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Planchette's

Biography.



PLANCHETTE'S BIOGRAPHY:

A

COMPLETE HISTORY OF ITS ORIGIN,

WITH A STATEMENT OF

THE VARIOUS THEORIES RESPECTING IT,

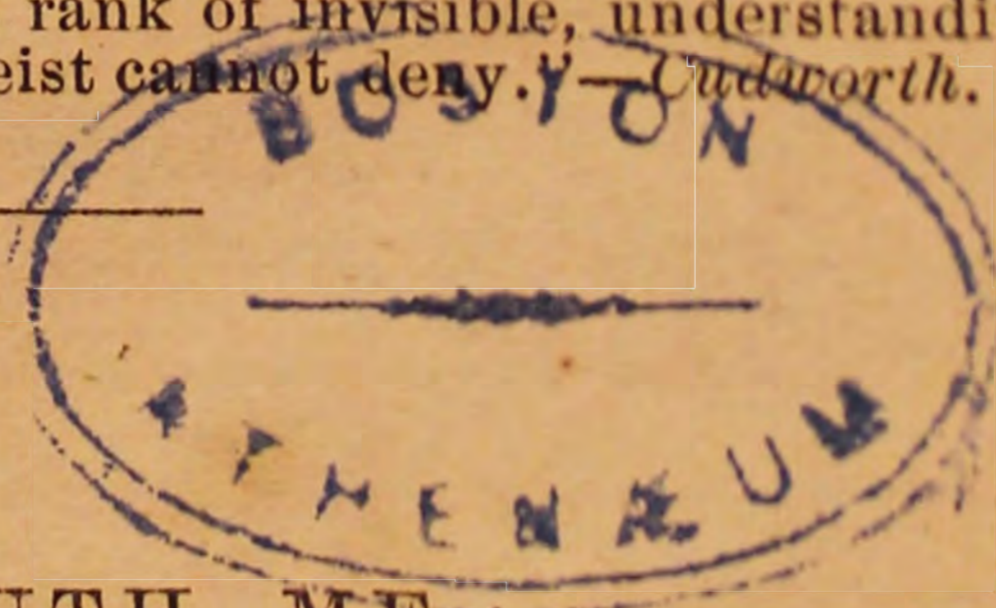
COMPILED FROM MANY AUTHORS.

BY

MRS. M. D. WELLCOME,

Author of "The Millenium," "Faith Illustrated," and "Spiritualism Condemned."

"Though all miracles promiscuously do not immediately prove the existence of a God, nor confirm a prophet, nor whatever doctrine, yet they do all of them evince that there is a rank of invisible, understanding beings, superior to men, which the atheist cannot deny."—Cudworth.



YARMOUTH, ME.:

PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE "SELECT SOCIAL LIBRARY."

1869.

PLANCHETTE'S BIOGRAPHY.

ALMOST everybody has heard of the little heart-shaped tripod named Planchette, but everybody is not acquainted with its biography, nor the opinions entertained respecting this wonderful "little plank," as its name signifies.

From books and magazines we have gathered up every available fact tending to throw light on this subject. From Planchette itself, we have personally learned only one thing, i. e., *It moves without our volition*. Its senseless gyrations conveyed nothing beyond this fact.

A few days after our unsuccessful attempts to obtain replies to our questions, we were shown some samples of this same Planchette's autography, which strikingly reminded us of Horace Greeley's. In reply to the question, "Where did you come from?" there was written, "From the Devil." The question was asked by an intelligent Christian lady, "Can I ever become a medium for Planchette?" and the answer written was, "Better not: evil communications corrupt good manners." This showed the intelligence to be as pious as its acknowledged father when he quoted Scripture to the Son of God.

Soon after we read *Planchette's Diary*, edited by Miss Kate Field, and from its pages learned much respecting its history, communications, etc., some of which we shall present to our readers.

When and where Planchette originated we have not been able satisfactorily to ascertain, but all that we have learned respecting it we will give you. Some say that the idea was suggested by the old German custom practised

by beldames of placing a pencil between the blades of scissors tightly, watching what chances to be traced upon paper placed under the pencil, and accepting its dictums as oracular.

In a work recently published by Roberts Brothers, entitled *Planchette, the Despair of Science*, we find a form of Planchette described by Dr. MacGowan, copied from the *North China Herald*. He says: "The table is sprinkled equally with bran, flour, dust, or other white powder, and two mediums sit down opposite each other with their hands on the table. A hemispherical basket, eight inches in diameter, is now reversed, and laid down with its edges resting on the tips of one or two fingers of the two mediums. This basket is to act as pen-holder, and a reed, or style, is fashioned to the rim, or a chopstick thrust through the interstices with the point touching the powdered table. The ghost meanwhile has been duly invoked, and the spectators stand round waiting the result. This is not uniform. Sometimes the spirit summoned is unable to write; sometimes he is mischievously inclined, and the pen—for it always moves—will make either a few senseless flourishes on the table, or fashion sentences that are without meaning, or with a meaning that only misleads, which, however, is comparatively rare. In general, the words traced are arranged in the best form of composition, and they communicate intelligence wholly unknown to the spectator. These operators are not only unconscious, but unwilling participators in the feat."

The same writer tells us that in Ningpo, in 1843, there was scarcely a house in which this mode of getting messages from the spirits was not practised.

So it seems that five years before the phenomena at Hydesville, as manifested through the Fox girls, a sort of Planchette was common in China.

Miss Field quotes from Mrs. C. Jenkins' work, "Who Breaks, Pays," republished in 1861, quite a full account of a mysterious communication given by Mrs. Townsend's Planchette respecting a friend of hers named Lilian. The name is written, then a cross is made, and the word river; but all is unintelligible till soon after Lilian is killed by a bullet while standing by the water watching the ship in which her husband is expected. This was at Genoa during the revolution of 1848.

Mr. Robert Dale Owen, the distinguished Spiritualist, was the first to bring Planchette to America, he having had one made for him in France a dozen years ago. His attention was first drawn to it by Bartolozzi, formerly Master of the Horse under Louis Philippe, who in his turn heard of it through an Italian. Both of Bartolozzi's daughters were mediums, and through them Mr. Owen says he carried on very abstruse conversation upon matters of which they were ignorant.

Planchette was first introduced in this country in 1868, although for fifteen years it had been common in France.

A writer in the *Round Table* of Dec. 12th, 1868, states that "Mr. Kirby is said to have sold over two hundred thousand Planchettes at a profit of fifty cents each. He is undoubtedly the chief manufacturer, but thousands have been made and sold by others. We can from this form some estimate of the extent of Planchette's field of operation.

We purpose now to consider some of the theories advanced by writers whose communications have come under our observation. The first, "*Planchette at the Confessional*," from the pen of T. Headley, is published in *Hours at Home* of February, 1869. This is not very satisfactory, although it contains points of interest, and proofs of what the writer refuses to accept.

Mr. Headley believes, with many others, that electricity is the invisible agent that moves the board, and decidedly repudiates the idea of there being anything supernatural about it, or any information imparted beyond the minds of those operating, or *en rapport* with them. He believes that these manifestations, so inexplicable, are only the first steps on the threshold of great discoveries yet to be made in the field of electricity.

Now if his views are correct, if by means of electricity the thoughts of the operator and those *en rapport* only are conveyed through Planchette to the paper, then all of the replies must need conform strictly to that which is in the minds of those persons. But is it thus?

Mr. H. records several facts directly opposed to his theory. Planchette is asked, "Where is Mary C——?" To his surprise the answer is, "Nobody knows. I supposed *I* knew," he says, "because for twenty years she had lived on the Hudson in summer, and in New York in the winter."

"Is she happy?" "Better be dead," was the reply.

"Why?" "Unhappy," was written at once.

"What makes her unhappy?" "Won't tell," was the answer.

"Is she in fault or others?" "Partly herself."

"I now pushed questions in all shapes, but they were evaded. At last I asked, "How many brothers has she?"

"One," was the response. "That," said I, "is false, but not having heard from the family for several years I asked again, "How many did she have?" "*Three.*" That was true. "Where are the other two?" "Dead." "What is the name of the living one?" "John." I could not recollect at the time whether either of them bore this name, but afterwards remembered it was that of the eldest.

This is one of several illustrations utterly disproving

his own theory. The accuracy of the replies he of course could not test, but they certainly were not in accordance with his thoughts, and false, as he at first supposed. From whence came they? Electricity cannot talk and write without an intelligence controlling it, and Mr. H. evidently did not, else would the replies have been satisfactory. His attempts to explain the matter are very futile, for not the slightest element of an answer emphatically pronounced *false*, could have been in his mind. He says:—

“The only explanation I can give is, that although I knew her residence in the country, and here where she should have been at that time; not having heard from her since the war broke out, there doubtless flitted through my mind the thought “I, after all, don’t know where she is.” . . . Nor can I account for the answer, “*Unhappy*,” unless unconsciously to myself there passed through my mind that vague fear, so common to us all when we inquire about absent friends of whom we have not heard for years. The death of the two brothers baffled all conjecture, unless I remembered that during the war I saw the death of a young man of the same name, and I wondered at the time if it was one of those brothers—whether they had joined the army.”

And so with other replies equally unexplainable, he thinks all unconsciously they must have existed in his own mind.

Putnam’s Magazine for Dec., 1868, contains a very interesting well-written article entitled “*Planchette in a New Character*.” It is a record of the writer’s experience with Planchette, and contains much evidence that utterly disproves the theory of Mr. Headley. He disclaims all knowledge of the power that moves the “little board,” yet evidently leans toward the theory of unconscious influences floating through the “circumambient air.” Some

“ mental, electric, magnetic, odic or other forces may be lying *perdus* above us, which may be utilized by inanimate agents. . . The Ghostology of the world which seems to have accompanied every phase of its historical development, is a nebula which must, some day, be resolved into scientific facts. Planchetteism seems to occupy a dim corner in this vague and extensive realm. . . The era which began with Mesmer, proceeding through the various stages of biology, spirit-rapping, table-tipping, clairvoyance, and other modern mystic developments, has evolved a new phase in Planchette.”

Thus he correctly attributes its workings to the same cause as those of spiritualistic phenomena.

But while he regards them as real, he does not accept them as of spiritual, or supernatural agency. He gives a long account of Planchette's explanation which we have not space to copy.

Referring to an article published in Lippincott's Magazine for August, 1868, he says that the writer shows grave errors in underrating the capabilities of the machine. For instance, he states with great positiveness that Planchette must always write a running hand, and could consequently never have made a cross as described in Mrs. Judkins' "*Who Breaks, Pays.*" He says:—"Our Planchette frequently separates words entirely, goes back and dots an *i* with precision, writes figures, and returns to put the mark \$ before them; and on one occasion, being requested to do something beyond its ability, wrote, 'I am not = to that.' Besides this, it invariably makes a period when it has done writing a sentence, occasionally employs commas, and frequently has been known to insert an apostrophe, and to put the proper accent over a French vowel, all unexpectedly to the people whose hands were upon the board, they being unaware of what it was writ-

ing, and even engaged in conversation upon a different topic, at the same time. I have seen it draw rough sketches of people, making the eyes and ears in the right places without any guidance, and in one case adding a hat to one head after the outline was completed.

“In contradiction to the above theory of the Lippincott writer, that it is always controlled by the strongest intelligence in the room, I will state that we have known it give a conundrum that had never been heard by any one of the party; then give the answer, and, finally, in the teeth of our united asseverations to the contrary, to affirm that it could ‘never give anything but stale ones,’ and that the question and answer were in all our minds, which emphatically were not.

“On one occasion, being asked to write poetry, Planchette wrote the first lines of ‘Thanatopsis,’ which were not consciously in the minds of any one present, and what was more peculiar, wrote the word *natural* instead of *visible* in the second line, a mistake patent to all who knew the poem—a second time controverting the theory of the Lippincott writer, that its errors are those of the mind employed.

“Upon one of our guests it has bestowed the uncomplimentary epithet of ‘Sassiness,’ which, being often repeated, induced a petition from the young lady to be only indicated by an initial *S*, which the impertinent scribbler accorded only so far as omitting all the letters except the five *S*’s so that now she is always recognized as ‘*S S S S S*’ with the full force of the sibilant maintained.”

We have not room for further illustrations afforded by this Planchette. The writer says that he gives them exactly as they occurred, and with his own hands on the board it would have been impossible not to detect any guidance of the machine by the muscular force, either

voluntary or involuntary of the *vis-à-vis*. Some of the writing was effected with the hands of three persons upon the instrument, each with a definite thought in their minds, which was not in the least contained in the communications received.

Harper's Monthly for December, contains an article entitled, "*The Confessions of a Reformed Planchettist*," in which the writer says, that his Planchette wrote only when he moved it, and then precisely what he dictated, and declares the whole thing a humbug, and those who claim to receive replies without their own volition, are, according to his statements, all impostors. But this entire article bears evidence of being a mere fiction, and is of no value whatever.

Rev. Dr. Patton, of Chicago, in *The Advance* gives the suggestion that a fixed idea in the mind will often express itself spontaneously through the pen when the mental faculties are at work otherwise, and so it may be with communications through Planchette, the ideas present in the mind may be thereby unconsciously transferred to paper.

But how can those replies and communications be explained on this basis that never existed in the mind? The evidence that Planchette writes a great deal of which the operator and persons present never had the slightest conception is beyond controversy.

Dr. Patton says, "It is a philanthropic toy, which may be used to bring to light hidden connections of mind and body, and to refute the assumptions of spiritism." We shall show hereafter that instead of refuting, it is confirming spiritism.

With one more illustration of the ability of Planchette to communicate facts that were unknown to all present, we will close our testimony on this point. In the April

number of the *Phrenological Journal*, Mr. Wells relates the following from a friend of his residing in Jersey City, whose veracity is unquestionable.

“Some five or six months ago he purchased a Planchette, brought it home, and placed it in the hands of Mrs. B., a widow, who was then visiting his family. Mrs. B. had never tried or witnessed any experiments with Planchette, and was very incredulous as to her power to produce any movements upon it. She, however, placed her hands upon it as directed, and to her surprise it soon began to move, and wrote for its first words: ‘Take care!’ ‘Of what must I take care?’ she inquired. ‘Of your money.’ ‘Where?’ ‘In Kentucky.’

“My friend states that Mrs. B.’s husband had died in Albany about two years previous, bequeathing to her ten thousand dollars, which sum she had loaned to a gentleman in Louisville, Ky., to invest in the drug business on condition that she and he were to share the profits; and up to this time the thought had not occurred to her that her money was not perfectly safe. At this point she inquired: ‘Who is this that is giving me this caution?’ ‘B—W—.’ (The name of a friend of hers who had died at Cairo, Ill., some six years before.) Mrs. B.—‘Why! is my money in jeopardy?’ ‘Yes, and needs prompt attention.’ My friend C. here asked: ‘Ought she to go to Kentucky and attend to the matter?’ ‘Yes.’

“So strange and unexpected was this whole communication, and so independent of the suggestions of her own mind, that she was not a little impressed by it, and thought that it would at least be safe for her to make a journey to Louisville, and ascertain if the facts were as represented. But she had at the time no ready money to pay her traveling expenses, and not knowing how she could get the money, she asked: ‘When shall I be able to go?’ ‘In two weeks from to-day,’ was the reply.

"She thought over the matter, and the next day applied to a friend of hers, a Mr. W., in Nassau street, who promised to lend her the money by the next Tuesday or Wednesday. (It was on Thursday that the interview with Planchette occurred.) She came home and remarked to my friend, 'Well, Planchette has told one lie, anyhow: it said I would start for Louisville *two weeks* from that day. Mr. W. is going to lend me the money, and I shall start by *next* Thursday, only *one* week from that time.'

"But on the next Tuesday morning she received a note from Mr. W. expressing regret that circumstances had occurred which would render it impossible for him to let her have the money. She immediately sought, and soon found, another person by whom she was promised the money still in time to enable her to start a couple of days before the expiration of the two weeks. She then prepared herself to start the next *morning*; but through a blunder of the express-man in carrying her trunk to the wrong depot, she was detained till the five o'clock P. M. train, when she started, just two weeks, *to the hour*, from the time the prediction was given.

"Arriving in Louisville, she learned that her friend had become involved in consequence of having made a number of bad sales for large amounts, and had actually gone into bankruptcy—reserving, however, for the security of her debt, a number of lots of ground which his creditors were trying to get hold of. She thus arrived not a moment too soon to save herself, which she will probably do, in good part, at least, if not wholly—though the affair is still unsettled."

Was there *unconscious thought* that guided this communication from Planchette? Was it electricity? If so, what intelligence controlled it?

We now give the views of another writer, Catholic

though he be, as it very clearly sets forth another theory quite extensively held by Protestants:

“Neither the sight of the eye, nor the touch of the hand can discover the secret spring by which Planchette moves. Therefore it is not in its movements a toy. It moves, and how? Intelligently! It answers questions of every kind, in any language required. This cannot be done but by intelligence. Well, by what description of intelligence? It cannot be supposed that the Divine intelligence is the motive, for how can God be conceived to make such a manifestation of Himself?

“A corresponding idea cuts off the view that it is presided over by an angelic intelligence; and it is evident to all that a human mind does not control it. There is but one more character of intelligence, that of evil spirits. Therefore Planchette is moved by the agents of hell. . . . Facts are facts, and the point is that Planchette is not a toy, that it is moved by an intelligence, and that intelligence is evil. We would, therefore, advise all who have a Planchette to build for it a special fire of pitch and brimstone. . . . No one has a right to consult the enemy of God. They who do so are in danger of being lost.”

Miss Kate Field, in *Planchette's Diary*, after recording her experience with it for six months, says: “I myself have no theories to advance. The more I attempt to explain Planchette to my own reason, the deeper I flounder in the mire of uncertainty. . . . Planchette may hold in her heart the key to a law of mentality long latent, and now about to be discovered. Whether she hold that key or not, it is perfectly evident that she is own sister to ‘table-tipping’ and ‘rapping.’”

The communication she received purported to come from her deceased father, but the falsehood and profanity sometimes uttered, evidence that the spirit was not a very saintly one.

That Planchette is identical with Spiritism, is also confessed by Mr. J. R. Nichols, editor of the *Boston Journal of Chemistry*. Some of his remarks respecting it are quoted by the author of *Planchette, the Despair of Science*, from the Sept. number for 1868. He says:

“We are asked to explain Planchette. To do this would be to explain a most remarkable and extensive class of physical phenomena beginning with the antics of the little heart-shaped board, and running up through parlor table-tippings, rappings, writing, etc., to the more astounding physical disturbances, noises, and hub-bub witnessed in so many dwellings in this country and in Europe.”

The author of *Planchette*, etc. says: “The phenomena of the tipping tables was known centuries ago. . . . When the modern rapping phenomena began, communications were received by the tedious process of calling over the alphabet, and noting down the letters at which the raps were given. Then, when the movements of tables took place, it was suggested that by arranging a pencil at the foot of a high table, and placing a sheet of paper beneath it, the intelligence that was operating might produce written sentences. The device was tried and found successful. This method was finally simplified by substituting little tables the size of a hand; then small baskets, paste-board boxes, and finally this piece of wood running on little wheels, and called Planchette.

“Here we have the genealogy of Planchette. It is, you see, the direct offspring of the tipping tables. The phenomena is for the most part the same.”

Planchette says the same thing. When questioned, “Who invented Planchette?” it wrote thus: “It is French in its origin, as its name denotes. A French Spiritualist was instructed by the spirits to manufacture

this little toy in order to cheat people into spiritualism under the pretence of a joke."

And very successful has been the scheme, we well know. Thousands who would not attend a "circle," or be any way identified with Spiritualism in its open form, toy with Planchette at their homes, and receive its oracles with confidence. Church members and clergymen are not exempt.

The fact that the volume before us, bearing the significant title of *Planchette*, etc., has less than a dozen pages devoted specially to this instrument, evidence the fact of its connection with Spiritualism. The anonymous author, generally supposed to be Epes Sergeant, says in the Preface: "Recently has attention been directed to it (Spiritual phenomena) anew by the wooden trifle known as Planchette; and I have chosen the name of this mysterious toy as the title of my book, rather as a convenient sign-post, pointing to one little phase of the complex whole, than as indicating fully the character of the facts here collected; for these are, I am persuaded, of supreme importance, embracing as they do, in their relations, most of the authentic marvels in the pneumatology of ancient and modern time.

"Without undervaluing the tributary services of Planchette in certain rare cases, I cannot doubt that its eccentricities are often explicable by unconscious nervous movement or by wanton deception. But after making allowance for all that is unprofitable, trifling, and tedious in the experiments,—for all that ought to be deducted as giving no conclusive evidence of super-sensual knowledge or power,—there is a remainder of well-attested results, which cannot be explained by anything of imposture, hallucination, or unexplored nervous action; and these results belong to the class here considered."

This work is by no means to be classed with Spiritualistic literature. It is very far removed from those low, corrupt infidel works. True, the author believes the phenomena to result in many cases from good and evil spirits,—human spirits; but that belief does not constitute him a Spiritualist in the common acceptation of the term, any more than those eminent divines and Christians who in all ages have believed that the spirits of the departed did sometimes return and hold converse with people on earth. Isaac Taylor, Tennent, Wesley, Clark, and others believed this, as we find by their writings. That they would, however, believe in Spiritualism, or that the saints returned from heaven and rapped, tipped tables, broke furniture, and made such unsanctified demonstration, and anti-bible communications as these modern spirits do, we do not for a moment credit.

Whether the author of this volume is a Spiritualist or not, we cannot say; and whether these phenomena, proceed from disembodied spirits, is not the point now under consideration. Of the writer's own views we gather but little, but in this compactly written volume of four hundred pages, he has given us a history of ancient and modern Spiritualism in all of its diversified phases, and with its multiplied and strangely marvellous manifestations, covering a period of centuries, such as was never before compressed into a single volume. The theories of eminent men respecting spiritual phenomena, mesmerism, clairvoyance, pneumatology, psychology, etc., pro and con, are clearly given, all giving evidence of laborious research among all classes of writers.

He has piled up the testimony; he has multiplied the facts in such a formidable array that for the extreme materialist or sceptic who ignores the supernatural, to attempt to refute it, would be like the folly of one who

strives with his puny arm to force back the surging billows of the deep as they roll in mighty grandeur upon the beach.

It is too late in the day to ignore supernatural phenomena, and those who set it aside with a sneer, do but manifest their own ignorance and folly. The question to be settled to-day is not "Does this phenomena belong to the supernatural?" but "From what source does it proceed? Is it good or evil? Of light, or of darkness? From God, or Satan?" By their fruits—their doctrines—ye shall know them, and *the Bible is the test*.

Another point. To admit the phenomenon as of spirit origin is not to concede that it is the work of departed spirits once tabernacling on earth, though thousands seem to so consider it. The view taken by the Catholic writer is not without foundation in the Scriptures. They say much about "familiar spirits," and "lying spirits," and "wicked spirits" that wonderfully correspond with those of modern times, and just here we see the only deficiency in the work we have referred to. While the author speaks of the angelic visitations, and prophetic visions, he passes lightly over the sorcery and witchcraft of ancient times, and is wholly silent in regard to the demoniacal possessions of New Testament history. Why may not the conveyance of Home through the air at an elevation of many feet above the heads of the observers, be attributed to the same power that took the Son of God, during the forty days' temptation in the wilderness, to the top of an exceeding high mountain, and also placed him on the pinnacle of the temple at Jerusalem? Why may not that same power which enabled the demoniac to break asunder the strongest fetters, enable the Davenport Brothers to perform their wonderful feat with rope tying?

We read that under the pouring out of the sixth vial,

“unclean spirits,” denominated “*spirits of devils*,” were to go forth to all the world, “*working miracles*.” The word is derived from the Latin *miraculum*, from *miror*, to wonder; literally a wonderful thing. These spirits were to do “*great wonders*” and thereby deceive them that dwell on earth. (Rev. 16: 12-14. 13: 13, 14.) Mark this point. *Spirits of demons working wonders, were to go forth to the kings of the earth, and to the whole world, deceiving by these miracles those who dwell on earth.* Are there any such spirits abroad on their world-wide mission?

The editor of the *Phrenological Journal*, in a very interesting series of articles on Planchette, says: “I have in my possession a little book entitled, ‘A Return of Departed Spirits,’ and bearing the imprint, ‘Philadelphia, published by J. R. Colon, 203 1-2 Chestnut street, 1843,’ in which is contained an account of a strange phenomenon which occurred among the Shakers at New Lebanon, N. Y., during the early part of that year. The author describes what purported to be the visitations of hundreds by these spirits, who possessed the bodies of the brethren and sisters, using them as instruments through which to speak. The visitation was not confined to New Lebanon, but extended more or less to all the Shakers of the United States,—appearing simultaneously in all. The phenomena ceased about as suddenly as it appeared, and when the spirits took their departure, they exhorted the saints to treasure up those things in their hearts; to say nothing about them to the world’s people, but to wait patiently, and soon they would return and *make their presence known to the world generally*. Are they doing it?”

F. N. Evans, in his Autobiography published in the *Atlantic Monthly* for May and June, 1869, states that he was converted to Shakerism by these spiritual manifestations made to him in 1830. “In 1837,” he says, “to 1844, there

was an influx from the spirit-world, confirming the faith of many disciples who had lived among believers for years, and extending throughout all the eighteen societies, making media by the dozen, whose various exercises, not to be suppressed in their public meetings, rendered it imperatively necessary to close them all to the world for a period of seven years, in consequence of the then unprepared state of the world, to which the whole of the manifestations, and the meetings too, would have been as unadulterated 'foolishness,' or as inexplicable mysteries.

"The spirits then declared again and again, that when they had done their work amongst the inhabitants of Zion, they would do a work in the world, of such magnitude, that not a palace nor a hamlet upon earth should remain unvisited by them.

"After their mission amongst us was finished, we supposed that the manifestations would immediately begin in the outside world; but we were much disappointed, for we had to wait four years before the work began, as it finally did, at Rochester, New York. But the rapidity of its course throughout the nations of the earth has far exceeded the predictions."

Again we ask, Are they those "unclean spirits" denominated "spirits of devils," whose miracle-working mission to the "whole world" is the subject of prophecy?

Again we are told by St. Paul of a power that would be revealed after the triumphant reign of the Man of sin, denominated "that Wicked," whose revelation was to be accompanied by the worship of Satan with *all power*, and *signs and lying wonders in them that perish*, because they receive not the truth in the love of it. (2 Thess. 2: 3-12.)

But we forbear enlarging on this point. Our views are fully expressed in our work on *Spiritualism*, to which we

refer the reader.* We have shown that Planchette is the offspring of Spiritualism, and these remarks are sufficient to show from whence, in our judgment, that gigantic system springs.

Since we began our *Biography*, we have read in Miss Phelps' new book, "Men, Women, and Ghosts," a very strange story respecting certain spiritual phenomena, the eye-witness of which related them to her. Many we know will be slow to credit the marvels she describes, but thousands, who have seen similar manifestations, will not doubt her story.

First, there were rappings, and whistlings, and loud poundings on the foot and head-board of the bed, at the door, and on the mantel. Garments laid away in a bureau drawer, in a closet, the door of which was locked, were taken out a few moments afterward and disposed on the bed of another room like a corpse arranged for burial. The gentleman of the house, in the presence of his wife, took a memorandum of the various articles, name and number, then laid them in the upper drawer of the bureau, locked it,—locked the closet door, then the chamber door, putting the three keys into his pocket. He and his wife then went below. Not long after she went to her chamber to put away some articles she had been mending, when to her surprise there on the bed were the clothes arranged as before. Her screams brought her husband, who was equally astonished at the sight before him. He at once compared the articles with his memorandum, and found there was a perfect correspondence. He then took the keys from his pocket, and unlocked the room of the "cedar closet," then the closet, then the bureau drawer, and—it was empty!

*A 12mo of 32 pp. Price 10 cents.

The following day, hearing screams from his little boy, he ran to the rescue, and found him to his great surprise in an old stunted apple-tree "gagged, manacled, twisted, wound about, crossed and recrossed, held without a chance of motion," with a small stout rope. In reply to his father's pressing inquiries, he persistently declared that nobody tied him there; he was "just taken up all at once into the tree, and that was all there was about it." He "'sposed it must have been God, or something like that did it."

Soon after that, while playing in the room with his father and mother, he suddenly screamed out with pain, and begged to "have them pulled out quick." On taking up the child, his mother found that he was stuck over from head to foot with large pins.

"We haven't so many large pins in all the house," she exclaimed, as she took them out. Instantly the child was pierced all over with *small* pins. Where they came from and how, no one could tell, but they were actually there, and "Tip" was writhing with pain.

Mr. H. sent for a friend of his, an Episcopal clergyman, to come and investigate. He did so. Chairs hopped after him; the heavy walnut table rose up half-way to the ceiling; mysterious figures dressed in his best attire and stuffed with straw were found in his room; the candlestick moved from the mantel into space, and other marvels too numerous to mention.

One day Mr. H. asked the clergyman for his opinion respecting the cause of the phenomena. Bringing his fist down emphatically, he exclaimed vehemently, "The Devil!"

"Dear me, Goth, don't swear," said Mr. H.

"I tell you I never spoke more solemnly. I cannot in the face of facts ascribe all these phenomena to human

agency. Something that comes we know not whence, and goes we know not whither, is at work there in the dark. I'm driven to grant to it an extra human power. Yet when that Miss F. in the trance state undertakes to bring me a message from my dead wife, and when she attempts to recall the most tender memories of our life together, I cannot—it would be pleasant to think I had a word from Mary, but I cannot think she is there. I don't believe good spirits concern themselves with this thing. It has in its fair development too much nonsense, and too much positive sin; read a few numbers of the 'Banner,' attend a convention or two, if you want to be convinced of that. If they're not good spirits, they must be bad ones, that's all. . . . You never learn anything from it that it is worth while to hear; above all, you can never trust its *prophecies*. It is evil—*evil* at the root; and except by physicians and scientific men, it had better be let alone. I purpose for myself to drop it henceforth. In fact it looks too much toward putting one's self on terms of intimacy with the Prince of the Power of the Air to please me."

With the clergyman's opinion we fully coincide, and as the phenomena exhibited by Planchette is of a similar character, and evidently from the same source, we close this *Biography*, by recommending to all the wise resolution of the minister, "to drop it henceforth."

THE AUTHOR'S CHIT-CHAT ABOUT BOOKS.

One year ago, the editor of *Planchette's Biography* formed the purpose to establish a "Select Social Library," where those who had a relish for sound, healthful literature, Theological, Biographical, Historical, Physiological, combined with entertaining Miscellaneous works, could for a mere trifle procure such reading. Last autumn the Library was opened with about fifty volumes, a limited variety it is true, but still it was a beginning, and that, too, with encouraging omens of future success. Since that time the writer has been enabled, by the efforts of her pen alone, to add two hundred volumes to that number, and it is with heartfelt satisfaction she now tenders her grateful thanks to those publishers who have so generously loaded her table with choice contributions from their new publications, accepting only in return such notices as she might be disposed to write for the press; and last, though not least, would she also express her sincere gratitude to those editors of secular and religious journals who have so generously extended the helping hand, by affording her so frequently and so largely a place in their columns. Without their co-operation, the contribution from publishing houses would have been unreciprocated. There are two or three whose names we would be glad to mention, but it would not be advisable; they have the personal consciousness of being the ones we have in mind.

It would be a pleasure to specify each contribution in connection with the donor's name, but with so many works requiring present attention, this is in most instances impracticable.

To Messrs. ROBERTS BRO'S we are under special obligation, for it was they that furnished very essentially the material with which the foundation of this Library was laid. One other publisher, it is true, who then only furnished three stones, has since placed thereon the most massive timbers of the whole superstructure, in connection with much other valuable material, thereby putting us under obligations, much beyond our ability to repay; but it is to *Roberts Bro's* we are deeply indebted, not only for the choice volumes received from them, but also for their gentlemanly courtesy, and kindly encouragement at a time when we so very much needed words of cheer.

To them we are indebted for all of Miss Jean Ingelow's works; that gifted Christian writer. Two volumes of "*Poems*" beautifully bound, and "*Studies for Stories*," "*A Sister's By Hours*," and "*Stories told to a Child*." Few books in the Library have been so popular as these stories, among the young folks especially.

Whether her fairy tale *Mopsa*, just issued by this firm, will be as universally admired, remains to be proved; it is not every one who fancies fairy stories, but Miss Ingelow's is highly praised, and its moral we doubt not will have as effective points, though presented in fancy garb.

We would also mention another series that ought to have a place in all Libraries, viz.: "*Lives of Exemplary Women*;" *Memoirs and Correspondence of Madame Recamier*, with a fine

portrait; *Life and Letters of Madame Swetchine*; *The Friendships of Women*, and *St. Beuve's Portraits of Celebrated Women*.

MY PRISONS. *Memoirs of Silvio Pellico*, embellished with fifty illustrations, is a special favorite of ours, and one we fear is too little known. *Curious Myths of The Middle Ages*, by S. Baring-Gould, with illustrations; and that somewhat peculiar book, with a rather peculiar title, *Where is the City?* The foregoing constituted a very essential portion of the foundation, and since then other choice volumes have been added, among them, certain *Little Women*, of whom we must say with shame, or otherwise, that a certain antique command has been continually broken by them, which reads on this wise,—“*Keeper at Home*,” but they are perfectly excusable, for it was not enjoined on the unmarried, and the *Sequel* shows that after they become mated, they settled down into very good house-keepers. We cannot blame the “little women,” however, for *gadding*, as everybody seemed determined to *draw them out* for one week at least, and it would not have been polite to refuse, you know! “*A book about Boys*,” and one “*About Dominies*,” the least adapted of all to interest the general reader; “*Barnes' Rural Poems*,” so attractively bound, and elegantly embellished with engravings, too nice by far for the wear and tear of loan, so selfishly cherished with tenderness for its gems of thought, so unique in expression, but charmingly refreshing with cool water from the babbling brooks, and health-giving breezes from copse and hill, and sweetness from the fragrant flowers. Pictures of rural scenes, and life in the cottage home,—of the rustic belle and beau, and simple sports on the village green, are sketched in a style peculiarly his own.

And there comes Christina Rossetti's poems, an elegant 12mo, with four designs, by D. G. Rossetti. John Saxe names Rossetti with Jean Ingelow, as the two best of the younger female poets of this generation. POEMS by Charles Swain, with a fine portrait of the author, and *Hudibras*; *A Poem*, by Samuel Butler, with Notes and Life of the author. Illustrated.

Roberts Bro's announce a new volume from the pen of Miss Alcott, author of *Little Women*; a true story of New England life.

Miss Alcott has attained such popularity by her “*Little Women*,” we are sure that this new work when introduced will be very cordially received.

FIELDS, OSGOOD & Co.'s NEW PUBLICATIONS.—The first page of the *Boston Evening Transcript* of June 15th, is wholly occupied with the advertisement of publications issued by this enterprising firm within one year and a half. These works are from the pens of highly gifted authors, American and English.

These publishers are among our more recent, but liberal and established patrons. The “*Select Social Library*” has been enriched by the following volumes, the most of which have been fully noticed by us in various journals. Our first contribution was from the pen of Miss Anna Dickinson, the popular and highly gifted lecturer. *What Answer*, is her first venture as an

author, and though not without blemishes, has proved an undoubted success, as the fact that the fourteenth thousand of this earnest, thrilling appeal on behalf of the colored race is issued clearly evidences, and its translation into other languages.

Miss Lucy Larcom's Poems are characterized by truthfulness, simplicity, and artistic beauty of conception. To her pen we are indebted for that universally admired song, "Hannah's at the window binding shoes," one of her earliest productions. *Among the Hills, and Other Poems*, by John G. Whittier. The Quaker poet has long been enshrined in the hearts of his countrymen, and this volume is written in the author's simple, home-like style.

Passages from the American Note Book of Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2 vols., cloth, \$4.00. In these "Notes" we are introduced to the daily workings of this gifted author's mind, and they abound with "passages" of rare interest. Hawthorne exhibits a habit of critical observation and mental reflection, and in these records of inward and outward experiences, the reader finds food for entertainment and profit.

The Gates Ajar, by Miss E. Stuart Phelps, 16mo, \$1.50. Few books since the advent of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* have so stirred the public, and been so universally eulogized. Though but recently issued, it has already reached the thirteenth thousand! It is far from faultless in plot and delineation of character; its theology is somewhat misty on some points; materialism is carried to an extreme sometimes; yet with its decided blemishes, there is much to commend, and extreme literalism is not so bad after all as extreme spiritualism. Miss Phelps is not a systematic or profound writer, and we think that her special *forte* is to write brief, sprightly stories, adapted for periodicals, rather than elaborate novels, or theological essays. Her later book, *Men, Women, and Ghosts*, consists of a collection of stories which have nearly all appeared heretofore in the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's Magazine*, and *Hours at Home*. While few will deny the truthfulness of character delineated in the *Men and Women*, many will be slow to credit the marvels ascribed to the *Ghosts*. Spiritualism, however, reveals even greater things than these.

Oldtown Folks, by Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1 vol., crown 8vo, 616 pp., \$2.00. Twenty-third thousand. This is a story of primitive times in New England, before the era of steamboats, rail-cars, and telegraphs. Mrs. Stowe states in her preface that the characters and scenes are drawn from originals, and every one who had read her former works know that the author is a master artist in the art of delineating pen portraits. She is a careful observer of the diversified phases of humanity, and she understands admirably how to present them in strongly marked outlines. In Sam Lawson, "the village-do-nothing," we have the real hero of the story rather than in Horace Holyoke, the autobiographer. Mrs. Stowe is in her happiest mood when she sketches Sam's sayings and doings, which are generally very cute. Dear old grandmother Badger, who spanked the mischievous urchins and then dried their tears with goodies from the pantry, has her antitype in a good many grandmothers of modern times. As usual, Mrs. Stowe manages to interweave a good deal of theology into her stories, and we think that she might successfully compete with her brother Henry as a theologian, and win as universal fame from the pulpit as by her pen.

Our New Way Round the World, etc., by C. Carleton Coffin, 1 vol., 542 pp. with several full page maps, and profusely illustrated with engravings reproduced from photographs and original sketches. Crown octavo, mor. cloth, \$3.00; half calf, \$5.50. Eighth thousand. No journalist of our day has won such golden opinions, such universal praise from the nation, as "Carleton" of

the *Boston Journal*. Mr. Coffin is a graceful writer, and has the tact of describing graphically and fascinatingly the results of his travels, and his observation respecting scenes and events are marked by superior discrimination and sound judgment. He left New York the last week of July, 1866, and concludes the narrative of his travels round the globe on the 10th of May, 1869, when the last touch was given to the great Pacific Railroad. Those who have read "Carleton's Letters" will be glad to give this very excellent work a place in their libraries.

From B. B. RUSSELL, Boston we received long since a truly valuable contribution, *Napoleon III*, by J. S. C. Abbott. A royal octavo of about 700 pages, illustrated with nine steel engravings, executed by the best artists of Paris. No personage of the present century has so influenced the world as Napoleon III, and the history of his life, written by an accomplished and fascinating author, abounds with incidents and historical events of thrilling interest. Too flattering by far for English and Americans to accept in full, yet it abounds with facts too well established by documentary proof to be disputed.

Lives of the Presidents, by J. S. C. Abbott, is a large substantially bound volume, and everything connected with it is finely executed; in a word, it is a work worthy of the highest commendation in every respect, and ought to find a place in every library.

Abbott's *Life of Gen. Grant* is written in the author's usual fascinating style, and is handsomely bound and illustrated by steel plate engravings and maps. A fine picture of the general's father and mother embellishes the work; also a portrait of Grant. We are certainly under obligation to the publishers for these choice volumes.

From HARPER BROTHERS, New York, we have received so many books, it will be impossible to specify them, but give our special attention to those previously unnoticed.

This great book firm was founded in 1816, by John and James Harper. Wesley Harper united with it in 1822, and Fletcher Harper in 1826, and thus they have stood united till the quite recent and sudden death of James Harper, the eldest of the four.

Mr. Fletcher Harper is the active spirited director of their popular periodicals. Besides these other members of the firm there are several sons, making at least a dozen in all. Their employees cling to them with great tenacity. There is one gray-headed octogenarian who has been in their employ fifty years. The foreman of their composing-room, forty years; the foreman of the press-room, thirty-five years; and there are women in the folding-rooms that have been with them thirty years. Their cashier has also been in their employ thirty-five years. These facts are highly complimentary to the firm, and we think that the spirit manifested in their notes to us, when announcing the sending of a package, affords a clue to the secret, for they invariably begin thus: "We take pleasure in forwarding," etc. How sweetly that little word *pleasure* falls upon our heart, when we open the big packages, marked in large letters PAID, and then knowing that it cannot be the value placed on our humble notices that induces them to contribute so generously, we set it down that they consider it more blessed to give, than to receive. Their latest contribution, with other works, of *Lossing's Pictorial Books of the Revolution*, and the *War of 1812*, elegantly bound, was announced in the usual manner: "We take pleasure," etc.

We know that these generous publishers, who have, since their first contribution a year ago of the *Queen's Books*, and *Krummacker's King David*, been our most liberal patrons, sending us faster than we could notice, will be surprised at this exposure of their doings to public view, but we trust that they will pardon this tribute of an appreciative and grateful heart.

Among the many excellent works furnished by this firm, we will refer to Paul Du Chaillu's entertaining and instructive volumes on *Equatorial Africa*, although fully noticed heretofore.

His first work we have never seen, but *A Journey to Ashango Land, and Further Penetration into Equatorial Africa*, a beautiful octavo of 500 pp., illustrated with numerous full-page engravings, and a fine large map of the country, is very valuable for its information respecting the country, its cannibal inhabitants, and the zoology, ornithology, and production of that before almost unknown region. His description of the terrible gorilla, the history of the Obongas, or negro dwarfs, and his account of the termites, are all very interesting. *Stories of the Gorilla Country*, and *Wild Life Under the Equator*, written expressly for the youth, and profusely illustrated, are excellent for the Library.

Her Majesty's Tower, by Hepworth Dixon, though previously noticed, we wish to speak of here, for it is a grand *multum in parvo* history of the Tower of London, with its eight hundred years of historic life; its nineteen years of traditional fame; its tales of horror and of romance rendered famous by such names as Lady Jane Grey, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir John Oldcastle, Anne Boleyn, Cranmer, Latimer, etc.,—a host of honored personages whose history cannot be fully told in this volume of 260 pages. Yet this condensed history throws much light on this huge pile, which dates far back to the days of Cæsar, although its origin is lost in the "nebulous ages" long before definite history took form. A fine large engraving of the *Tower* is given as a frontispiece, and every portion of this massive pile with its surroundings is numbered, and the names given on the margin, constituting a complete directory. It is surprisingly cheap at 60 cts., bound in cloth.

We now turn to other works that we have too recently received for perusal. *Three Seasons in European Vineyards. Treating of Vine Culture, Vine Disease, and its Cure; Wine Making and Wines, Red and White; Wine Drinking as affecting Health and Morals*. By William J. Flagg. This work probably possesses but little interest beyond the circle of vine cultivators and wine makers.

Harper's Pictorial History of the Great Rebellion. With nearly one thousand illustrations,—Portraits, Scenes, Maps, and Plans. In two volumes, 4to, each \$6.00. By Alfred H. Guernsey and M. Alden.

Lossing's Field-book of the Revolution. 1100 engravings. Two volumes royal 8vo., \$14.00. Sheep, \$15.00. Half calf, \$18.00. Full Turkey Morocco, gilt edges, \$22.00.

Lossing's Field-book of the War of 1812. With eight hundred and eighty-two illustrations engraved on wood by Lossing & Barrett, chiefly from original sketches by the author. At the close of his "Pictorial Field-book of the Revolution," Mr. Lossing said: "Should time deal gently with us, we may again go out with staff and scrip together upon the great highway of our country's progress, to note the march of events there." The implied promise has been fulfilled. More than ten thousand miles in this country and the Canadas the author has traveled, with note-book and pencil in hand, visiting places of historic interest connected with the war of 1812, from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, gathering up, recording, and delineating everything of special value not found in books, and making himself familiar with the battle-fields of that war. Access to the archives of government, State and national, was freely given him, and from the lips of actors in the events of that struggle, he received the most interesting information concerning it, which might have perished with them.

The results of the author's researches and labor are given in one imperial octavo volume of a thousand pages, containing eight hundred and eighty-two engravings in the style of the "Field-book of the Revolution," to which this work is an indispensable companion. The construction of the work differs from that only in having historical events arranged in chronological order. It forms a continuation of the history of our country, from the close of the Revolution in 1783, to the end of the second war with Great Britain in 1815. Nothing has been spared by

the author and publishers in their endeavors to make it the most perfect, attractive, and useful volume on the subject ever offered to the public.

These three illustrated histories of the American wars, constitute the most attractive, fully illustrated, and complete works of the kind ever before offered the public.

Dr. William Smith's Bible Histories. The Students' Old Testament History, from the Creation to the return of the Jews from Captivity. With maps and wood-cuts. In 2 vols., large 12mo.

The Students' New Testament History. With an introduction connecting the history of the Old and New Testaments. Fully illustrated with maps and engravings. Large 12mo, pp. 780. \$2.00. These are a valuable and cheap compendium, specially adapted for the ministers' library, and for all Bible students.

The Wedding Day in all Ages and Countries, by Edward J. Wood. The title fully informs us respecting the character of this work. It is a compilation from various sources of facts relating to the different methods practised in all portions of the globe of "entering into the state of holy matrimony," and is a subject interesting to all, except confirmed old bachelors and spinsters.

The Maylay Archipelago. The Land of the Orang-Utan and the Bird of Paradise. A Narrative of Travel, 1854-1862. With ten maps and fifty-one elegant engravings. Crown 8vo. Cloth, \$3.50.

The author of this deeply interesting book of travels, *Alfred Russell Wallace*, visited the large islands and groups to the south-east of Asia. He spent six years in travel, and made large and valuable collections, including 310 specimens of mammalia, 100 of reptiles, 8,050 of birds, 7,500 of shells, 13,100 of lepidoptera, 83,200 of coleoptera, and 13,400 of other insects.

This is a valuable work for the Library, abounding with interesting accounts of the orang-utan, birds of paradise the human races, and vegetable productions of that part of the world.

With one more notice of Harpers' recent publications, we must turn to other publishers.

A book for boys, by H. R. Fox Bourne, entitled: *Famous London Merchants*, with illustrations, is just the thing for the juvenile department. It consists of biographical sketches of Sir Richard Whittington (we had almost said *and his wonderful cat!*), Sir Thomas Gresham, Sir Henry Garway, Thomas Guy, George Peabody, and other famous merchants of famous London town.

G. P. PUTNAM & SON, New York.—Very excellent books have been contributed from this firm; we have not room to more than specify a part, and fully notice those recently received.

Marrying by Lot, by Charlotte B. Mortimer, the daughter of a most respected and distinguished Moravian clergyman; and it is of an antique and now wholly obsolete custom of that denomination, her story treats.

The Life of Audubon, the Naturalist, edited by his widow, and embellished with a fine portrait from the painting by Inman. 12mo, cloth extra, gilt top, \$2.50. This is a volume of rare interest, and indeed how could it be otherwise, containing as it does the record of this celebrated ornithologist, who, for forty years compassed the globe in search of every variety of the feathered tribe.

Our New West; or, California in 1867-68, by Charles Loring Brace, author of "Home Life in Germany," etc. The completion of the Pacific Railway has turned attention more generally to the Pacific States, and such a work as this, from a well-known and acceptable author, containing important and reliable facts of personal observation, will continue to be, as it already has been, cordially received by an appreciative public. He devotes two chapters to the Chinese, and gives a sad picture of their ill-treatment, and often inhuman abuse. Mr. Brace gives his attention more to the agricultural resources of the State, than to the mines, believing the former to be the basis of its future pros-

perity. He graphically describes the *Yosemite Valley*, the giant trees, and the geysers, and treats of the gardens and orchards, the vineyards and the silk-growing business just commencing.

Madame De Stael. By Amelia Bolte. Translated from the German by Theodore Johnson. This is an historical and biographical work, and offers a vast deal of information respecting the Necker family, and a whole host of brilliant French and German authors, contemporaries with Madame De Stael,—Voltaire, Rousseau, Talleyrand, Goethe, Schiller, etc. It is well known that Napoleon became jealous of this accomplished and influential lady, who took such a leading political position, and doomed her to exile. The reader in this volume finds a very graphic history of all the important events of Madame De Stael's life. It is attractively bound in cloth, 12mo, 467 pp., \$1.50.

Portia; and other Stories of the Early Days of Shakspeare's Heroines. By Mary Cowden Clark. This tastefully bound volume of 479 pages we have not had time to examine. The stories are of Portia, the Heiress of Belmont, whose portrait, ideal of course, forms the frontispiece; The Thane's daughter Helena; The Physician's Orphan; Desdemona, the Magnifico's Child; Meg and Alice; the Merry Maids of Windsor.

Rural Homes. By a Lady. This is a new edition of an old work, with a new chapter. It consists of a journal in which the author made a simple record of those every-day events which make up the course of the seasons in rural life. We confess to a partiality for "Notes by the Way," and anticipate much satisfaction in their perusal hereafter.

By-Ways of Europe, by Bayard Taylor, is another contribution that comes too late for examination, but our opinion is of no worth in this case; for this well-known and highly distinguished author has long wielded a magic pen, and his works of travel enrich, no doubt, all of the principal libraries in the land. By some critics this recent volume is considered the best of all. Cloth, 12mo, illustrated with two steel engravings, \$2.25. Putnam & Son announce new editions of his works, complete in ten volumes, \$25.50 per set.

Another valuable work from the same firm is entitled,—

Benedicte; or, Illustrations of the Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of God, as manifested in His Works. By G. Chaplin Child, M. D. It is beautifully got up, with tinted paper and gilt top. \$2.00.

To those who are interested to learn the art of drawing and painting without a master, we would recommend two small volumes by Madame Elizabeth Cave. Cloth, \$1.00 each. Published by Putnam & Son, New York.

LEYPOLD & HOLT, New York, publish very choice literature, especially biographies and letters of eminent musical composers. Several of these, with other valuable works, have been contributed by this firm at various times.

Mozart, translated from the German, by E. R. Sill; and *Reminiscences of Felix, Mendelssohn, Bertholdy*, by Madame Elise Polko, are highly appreciated by us. The appendix of this last consists of some of Mendelssohn's letters to English correspondents hitherto out of print.

Taine's Italy (Florence and Italy). Translated by John Durand. 8vo (uniform with *Rome and Naples*), \$2.50.

This is a remarkable book. It treats mostly of art, and sparkles with gems of thought, displayed with all the idiomatic vigor and refined brilliancy of the French style. The *Nation* says, "One feels at moments as though before this writer there had been no critics, no travelers, observers, or æsthetic inquisitors."

The Habermester. By Herman Schmid. 16mo, \$1.50. The *Habermester* was chief of the *habersfeld*, a secret tribunal which until lately has almost ruled Bavaria. The word *haber* signifies oats, and *habersfeld*, oat-field, probably, says the translator, from the sessions of the court being generally held in the open field, and at the end of oat harvest. Its sketches of the simple, honest, hardy peasant race of Bavaria are excellent of their kind.

Biographical Sketches. By H. Martineau. 8vo., cloth. \$2.50. These sketches consist of biographies contributed during the past twenty years to the columns of the *London Daily News*. Miss Martineau has enjoyed rare opportunities for making the acquaintance of persons who have been eminent in the literary, scientific, and political world, and this volume contains forty-six memoirs of distinguished personages; among them, Charlotte Brontë, Amelia Opie, Christopher North, Samuel Rogers, Father Mathew, Macaulay, Daniel O'Conner, Emperor Nicholas, Lady Byron, etc., etc. It is a valuable work, and ought to be in every library.

Auerbach. The Villa on the Rhine. Author's Edition, with a Portrait, and a Biographical Sketch, by Bayard Taylor. Standard Library Edition. Two vols., cloth. \$1.75 per vol.—Pocket Edition. Four parts. Paper, 50 cts. each.—Globe Edition. One vol. 12mo, cloth. \$2.00.

Black Forest Village Tales. Author's Edition. 16mo, cloth. \$1.50. Bayard Taylor says of this, in his biographical sketch of Auerbach in *Villa on the Rhine*, that these stories are models of simple, picturesque, pathetic narration. . . . A soft, idyllic atmosphere lies upon his pictures, and the rude and not wholly admirable peasant of the Black Forest is lifted into a region of poetry." In *Reminiscences of Mendelssohn*, we find mention made of Auerbach. "An ardent enthusiast for music, a most delightful member of society, he belonged specially to that circle of which Mendelssohn formed the brilliant center."

ROBERT CARTER & BROTHER.—Several large packages of very excellent books have at various times found their way to our table from these well known and highly respected publishers. Their literature is of the purest kind, such as every Christian household appreciates, and of a variety adapted to all ages and classes. Theological and biographical for the minister's library; the highest style of poetry, and the most charming of stories for all ages of youth, characterized by their purity of sentiment. We can only specify a few among the many excellent volumes from this firm, that we wish *specially* to recommend, where all are good.

Yesterday, To-day, and Forever. A Poem, in twelve books. By Edward Henry Bickersteth. 12mo, gilt top. \$2.00.

Never did we read a poem that so interested us, and we wonder not at its universal popularity. It is so touching, so sweet, so lucid; full of sublimity and grandeur, yet powerful and vigorous in expression.

Scotia's Bards. An elegant gift-book, containing the choice production of the Scottish poets, with brief biographical sketches, which adds much to the interest of the work. There is nothing lacking in this volume. Everything is in the best taste, and elegant style. Heavy fine-toned tinted paper, fine engravings, and gilt edges and ornamental design. In the language of another "It is a Scotch book all over. The tartan waves on the pinnacle of the introductory page; the thistle stands guard over the gates of the preface, and the bag-pipe plays an adieu at the finis. It is enriched with the most brilliant and costly poetic gems from the mines of that land which has been fruitful in minstrels, as in metaphysicians, heroes, and martyrs." Another says, "It is a magnificent bouquet culled from the sweetest flowers of song, that have ever glistened with the sunlight, or trembled with a tear." In this volume we find that touching poem, so great a favorite with President Lincoln,—

"Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud!"

It is from the pen of William Knox, who died in Edinburgh, 1825. This elegant work is embellished with nearly fifty engravings. 563 pp. \$4.50.

Tales from Alsace; or, Scenes and Portraits from Life in the Days of the Reformation. As drawn from old Chronicles. Translated from the German, with introduction appended to the French edition by the French translator, E. Rousseau Saint Hilaire.

This unique volume we perused with much interest, and can unqualifiedly recommend it for the sabbath school library. *The Day-Dawn and The Rain*, and other sermons, by Rev. John Ker, Glasgow, Scotland. *Memories of Olivet*, by Macduff; *Lectures on the Pilgrim's Progress*, by Cheever; *Pivot Words of Scripture*, by Rev. Philip B. Power; *The Pearl of Parables*, with numerous illustrations, by Hamilton, and *The Works of Rev. John Howe*, in two large and handsomely bound volumes, are a few among the many excellent works furnished by Carter Brothers.

J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co. are constantly publishing a superior class of works, judging from their weekly announcements. From them we receive for notice volumes that are excellent, and well adapted for the library.

Anecdotes of the Clergy is a republication of a former work, but it is reaching a new class of readers, and is very interesting, and one that ought to be in every sabbath school library. Price, \$2.00.

Reason and Faith; or, The Two Lights, is another well adapted for the sabbath school.

Deep Down in the Mines is a pleasant story from that popular writer for the young, R. M. Ballantine, author of many entertaining volumes. This book offers a great deal of information respecting the tin and copper mines of Cornwall, and the social condition of the miners.

Fighting the Flames,—a tale of the Fire Brigade; and *Silver Lake; or, Lost in the Snow*, are late works from the same author. These volumes are well illustrated. \$1.50.

The Rifle and Hound in Ceylon. By Sir Samuel Baker. With illustrations, 305, pp. \$1.50. The boys, who are fond of thrilling adventures, will here find enough to satisfy them to the full.

Nora Brady's Vow, and Mona, The Vestal. By Mrs. Anna H. Dorsey. This work has so recently been received, we have had no time to learn its character. From the preface we learn that in the story of "Mona," the author has "adhered strictly to historic accounts in all that she has written descriptive of the religious, intellectual, political, and social status of the ancient Irish. . . . 'Nora Brady's Vow,' will commend itself, we hope, to the reader by the truthfulness of its delineation, and as illustrative of incidents of the same character, which are not of unfrequent occurrence among us. . . . Nora is not a fictitious character, although the name is an assumed one, and as we have thrown her virtuous and generous acts together for the sake of vindicating and doing honor to her countrywomen in the United States, we are sure that she will forgive us for putting her into a book."

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE PEOPLES' PUBLISHING CO., Philadelphia, contribute a new, beautifully illustrated, and valuable work, entitled *Homes and Fortunes in the Boundless West and in the Sunny South*. It shows where the homes and fortunes of this vast country are found, and how to obtain them. It speaks of homes on the flowery-clad prairie, the sunny plantation in the smiling valley, by the winding river or the tranquil lake; and tells the capitalist, the farmer, the manufacturer, the merchant, the mechanic, and the professional man where and how to invest in order to acquire a fortune. The author has made six journeys to the West, going each time through to California, and gives in this volume the results of his personal observation and experience. It is a volume of 600 pages, 34 illustrations and maps. Among the beautiful engravings is one of the grand, glorious "Yosemite Valley," after Bierstadt's renowned painting. This view, engraved by one of the best of French artists, gives a most vivid view of this great basin, and the towering, rugged rocks that surround it. *The Trapper*, is an Alaska scene, and one of the most animated in the book. In the midst of a wild snow-storm the trappers and their dogs sally forth from their rude cabin to set their traps for the night. The gem among gems is *The Basin of the Columbia River*, exhibiting the fine artistic touch of the

French engraver. The three views of the Pacific railroad, "*Denver City*," "*Omaha*," and "*The Sierra Nevadas*," stand out in bold relief, and are splendid types of art. In the view at Omaha is given the magnificent bridge across the Father of Waters. Among other views we have *New York Harbor*, *Castle Garden*, *The Bow of Promise*, *The Prairie Home*, *Oil Wells in W. Virginia*, *A Pine Forest*, and *The Cotton Field*, where the whole force of the plantation is busy picking the snowy bolls from their stalks.

We cannot speak more at length of this great work, a vast and reliable compendium of information appertaining to the West and South, Utah and the Mormons, the Chinese, the Indians, etc. Sold by subscription only.

NATIONAL PUBLISHING CO., Philadelphia. From this firm we have the *Life of Jefferson Davis, with a Secret History of the Southern Confederacy, gathered "Behind the Scenes in Richmond."* Containing curious and extraordinary information of the principal Southern characters in the late war, in connection with President Davis, and in relation to the various intrigues of his administration. By Edward A. Pollard, author of the "*The Lost Cause*," etc., etc. Mr. Pollard thinks that he may say without vanity or self-assertion, that he is peculiarly fitted to be the biographer of Jefferson Davis. He was near him during the whole war, and had opportunity to study his character assiduously, and his position as a journalist in Richmond enabled him to learn much of the veiled mysteries and inner scenes of the weak and anomalous government that wrecked the fortunes of the Southern Confederacy. He has been accused of personal hostility to Mr. Davis, but he repels the charge decidedly. Mr. Pollard is aware that the work will awaken determined opposition, but he is willing to "risk himself upon the facts." Mr. P. was editor of a leading Southern paper during the war, and even under those circumstances dared to oppose the new administration. The book is sold by subscription, and we are not prepared to announce the price.

A. S. BARNES & CO., New York, have sent us *A Run Through Europe*, by Erastus C. Benedict. We have only time to run our eye over the "Publisher's Notice," and a few notices from the critics. The former state that the favorable opinion which has been expressed by public journals, and the readers of travel, especially those who have used it as a companion of travel, has induced the publishers to offer a third edition, with some corrections, and the addition of an outline map of the very extensive and interesting route described. The author *run* "through five-and-twenty kingdoms and sovereignties, passing twice over ninety degrees of latitude, between New York and Vienna, between Pompeii and Edinburgh, from Bologna to Marseilles, from Naples to Berlin, etc. *Harper's Magazine*, among other commendatory remarks, says of the work, "As a substitute for crossing the ocean, few recent volumes of travel can compare with it."

Lady Willoughby; or, Passages from the Diary of a Wife and Mother in the Seventeenth Century. From the second London edition. This is not a very late publication, but it is new to us, and quite a curiosity with its *antique* style of composition. It is a picture of the domestic life of a young married woman in the first fourteen years of her marriage. It is evidently a fictitious work, written in more modern times than the dates imply.

Thirteen Months in the Rebel Army. A Narrative of Personal Adventures in the Infantry, Ordnance, Cavalry, Courier, and Hospital Service. By an impressed New Yorker. Mr. Stevenson was appointed to positions of responsibility, and had excellent opportunities for the acquisition of facts respecting the position of the Southern armies and their leaders. He takes no grounds as a partisan, but presents his narrative of facts from neutral ground. 75 cts.

A. S. BARNES & CO., are very extensive publishers of standard school-books, but in looking over the catalogue we notice some very valuable works of travel and of biography. Among these last we see mention made of one we have never seen no-

ticed by the press,—*Garibaldi's Autobiography*. The Italian patriot's record of his own life, with a portrait. This must needs be a work of thrilling interest.

From HOYT & FOGG, Portland, we have their initial volume *Twelve Years with the Children*. By W. Warren, 325 pp. \$1.25.

This prettily bound 12mo is constructed upon four *suggestive mottoes*, under each of which the best traits of juvenile character are brought out by a great variety of illustrations and anecdotes. It is highly commended by reviewers, among whom are Dr. A. P. Peabody, Dr. A. C. Thompson, the *Congregationalist*, and many others.

CLARK & MAYNARD, New York, send us an elegant square volume entitled, "*No Sects in Heaven, and other Poems*." By Mrs. E. H. J. Cleaveland. It is printed on tinted paper, each page red bordered. The poem which gives title to the book has been very popular, and more than a hundred thousand copies have been sold in England. We are glad to see it so beautifully enshrined, with a dozen other choice poems from the same gifted pen.

THE YOUNG SPORTSMAN; or, Ned Carroll's Twelve Months in the Woods. A Down East Story. By Cousin Hayward. Boston: Pratt Brothers. pp. 320. \$1.50.

The story is one of adventure, fishing and hunting, camping out, farm life, etc. It occupies one year, and the peculiar sports of each month are noticed in order, affording a graphic description of down east life of city and country cousins. Sold only by subscription, and by the publishers.



THE BEE-KEEPERS' JOURNAL AND AGRICULTURAL REPOSITORY. A large and handsome monthly, at \$1 a year. Specimen copies sent free. Edited by Homer A. King, and Ellen S. Tupper; the former author of *The Bee Keepers' Text Book* (which has reached its

eighth edition, having run seven editions of 16,000 copies in two years), and the latter Iowa's noted writer on Bee-culture. A specimen copy with liberal premium offers and "Hints to Bee-keepers," sent free. Write now and not forget it. Address, H. A. King & Co., N. Y. City.

THE BEE-KEEPER'S TEXT BOOK. With an alphabetical index, being a complete reference book on all practical subjects connected with the culture of the honey-bee in both common and movable comb-hives, giving minute directions for the *Management of Bees in every Month of the Year*, and illustrating the Nucleus system of Swarming and Station Queen Bearing. By N. H. A. King. Eighth edition, and Nineteenth Thousand. It is printed in large type on clear white book paper and sent post-paid in red muslin, at 75 cts. Paper cover, 40 cts.

HINTS TO BEE-KEEPERS; same author. A practical pamphlet of 28 pp., with neat covers. 10 cts. single copies, \$3.00 per 100. These enterprising publishers have devoted their special attention to this branch of business for quite a number of years, and their *Monthly Journal*, *Text Book*, and *Hints to Bee-keepers*, afford every needful information on this subject. It would be well if our farmers generally would give their attention more fully to a branch business that is so very profitable as the culture of Bees. King is just removing to New York City, and is not prepared to give the definite address, but all letters addressed H. A. King, *Bee Keeper's Journal Office, New York*, will reach him safely.

WALKER'S ADDIST. The best, cheapest, and most practical adding machine ever in use. Will add columns of figures to any extent, three columns at a time, as quick as can be written with a pencil, and the amount will always be right. A mistake is impossible. The Addist will be sent to any address for 60 cts., or \$3.50 per doz. Agents wanted. R. H. Walker, 208 Broadway, Room 14, N. Y., P. O. Box, 3986.

L. PRANG & CO.'S AMERICAN CHROMOS. We would call attention to the advertisement of this well-known firm in another

place. We have received for notice one of their choice specimens, "Early Autumn on Esopus Creek," after Bricher, a Boston artist. We have never seen anything that can compare with it for delicacy of treatment, and transparency of color. Those who cannot afford the costly oil paintings, can adorn their dwellings with those perfect copies of originals from eminent artists. In the June No. of the Phrenological Journal we find an article respecting Prang's chromos, headed "A Voice from Europe." It is taken from the *Kunst Chronick* of Dec. 18, 1868, the leading art journal in Germany. "The Chromos before us were published by L. Prang & Co. of Boston, which firm introduced chromolithography into America, and have lately so elaborated the process, by means of new technical appliances, that their productions are able to take rank with the best of German productions, and indeed surpass these in delicacy and transparency of tone."

It would afford us pleasure to specifically acknowledge the many excellent volumes received from various other publishers who do not contribute to this work, if our limits would admit. We can only tender our thanks to Messrs. Hurd & Houghton, Gould & Lincoln, and M. N. Dodd, for very choice volumes furnished by them; to J. B. Ford & Co., through H. A. Brown, for "Horace Greeley's Recollections of a Busy Life," and other valuable volumes, from Brown & Co., Boston; "Men of Our Day," "Night Scenes in the Bible," and "Golden Sheaves," from Zeigler McCurdy & Co., Philadelphia; "Eminent Women of the Age," from S. M. Betts & Co., Hartford; "Arctic Explorations," from Bliss & Co., Hartford; and "Men of Our Times," from the Hartford Publishing Co., all excellent works, and much appreciated. We must not forget Lee & Shepard, who, among other choice volumes, have contributed two that have not been allowed any rest, for their company is so highly prized they are constantly *on the go*. We refer to "Hillsboro' Farms," and "The Howell Family." And worthy they indeed are of the favor so generally awarded them.

With thanks most grateful to all of the publishers represented at our table, and the hope that our pleasant relations may be continued, we close our *chit-chat*.

MAGAZINES.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, with its long list of distinguished writers on both sides of the sea, has for twenty years occupied a leading position among its class. Devoted to Literature, Science, Art, and Politics. \$4.00 per year. Single copies, 35 cts. Boston: Fields, Osgood & Co.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS, from same firm, with its attractive illustrations and stories, is very popular. \$2.00 per year. 20 cts. sample number.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE entered, Jan. 1869, on its one hundredth volume. It is issued every Saturday, and offers more than three thousand double columned octavo pages of reading matter yearly, forming four handsome volumes when bound. The Chicago Daily Republican says, "'Littell's Living Age' is the oldest, and by far the best, concentration of choice periodical literature printed in this country. It occupies a field filled by no other periodical; and its ample pages constitute a repository of the most admirably selected miscellany from the entire range of the best home and foreign journals and magazines. The subscriber to 'Littell' finds himself in possession, at the end of the year, of four large volumes of such reading as can be obtained in no other form, and comprising selections from every department of science, art, philosophy, and *belles-lettres*. Those who desire a thorough compendium of all that is admirable and noteworthy in the literary world will be spared the trouble of wading through the sea of reviews and magazines published abroad; for they will find the essence of all compacted and concentrated here." Published weekly, at \$8.00 a year, free of postage. An extra copy sent gratis to any one getting up a club of five new subscribers.

THE PHENOLOGICAL JOURNAL, a large and handsomely illustrated quarto, treating of Phrenology, Physiognomy, and Physiology, besides very excellent articles on miscellaneous subjects. Its papers of biography with portrait, giving minute description of phrenological developments, form a very attractive feature of each number. To those who wish to procure *multum in parvo* at a trifling cost, as sample of the subjects treated of in this journal, will do well to send 25 cts. to the publisher, S. R. Wells, 389 Broadway, N. Y., and procure their "Illustrated Annual of Phrenology and Physiognomy," for 1869, containing for its initial *Our Leading Editors*, with portraits. It will be a good investment. Subscription price of the Journal, \$3.00. Sample number, 30 cts.

ARTHUR'S HOME MAGAZINE. The editor has always sought to make this magazine the minister of things pure and noble, the hand-maid of morality and religion; the teacher, whether by story, poem, or essay, that only as we live by the golden rule can we be wise or happy. Terms, \$2.00 per year; 3 copies, \$5.00; \$4 do. \$6.00.

ONCE A MONTH. This is a new magazine, unique in size and style, first-class and high-toned. Besides giving original articles from leading American writers, the editor will select from English and continental magazines, and other publications, the best literary matter to be found. In order to give the people an opportunity to become acquainted with their beautiful magazine, the publishers will send the first six numbers of this year for 50 cts. Each number contains ninety-six double columns of reading, so that for this trifling sum nearly six hundred pages of choice reading are given yearly. Terms, \$2.00 a year.

THE CHILDRENS' HOUR, from the same firm, is the most beautiful and pure magazine for the little folks we have ever seen. The teachings are such as to inspire them with right principles and unselfish actions. Everything about it is as perfect as can be. Subscription price, \$1.25. The bound volumes, beautiful in their gilt adornings, and attractive with artistic illustrations and charming stories, are truly excellent for the sabbath school. \$1.00 per volume. Arthur's three magazines sent to one address for \$4.00. T. S. Arthur & Son, Philadelphia.

THE NURSERY. A Monthly Magazine for the *wee* ones, stands without a rival in the field. It is the first and only work of its kind, and is a universal favorite. Every editor has a good word for this *pet*. Every number has at least twenty-five pictures by those eminent artists: Pletzch, Frolick, Weir, Froment, Billings, and Barnes. The July number contains the most admirable collection of any we have seen. It is a gem among gems. "Dora;" "Looking at the Pigs;" "Morning on the Beach," are beautiful, while the six designs of the "White Horse" by Froment, are the capstone. "A Papa" knows just what will delight the children. He gives in the August number, "Laura at Newport," in five scenes. "The Horse who could Pump" is a striking picture, with a nice true story all about it. "Old Cow, give me some Milk," with a pretty song, and many other delightful pictures and stories go to make up this number. The premiums are liberal, and smart little boys and girls can send 15 cts. for a specimen copy, and go to work and earn the "Nursery" for their younger brothers and sisters, or get up a club. \$1.50 per year. Boston: John L. Shorey.

HARPER'S NEW MONTHLY, is not so new as its name implies, for it has entered on its thirty-ninth year. This bulky, double-columned monthly contains a vast amount of reading, and with its light literature combines a great deal of very entertaining and useful matter.—History, Travels, Biography, and Science. The initial paper for August,—“Pictures of the Japanese,” is illustrated with twenty-two pictures taken from photographs or native paintings; “South-east Saunterings in England,” with thirteen illustrations, is a very interesting article. Among the portraits are those of William Gilpin; Robert Owen, of Harmony Hall fame, and father of Robert Dale, the noted spiritualistic

author; and of Robert Southey. This Magazine, according to Rowell's circular, entered on the present year with a list of 112,000. All of Harper's illustrated periodicals stand in the front rank. The Weekly has a circulation 100,000,—the Bazar 70,000.

HOURS AT HOME. Scribner's excellent monthly pays Harper's periodicals a high compliment when it says: "We cannot recall a single illustration in one of them that any one could reasonably object to on moral ground." "The Watchman & Reflector" of Aug. 5th, in commending the position taken by "Harper's Weekly" on the important question of sectarian schools, says in conclusion: "It is a cause of rejoicing that so influential and widely circulated a paper as "Harper's Weekly" stands firm for the right; we have never known it to advocate any measure opposed to sound morals and true religion." Coming from such a source, this is high praise indeed. For terms of Harper's periodicals see advertisement on cover.

BALLOU'S MONTHLY is decidedly the cheapest magazine in America. One hundred pages of choice, interesting, instructive reading. Adventures, Serials, Poems, Biographies, Travels, Essays, with abundant illustrations in every number, making twelve hundred pages a year for the low price of \$1.50. Single number, 15 cts. Boston: Elliott, Thomes & Talbot.

THE AMERICAN NATURALIST. A popular Illustrated Monthly Magazine of Natural History, published by the Peabody Academy of Science, Salem, Mass. Each number of the Naturalist contains 56 pp. The first volume began March 1867, and has 700 pp., with nearly 500 Illustrations, and 16 full-paged plates. Terms, \$4.00 a year. Single copies, 35 cts. Bound vols., \$5.00.

THE ECLECTIC MAGAZINE OF FOREIGN LITERATURE has entered on its twenty-sixth year, and well deserves the high position awarded it by an appreciative public. Its selections are of the very cream of the most celebrated Foreign and Continental Reviews, Magazines and Journals. A fine steel engraving of distinguished authors and celebrities add much to the value of each number. The publishers offer liberal premiums of chromos and costly steel engravings. \$5.00 a year. Single copies, 45 cts. E. R. Pelton, 108 Fulton street, New York.

FINE STEEL ENGRAVINGS FOR THE PORTFOLIO, OR FOR FRAMES. The numerous Engravings which have embellished the Eclectic Magazine since its commencement, twenty-five years ago, and the growing appreciation among the people for the Fine Arts, has induced us to put a number of these pictures on the market at a price which shall place them within the reach of all. The Eclectic Engravings comprise choice selections from the whole field of the Arts, and form a rare collection of Historic and Ideal subjects and Portraits of Eminent Men which it would be impossible to duplicate elsewhere. Large and expensive Engravings, costing \$20, \$30, and \$40 each, have been reduced in size, and can be had in this form at a merely nominal cost. They are printed in a style which makes them suitable for Framing, Scrap-books, or Private Historical Collections, and are calculated to afford not only amusement but instruction. The engravings are printed on different sized paper, small size, 7 by 10, or quarto size, 10 by 12. A few fine proof impressions of most of the Catalogue will be furnished.

Among these Engravings we enumerate the following: Sir Walter Scott and his Friends, Shakespeare and his Contemporaries, Literary Party at Sir Joshua Reynolds', Divorce of Josephine, Morning of the 18th Brumaire, Napoleon III, Eugenie, Victor Emanuel, Garibaldi, Charles Dickens, Louis Agassiz, Rufus Choate, Sir John Franklin, and over two hundred others: Consisting of Historic and Battle Scenes, Idealities, and Portraits of every distinguished Statesman or Author of the present century. One of each of the entire Catalogue will be sent on receipt of \$15; the price of single prints sent by mail is 10 and 15 cts., according to the size of paper. A sample order of 10 prints, in quarto size, sent on receipt of \$1. Address, E. R. Pelton, 108 Fulton street, New York.