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Anne succeeds, followed by the French Revolution, and a bird's-eye view of the literature of the United States concludes the "Epochs." Surely Mr. Underhill sets somewhat too high an estimate on the development in America. Its authors, he says (p. 197) "have blossomed forth into a spasmodic growth of intellect which brings them on an equality with their rivals in Europe." Many will regard this as undue praise. In every department of literature but one, they are in the rear; immeasurably so in poetry. The sole point in which they surpass European writers is in that humour which depends for its interest on exaggerated hyperbole, and this is surely no great conquest. In this section of Mr. Underhill's book occurs an extraordinary and unaccountable blunder. Amongst the American authors is cited no less a person than the old Puritan, Richard Baxter, author of the "Saint's Rest!" Milton, we may add, is misquoted once. Occasionally the language is very vigorous: *e.g.* (p. 182):

The same propensity which causes silly feminine society to idolize the lawn-tennis-playing, drawing-room, washing-his-hands-with-invisible-soap curate of the present day;

and again (p. 214):

Even at the present day we have hardly expelled the insane thrasonical meretriciousness of pseudo-æstheticism, which, but for the foolish gullibility of weak-kneed calves calling themselves men, and women distracted on account of their painful inability to attract, would never have existed.

The general tone of the book is just and refined; and the one or two blemishes we have pointed out will not irreparably impair its interest. Nothing comes seriously amiss to a true book-lover which is tendered in such a spirit of love towards literature as this.

B. A.

Short Notices.

Girl Neighbours. By SARAH TYTLER. London: Blackie and Sons.

This is a case of old-fashioned girls *v.* girls *à la mode*, in which the arguments on both sides are very fairly set out, and judgment is given for the former. The "neighbours," Pie Stubbs and Harriet Cotton, are true and realistic specimens of girlhood. A very attractive story, and beautifully illustrated.

An Exposition of the Apostles' Creed. By the Rev. J. E. YONGE, M.A. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

This, the latest volume of the Theological Educator series, conveys full and accurate information. Every point is carefully explained and illustrated, numerous references to Holy Scripture are given, and there are valuable notes; the whole supplies a condensation of the standard authors on the subject which will be extremely useful to candidates for Holy Orders.

Remarks on the Supplement to the Church Catechism. Proposed by the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury. By the Right Rev. CHARLES PERRY, D.D., Late Bishop of Melbourne. Elliot Stock.

It is only necessary here to remark that this pamphlet is a reprint ("with some alterations") from the December CHURCHMAN.

The Story of Some Famous Books. By F. SAUNDERS. London: E. Stock.

Of late a great deal has been said about the evils of desultory reading, and a great deal also on the other side. Here we have the very essence of it, for a pleasant flow of literary small-talk glides on from one work to another under no apparent system and guided by no particular rule. The result is a series of desultory and discursive remarks which, while not profound or very original, show much delicate and acceptable literary taste. The book is enriched, and not clogged, with numerous apt quotations and extracts. One typographical error may be pointed out—*Mens curva in corpore curva*. The volume is admirably printed, and, like its companions in this series, in all ways tasteful.

Story of the Niger. A Record of Travel and Adventure from the Days of Mungo Park to the Present Time. By R. RICHARDSON, author of "Ralph's Year in Russia," etc., etc. With 31 Illustrations. T. Nelson and Sons.

This "Story of the Niger," interesting and informing, is a welcome addition to the "Boy's Library of Travel and Adventure" published by Messrs. Nelson. Mr. Richardson has done his work well, and supplied a want. After Mungo Park come Clapperton and the Landers, Burdo Gallieni, Dr. Barth and Mr. Thompson.

Cæsar in Kent. An Account of the Landing of Julius Cæsar, and his Battles with the Ancient Britons; with some Account of Early British Trade and Enterprise. By the Rev. F. T. VINE, B.A., Rector of Eastington. 2nd edition. Elliot Stock.

It is no matter of surprise that this interesting work has quickly reached a second edition. Many of the general-reader class, to whom, as a rule, archaeological books are by no means acceptable, will welcome Mr. Vine's. The present edition, enriched with maps, is printed in clear, large type.

Of *The Englishman's Bible*, by Mr. Newberry (Hodder and Stoughton), three large volumes, we can only say at present—in recommending it—that it is a very suggestive work, and that so far as we have examined it is extremely accurate, showing industry and patience of a rare type.

A new edition of Mr. Withrow's able and interesting book, *The Catacombs of Rome* (Their Testimony to Primitive Christianity), has been sent us by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton. It differs in no respect, so far as we can see, from the edition of 1876. The volume has many illustrations.

Scripture Natural History—Trees and Plants—(R.T.S.) is a good and useful little book; illustrated. "By-paths of Bible Knowledge," No. 10.

In the *Art Journal* (Virtue and Co.) appears the usual variety of illustration and description. "Hard Hit" (Orchard Son's) is a fine etching. "The Seine; as a painting ground," and "Notes on Japan," are attractive. Altogether, this is a good number of a favourite Magazine.

Little Folks, enlarged (Cassell and Co.), is excellent.

Messrs. Seeley and Co. have sent us a cheap edition of the *Life of Bishop Hannington*, and we heartily commend it. It is no matter of surprise that this interesting Biography should have reached a "twenty-first thousand."—*Cædwalla* is a well-written Tale of the Saxons in the Isle of Wight, by F. Cowper, M.A. Illustrated by the author, tastefully got-up, this is a really good gift-book or prize.

In the *National Review* appears an able paper on the "Church and the Poor Law," by the Rev. Morris Fuller.

Blackwood gives a readable and suggestive paper on Darwin. *Blackwood* says: "There is a sufficient exposition of his own sentiments given in the

"chapter entitled 'Religion' in the first volume of the present work. The picture it gives is interesting, but not encouraging :

Formerly I was led by feelings such as those just referred to (although I do not think that the religious sentiment was ever strongly developed in me), to the firm conviction of the existence of God and the immortality of the soul. In my journal I wrote that, whilst standing in the midst of the grandeur of a Brazilian forest, 'it is not possible to give an adequate idea of the higher feelings of wonder and admiration and devotion which fill and elevate the mind.' I well remember my conviction that there is more in man than the mere breath of his body. But now the grandest scenes would not cause any such convictions and feelings to rise in my mind. It may be truly said that I am like a man who has become colour blind. . . . Another source of conviction is the existence of God connected with the reason and not with the feelings. This follows from the extreme difficulty, or rather impossibility, of conceiving this immense and wonderful Universe, including man, with his capacity of looking far backwards and far into futurity, as the result of blind chance or necessity. When thus reflecting, I feel compelled to look to a First Cause having an intelligent mind, in some degree analogous to that of man : and I deserve to be called a theist. But then arises the doubt, Can the mind of man, which has, as I fully believe, been developed from a mind as low as that possessed by the lowest animals, be trusted when it draws such grand conclusions ?

"Words more profoundly mournful than these [says *Blackwood*] were never spoken ; but Darwin does not seem to have felt them to be so. He states this appalling thought very calmly as one of many reflections —grave, but no more important than a hundred others ; yet how deeply it goes to the root, not only of every hope, but of all imagination, reason, every noble faculty with which our race has credited itself."

The new *Quarterly* has reviews of the "Life and Letters" of Darwin, Mr. Layard's "Early Adventures," Mr. Howorth's "The Mammoth and the Flood," and "The Cruise of the *Marchesa*." The Darwin review is good as far as it goes. "The Roman Catholics in England" is a well-written and encouraging article. For country parsons, as well as for country landlords, the *Quarterly* remarks on "Depression," and a paper on "Landed Interests and Landed Estates" will have a special interest. We hope to return to this paper. In the "Contest with Lawlessness," we find what we expect in the way of statement and suggestion. This is a very good number of the *Quarterly*, a review which we look forward to as eagerly now as we did thirty years ago.

The *Leisure Hour* begins the new year well. Its contents are judiciously varied, and the illustrations are excellent. "The Late Edward Thring," with reminiscences of Uppingham, by the Rev. J. G. Wood, will be specially welcome to many. There is a readable paper on the Queen's Homes. In "Some Experiences of an Editor" we read : "What is intended for a monthly periodical should not be written against time. It should be the result of not only careful and deliberate work, but of work taken up when the writer feels such fire as he has to be warm within him." The would-be contributor should bear in mind that the matter is intended for "final enshrinement in a volume."

The *Rosebud*, a magazine for the nursery (now published by Jas. Clarke and Co., 13 and 14, Fleet Street), has some amusing verses, with suitable illustrations.

From the Religious Tract Society we have received four cheap and attractive volumes of Tales of Adventure. *The Black Troopers, Strange Tales of Peril, Remarkable Adventures from Real Life, and Adventures Ashore and Afloat*. Capital gift-books or prizes, and well suited for a parochial library.