

corner of this district had been the residence of some person of mark. As the ground gradually began to be built over from Hyde-park-corner, the neighbourhood of Knightsbridge, continued to beyond Brompton Church, became a favourite residence of men of letters in general, but especially of artists and of theatrical celebrities. Hans-place was the home of Miss London. In 1837 Crofton Croker took up his residence at Rosamond's Bower, Fulham, which became the resort of a great number of the celebrities of our time. Croker was a keen observer of the historical and antiquarian points of interest in the localities which came under his eye, and nine years of daily passage between Fulham and the Admiralty made him acquainted with every bit of interest in the district through which lay most frequently his daily walk. He gave the result of his observations and researches in a series of very interesting illustrated papers in *Fraser's Magazine*, to which he was one of the earliest contributors, and we know that he had always the intention of publishing these papers in a separate form. Unfortunately, this design was left unfulfilled at his death; but his only son, Mr. Dillon Croker, has carried it out not only with a most praiseworthy filial feeling, but with a great degree of judgment and delicacy. He has worked into the text many manuscript additions of his father, and he has continued the history of remarkable individuals who have inhabited this district to the present time. He has further added to the book two privately printed pamphlets of his father, which Crofton Croker's personal modesty would no doubt have excluded, but which still possess a very considerable local interest—the account of Rosamond's Bower, and that of the antiquarian festivities at Prior's Bank. We can recommend this as a very pleasant volume, and one which will have an interest much beyond the locality it describes. Before we leave this book, we will speak a word of another of the works of Crofton Croker—of that, in fact, on which in a great degree his reputation was raised; we mean, of course, the "Fairly Legends of the West of Ireland." It is the book of this class which stands, all things considered, the first of the similar publications in this country, and we think that a good new edition of it is wanted. A curtailed edition was published in Murray's Family Library; but we wish to see, in any new editions, the omissions then made (for some reason or other) restored. It is a kind of classical book in this particular field of literature.

*Hints and Helps for Every-day Emergencies, in connection with Social Economy, Domestic Economy, Rural Economy, Household Medicine, Casualties, and Accidents, Ipecunary Embarrassments (sic), Legal Difficulties, &c. &c.* London: Ward and Lock. pp. 112.

WHOEVER AMASSED THIS TREASURE OF WISDOM must be a philanthropist; for surely never was anything designed so admirably calculated to meet the wants of poor erring humanity. Whatever may be the difficulty, social, domestic, or otherwise, even though it belong to that mysterious class specified in the title-page as *Ipecunary-embarrassments*, you have only to consult these pages, and you are certain to find a way out of them. A very brief examination will serve to show the value of the gems of wisdom here enshrined. At page 5 we are told what is the best way to cut an acquaintance, or, as it is periphrastically termed, avoid recognition:

When you observe a person coming towards you at a distance whom you wish to avoid, turn into the nearest shop at hand and ask some question, for the purpose of filling up the interval until the person in question has gone by. Upon which you may emerge from the shop, and pursue your way. The customary method of brushing close by a person, and gazing intently on vacancy, or looking on the other side of the way, is too transparent an artifice, and the best actor cannot conceal the consciousness he experiences on such occasions. *Mem.* The advice here given may savour of duplicity, but there is, in truth, a class of persons whom one is either compelled to avoid, or, on the other hand, to submit to annoyance, irritation, and considerable inconvenience, which their twaddle or impertinence occasions.

Nothing can be more true than the *Mem.* with which this sage piece of advice is closed. Did we only know the compiler of this volume by sight, we are quite sure that we should never have occasion to step into a shop to avoid him. At page 12 we find another choice piece of counsel, entitled a "Plan of Escape from a Convivial Meeting." Now our experience has generally taught us that, instead of requiring any plan of escape, those guests who have enjoyed themselves generally put their ingenuity to the task to devise some pretext for staying as long as possible. This, however, seems not to have been the fate of the compiler with his friends, and consequently he advises as follows:

When you go to a supper or dinner, or any other festivity that is likely to be protracted to a late hour, take care when you go to hide your hat, great-coat, &c., in some place where you can lay your hand upon them unperceived, so that when you wish to take your departure you may slip out of the room, don your external habiliments unperceived, and so beat a retreat. If you do not take these precautions, your host, from mistaken motives of hospitality, will have your hat, &c., conveyed with others to some inaccessible apartment; and when you have become quite wearied out, and would give the world to retire, you are kept a prisoner against your will. Take care, also, to retire from the room at a fitting opportunity, such as when a song is being sung, or a speech made, during which the attention of the party is fixed to what is passing so intently that your escape is not observed.

"When you require a cab," says this Mentor (*vide p. 39*), "always select the last one on the rank. You will thus ride cheaper than if selecting a cab in the front." We do not quite see the force of this advice. The next piece of worldly wisdom is much more intelligible:

**BORROWERS ON PRINCIPLE.**—There is a class of persons who make a practice of borrowing money of every one with whom they come in contact; systematically and persistently levying black mail, and winding up every conversation with the true Jeremy Diddler's request, "Have you got such a thing as so-and-so about you?" The best way of settling these gentlemen with a good grace is, when they request a loan, say for a sovereign, to reply, "It is inconvenient to lend you a sovereign, but I will make you a present of five shillings." You will find that this will effectually silence further application, for, after all, these adventurers have a certain code of delicacy, and although unscrupulous in raising contributions on the plea of borrowing, they have scarcely the effrontery to ask a person to give. In fact, under such treatment as that described, they will profess to feel themselves much hurt, and enter their protest against such gratuitous friendship, by happily cutting your acquaintance forthwith.

One more oracle, and we have done. It is entitled "The Secret of Public Speaking":

A thorough contempt for your audience is the surest way to shake off nervousness and to engender confidence. If a public speaker be afraid of his hearers he is lost.

Now we have always been of opinion that a thorough respect for your audience is the best feeling for a speaker—such a respect as shall compel him to address their understandings, and speak nothing but that which he has matured. No doubt, however, the compiler applies the same principle to his readers, for whom he must have entertained "a thorough contempt" when he presumed to lay before them such rubbish.

*The Mother's Thorough Resource Book: comprising Self-Discipline of the expectant Mother; General Management during Infancy and Childhood; also Children's Complaints, Children's Cookery, Children's Clothing, Children's Amusements, Children's Physical Development, Children's Education, and Children's Moral Training.* The whole classified and arranged upon an entirely new plan, and illustrated with several engravings. (Ward and Lock. pp. 252.)—Everything which can be supposed to relate to children, from nettle-rash to suet-pudding, from making sun-bonnets of twilled calico at eightpence a yard to teaching geography and music, is the burden of this book. Occasionally the writer appears more successful in telling us what should not be done than what should: thus of toothache we learn, that "in any case the tooth should neither be extracted nor stopped, be the suffering ever so severe, as these operations are liable to be followed by the most severe consequences." This is not very consolatory to the sufferer, who would probably like to know what he is to do.

*The Play-Book of Metals; including Personal Narratives of Visits to Coal, Lead, Copper, and Tin Mines.* By JOHN HENRY PEPPER. (Routledge. pp. 504.) In this instructive and very readable volume, Mr. Pepper has put forward a vast amount of useful information respecting the metals and their uses. Mr. Pepper is already well known to the public as ex-director of the Polytechnic Institution, where his lectures popularised science, and set forth her truths so as to attract the public mind. Mr. Pepper's account of the metals and their uses includes not only a large number of personal anecdotes of adventure in different mines, but also a large number of interesting experiments relating to the different uses of metal. An additional value is given to the book by nearly three hundred engravings, illustrating the text, and altogether it will make a capital gift-book to a boy with an inquiring mind.

*The Sources of the Nile: being a General Survey of the Basin of that River, and of its Head-streams; with the History of Nilotic Discovery.* By CHARLES T. BEKE, Ph.D. (James Madden, 1860. pp. 156.)—A very curious and learned treatise on the literature of the Nile—if we may use such a phrase—written by a gentleman now resident in the Mauritius. Dr. Beke is not trying a "prentice-hand" on this topic. Thirteen years ago he wrote a paper "On the Nile and its Tributaries," which was read before the Royal Geographical Society of London. Perhaps the most interesting question discussed in these pages is that of the position and direction of the Mountains of the Moon. In 1847 the writer advanced various hypotheses as to the probability of the source of the Nile being situated in these mountains; since that period the discoveries of Captains Burton and Speke have almost made these hypotheses a certainty. The whole volume contains a great deal of very curious matter, from the story of early Nilotic discovery up to that of the travels of the adventurous Englishmen just mentioned.

*Lectures, Elementary and Familiar, on the English Law.* By JOHN FRANCILLON, Esq. First series. (Butterworths. pp. 189.)—A series of lectures, likely to be very useful to the law student, on the groundwork of our law, common, statute, and constitutional. Mr. Francillon is a County Court judge—is evidently something more than what is called a practical lawyer.

We have also received: the volume for 1860 of *The Sunday at Home: a Family Magazine.* (The Religious Tract Society.)—*The Leisure Hour,* 1860. (Religious Tract Society.)—*Speech of Lord Lyveden on Proposing the Second Reading of the Church Rates Abolition Bill.* (James Ridgway.)—*The Bradfordian.*—*Gabriel de Mirabeau, or Riquetti, the Revolution King.* By H. Keeble. (Horsell and Caudwell.)

#### ILLUSTRATED BOOKS.

THE MAGNIFICENT GIFT BOOKS of the season continue to come forth, covered with their garments of many colours and with jewels of gold and jewels of silver. One of the handsomest and most really artistic of these is the edition of *Charles's Emblems*, illustrated by Charles Bennett and W. Harry Rogers, and published by James Nisbet and Co. In the illustrations the old style has been adhered to, though not so closely as in Mr. Bennett's beautiful edition of *Pilgrim's Progress* last year. The head and tail pieces are executed with great taste, and there is an original frontispiece by Mr. Bennett, which does him great credit. The binding is a very pretty combination of Magenta colour and gold, with a design suitable to the book, which is in itself a very fit and handsome present to any one with a taste for quaint old literature.

*The Art Album*, published by Messrs. W. Kent and Co., contains "sixteen fac-simile water-colour drawings by George Catermole, T. Sidney Cooper, Duncan, Gilbert, Hunt, Leitch, Smith, Thomas, Mrs. Ward, H. Warren, Wehnert, Harrison Weir, and H. B. Willis." If water-colours could be rendered by fac-simile this would, no doubt, be a very satisfactory volume; as they cannot, we must take it as the next best thing possible to the real thing. Take the first piece we come to, "Stepping-Stones" by Wehnert. The drawing is accurate enough, no doubt; but the colour is weak, and there is none of that gradation, that melting of tint into tint of which constitutes the chief beauty of real water colour painting. How imperfectly then does the printed colour render the luscious reality of William Hunt's fruit! The grapes are recognisable enough; but the round yellow fruit might do equally well for a peach or an orange. As for the raspberry, it gives one the colic to look at it. And yet how beautiful are some of the subjects. What a fresh breezy bit of sea we can fancy Duncan's "Off shore" to be! "Carting

Brushwood" is surely a fine piece of nature in the original. The "Sailor-boy" by G. Thomas must, however, be a curious work anyhow. Blue trowsers, blue shirt, blue cap, leaning on a blue boat, near a blue sea, beneath a blue sky, and looking remarkably blue in every respect. The verses which accompany the fac-similes are of various qualities; those taken from Chaucer and other sources being decidedly better than the original compositions.

*Three Gems in One Setting*, by A. L. Bond, is published by Messrs. W. Kent and Co. The three gems are Tennyson's "Poet's Song," Campbell's "Field Flowers," and Mrs. Hemans's "Pilgrim Fathers." Mr. Bond has taken these, and has illustrated them in printed oils. To be frank with him, we do not like the style. It is neither pretty nor savoury, for the printed oils have anything but an agreeable smell, and as a medium they are so unmanageable that anything like clear drawing or delicacy of colour seems quite unattainable. As far, however, as printed oils can go, this volume is well enough, and as the binding is very pretty, and the three gems which the casket incloses are well chosen, we have no doubt that it will become a Christmas favourite with many.

*The Promises of Jesus Christ*, illuminated by A. H. Warren, and published by Messrs. Bell and Daldy, is an exquisite specimen of modern illumination, the execution of which bears creditable testimony to the diligence with which Mr. Warren has studied the old models. The "promises" are texts well selected from the utterances of our Lord. The binding is very beautiful, and a more appropriate present to a young devotee at a season so rich with memories of the Saviour as Christmas could scarcely be imagined.

In *Legends from Fairy Land; narrating the History of Prince Glee and Princess Trill*, by Holme Lee (Smith, Elder, and Co.), one of our most popular novelists has employed her pen in the composition of a book of fairy tales which is charming, and must be popular among the little public, for whom it is written. There is a spice of humour in these adventures of the Prince Glee and Princess Trill not common among fairy tales; and little readers will not fail to take infinite delight in the cruel persecutions and condign punishment of Aunt Spite, the adventures of the Great Tufongbo, and the story of the Black-cap in the Giant's Well.

*The Boy's Book of Ballads* (Bell and Daldy) contains a capital selection of such well-known, time-honoured ballads as "Sir Lancelot du Lake," the "Childe of Elie," and the ballads relating to Robin Hood and also to the Knights of the Table Round. These ballads, beautifully illustrated by

sixteen engravings on wood from drawings by John Gilbert, make a very handsome and seasonable volume, such as will be very welcome to many a young recipient.

*Little Ella and the Fire-King, and other Fairy Tales*. By M. W. With Illustrations by Henry Warren. (Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas.)—This beautiful little collection of original tales is so elegantly yet simply written, that it may safely be placed in the hands of the merest child without any risk of puzzling its tender brains. They are evidently from the pen of a lady, one who knows what the child-mind is, and how its attention can be arrested and interested. The tale of "Little Ella and the Fire-King" is one of the prettiest little fairy tales we have ever met with, and Mr. Warren's beautiful illustrations are quite worthy of the text.

*Lillieslea; or, Lost and Found*. By Mary Howitt. Illustrated by John Absolon. (Routledge.)—The tender pen of Mary Howitt has here been well employed in writing an interesting and instructive story for the young, and the skilful pencil of Mr. Absolon has vied with it in illustrating it.

*Oberon's Horn: a Book of Fairy Tales*, by Henry Morley, illustrated by Charles H. Bennett (Chapman and Hall), is a collection of twelve original fairy tales, two of which appeared ten years ago in *Household Words*. Mr. Morley's tales are very ingenious; and the only doubt we have is whether they will not prove too much so for the minds of children. There is a depth of meaning and a complexity of plot in some of these stories which will sorely puzzle young heads. Many of the names, too, are rather far-fetched; as, for example, where all the names in one story are taken (for no perceptible reason whatever) from the English ferns—as the Prince of Athyrion, King Botrychio, Lunary, Moonwort, &c. Mr. Bennett's illustrations are exceedingly graphic and forcible.

*Fairy Footsteps; or, Lessons from Legends*. With one hundred illustrations designed by Alfred Crowquill. (Henry Lea.)—These fairy tales also are, for the most part, well written, and each has an excellent moral. Like Mr. Morley's, however, they seem to us to be too hard to understand. Be that, however, as it may, Mr. Crowquill's illustrations will be sure to make them welcome. Some of these tales can scarcely be considered original. For example, the leading idea of the first story, "Heinrich, or the Love of Gold," is taken from Wilhelm Hauff's "Das Steinene Herz," and others are from Eastern and Irish sources.

*What Uncle told Us*. With coloured illustrations by Alfred Crowquill. (H. Lea.)—Another fairy book, upon a simpler plan. The pretty illustrations are here coloured.

## EDUCATION, THE DRAMA, MUSIC, ART, SCIENCE, &c.

### EDUCATION.

*Brinnow's Spherical Astronomy*. Translated by the Rev. ROBERT MAIN, M.A., F.R.S., President of the Royal Astronomical Society, and Radcliffe Observer at Oxford. Part I., including the chapters on Parallax, Refraction, Aberration, Precession, and Nutation. (Cambridge: Deighton, Bell, and Co. London: Bell and Daldy. 1860. pp. 202.)

MR. MAIN, now Radcliffe Observer at Oxford, is well known to the scientific world as one of the most eminent mathematicians whom Cambridge has of late years produced. Our University mathematical text books, latterly so much improved and increased, have until now included no suitable treatise on Spherical Trigonometry in their number. The works of Maddy and Woodhouse, useful in their day, completely fail to familiarise the student with those improved formulas and instruments which modern science has invented or discovered. Hind, Snowball, and Hall, on whom the Cambridge student is often perforce obliged to rely, have treated spherical trigonometry as a mere subsidiary to plane, and not as a distinct branch of mathematics, and the aid and guide to astronomy. By Continental mathematicians Brinnow's "Sphärischen Astronomie" is almost universally considered a *chef-d'œuvre* of its kind; and of this book Mr. Main gives us a first instalment in an English dress. We heartily re-echo this gentleman's wish, that "the work now offered may meet with a sufficiently favourable reception to repay him by its utility for the generally thankless labour of translation;" and the more especially so, as it apparently depends on the success or ill-success of this volume whether or no the Radcliffe Observer will continue the translation of the remainder of the work.

*The Graduated Series of Reading Lesson-Books: for all Classes of English Schools*. In five books. Book I. (Longmans. pp. 184.)—This is the first of a series of reading-books. It begins with some very simple and well-known nursery rhymes, and concludes with some equally well-known fables and apologies. As a first lesson book it seems well-fitted to its purpose.

*Hand-book of Business: a Dictionary of the Terms and Technicalities of Commerce*. (Casell, Petter, and Galpin. pp. 64.)—This must certainly be considered as an educational book, and as a very complete and handy one too, for within the limits of sixty-four pages the compiler has contrived to compress a vast amount of information useful to the student of business. All the terms and technicalities of commerce are here very fully explained, and there are, moreover, complete tables of foreign moneys, weights, and measures.

*Handbook of English History*. By the Rev. JAMES RIDGWAY, M.A., Lincoln College, Oxford. (Bell and Daldy. 1860. pp. 18.)—A simple and useful little handbook of English history from the

Norman conquest, containing, in a tabulated form, the name of each sovereign, with the insurrections and battles which took place and the illustrious persons who flourished in his reign. Other useful miscellaneous knowledge is also given. Its handiness and small price will, no doubt, make it useful in schools.

*Key to Hunter's Introduction to the Writing of Precis or Digests*. By the Rev. JOHN HUNTER. (Longmans.)—As the title-page explains, this is a key to Mr. Hunter's very useful manual of *precis* writing, giving the required abridgements of all the exercises in that treatise.

THE yearly orations at the Charter-House were delivered by the scholars on Wednesday. The principal subjects were—"The Revolution in Italy, and Victories of Garibaldi;" the "Syrian Massacres;" the "Prince of Wales's Visit to America;" the "Volunteer Review;" the "Death of the Archbishop of York, and Election of the Earl of Romney to succeed him as a Governor of the Charter-House;" the "Deaths of three old Carthusians, and the Successes gained by Carthusians at the Universities;" the "Projected Increase next year of the Number of Scholars on the Foundation."

The Christmas vacation at Eton commenced on Thursday. The holidays terminate on Wednesday, the 16th of January, on which day the Lower boys are expected to return. On Thursday, the 17th of January, the Fifth Form return, and on the following day the Sixth Form arrive, when the whole school will have assembled.

A contemporary says: "We have much gratification in announcing that the late lamented and much-respected Mr Alderman Wire, for many years, in conjunction with Henry Child, Esq., the solicitor to the Incorporated Society of Licensed Victuallers, and who was highly instrumental in promoting every measure of importance to the welfare of the school, has bequeathed a legacy of 100*l.* to the institution. A communication to that effect has been forwarded to the secretary from Mr Child."

On Wednesday Oxford was unexpectedly honoured by the presence of her Majesty and the Court, on a visit to the Prince of Wales. After her Majesty had received the Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of Christchurch, the royal party visited some of the principal colleges, the University library, and other public buildings. This unexpected visit was construed into a compliment to the University authorities for their conduct to the Prince of Wales during his stay in Oxford.

It is proposed to hold in Birmingham, on the 23rd of January, a conference on the measures to be taken for the relief of children who are not as yet either criminals or paupers, but whose natural guardians will not or cannot provide for their education. It is the object of the conference to lay before the Executive Government and the Legislature, as a consequence of the principle above stated, the imperative duty of its providing education for this portion of the community. The promoters of the conference undertake to prove the following points to the satisfaction of the meeting: "1. No part of the parliamentary educational grant is directed to the instruction of this class in the ordinary branches of school learning, although an insignificant grant is made for industrial training; but educational aid is given only to the children of those who can and will do some-