in the yard, and removing all the rubbish occasioned by the same. The price for this portion of the work to be stated in gross.

For concreting the entire foundation of the buildings with small brokenstone, and cement, mortar, and gravel, in conformity with the specifications. The depth of the concrete to be three feet, and the lateral dimensions to conform to the plans. The price to be stated per cubic foot, and to include all materials and labor.

For furnishing and delivering large-size building stone, and dressing the upper perch of 22 cubic feet, measured in the walls. Also, for select building-stone, averaging 9 by 24 inches of excellence. He has been associated with it, in fact, as contributor, from its start in 1853, when his portrait appeared inside and the names of George William Curtis and Mr. Miller on the cover. Mr. Godwin, we presume, has got his History of France so well into shape that he can afford to leave his European home and access to foreign libraries, for this country and for an exacting and onerous responsibility. Mr. Godwin is an experienced editor, having long held a position on the staff of the New York *Evening Post*, of which paper his father-in-law, the poet Bryant, is chief proprietor, and to which he lent that tone of literary excellence, and that activity in spreading the news of letters, which are characteristics of his own. The following passage, from Mr. Godwin's salutatory, has the right ring:

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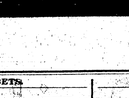
CORSETS.



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PANIERS,
HAIR CLOTH SKIRTS.
112 S. Eleventh St.
ja28 tf

GROCERIES, LIQUORS, &c.

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Dealer in Fine Groceries,
Corner Eleventh and Vine Streets.

I. LANDSBERGER & CO.,
CALIFORNIA WINES,
Champagne, Reisling, Zanfadel, White, Red, Angelica, Port and Wine Bitters.
FOR SALE BY THE PRINCIPAL GROCERS AND LIQUOR DEALERS.
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NEW MESS SHAD AND SPICED Salmon, Verrues and Anchovies, in prime order, just received and for sale at COUSTY'S East End Grocery Store, 112 South Second street, below Chestnut street.

DURE SPICES, GROUND AND WHOLE Allspice, Cinnamon, Cloves, Mustard, Pepper, Cayenne, Mace, Nutmegs, Ginger, Cassia, Celery Seed, Sweet Marjoram, Thyme, Savory, Sweet Basil, Lavender, Rosemary, Sage, Cloves, Tumeric, Cinnamon