

right methods and spirit of such studies. Frequent and appropriate extracts from the best authors enforce and illustrate the didactic statements of the manual, which is embellished with numerous wood engravings, from drawings by one of the pupils of the geological class. Clergymen who have the desire and ability to promote the mental as well as spiritual improvement of young people will find in Mr. Barrett's book a record of successful efforts in this way, and an example that may encourage and assist in similar labours.

The Private Devotions of Archbishop Laud. New edition. J. H. and J. Parker.

This edition of Archbishop Laud's Devotions is a model of beautiful typography, and of embellishment appropriate to the matter of the volume. The Latin passages of the original work are printed throughout in red, the English in black. The numerous illustrations are admirably designed and executed. Dr. Bayley's Oxford edition, 1667, printed from a manuscript copy made by the Archbishop, the original being lost, is followed by the present editor, who has added translations of some of the Latin prayers, and otherwise extended the utility of the book.

SUMMARY.

In *Bohn's British Classics*, Vol. V. of *Defoe's Works* contains the History of the Plague, in 1665; the Great Fire of London, 1666; the Storm, 1703; and the True-born Englishman; a volume of intensely interesting reading. Of the 'History of the Plague' Sir Walter Scott said, "It is one of that particular class of compositions which hover between romance and history. Undoubtedly Defoe embodied a number of traditions upon the subject with what he might actually have read, or of which he might otherwise have received direct evidence. . . . Had he not been the author of Robinson Crusoe, Defoe would have deserved immortality for the genius which he has displayed in this work." The other pieces in the volume are also well known, and abound in curious matter, skilfully put together. The satire of the True-born Englishman is in some points not inapplicable to opinions occasionally expressed in our own day about Germans, as they were about the Dutch in King William's time.

An account of a *Public Dinner given to Mr. C. Roach Smith*, at Newport, Isle of Wight, on August 28th, and of a conversation at Ryde, on the following day, is published in the shape of a pamphlet, (Wertheimer and Co.), forming an acceptable memorial to all who had the pleasure of being present on the occasion, and presenting to the general reader some pleasant notices of the pursuits and habits of antiquaries, and of the ample materials for their researches that are found in the Isle of Wight.

Under the title of *The Island of Saints; or, Ireland in 1855*, by John Eliot Howard (Seeleys), a report is given, the result of recent personal information, of the religious condition of the sister island, especially with reference to the influence of Popery, and the labours of Protestant missionaries in various districts.

The Projectors' and Shareholders' Guide to the Application of the Limited Liabilities Act, by W. F. Finlaison, Esq., Barrister-at-Law (C. Mitchell), contains practical information as to the formation of joint-stock companies under the new act, and the liabilities of shareholders and directors.

For educational use, or for occasional reference, a series of *Chronological Tables of Contemporary Sovereigns, dates, battles, treaties, &c.*, by S. M. Ruffin, will be found convenient in the study of universal history; the facts and dates of each century being presented at one view in tabular form.

In the *Journal of Public Health* for September several valuable papers are given on sanitary subjects. In the dictionary of foods and drinks in this journal, the present number gives a list of substances used as adulterants (S. Highley).

A little manual, entitled *A New Practical and Easy Method of learning French* (Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.), by E. Husson, will be found useful by teachers and pupils.

An ingenious and useful manual of instruction in the French language is entitled *Le Français enseigné par Mollère*, or a New and Easy Method of Learning to Speak and Write the French Language, by C. de Mancini and Madame Mancini (Whittaker and Co.), the whole of the examples, illustrations, and exercises being taken from the works of the great dramatist, the familiar and colloquial, yet classically correct diction of whose writings are admirably adapted for the purpose.

A collection of poetical pieces, *Hagar and Ishmael, and other Poems*, by J. M. L., author of 'Ellen Vane,' &c. (Hope and Co.), has some good passages, but not of sustained or sufficient merit to call for detailed notice.

An amusing little production (Hardwicke) is entitled *Love's Provolutions*, by the author of 'Verdant Green,' with humorous illustrations.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Archbold's (J. F.) Law of Limited Liability, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
- Bell's (C.) Villette, 1 vol., post 8vo, cloth, new edition, 6s.
- Bloomfield's (Rev. S. T.) Greek Testament, 8vo, cloth, £2 8s.
- Brougham's Statesman, Vol. II., post 8vo, cloth, 5s.
- Essay (An) on Intuitive Morals, 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
- Eveley, fcap., cloth, 6s.
- Fifty-two Sabbath Readings, post 8vo, cloth, 6s. 6d.
- Gallenga's (A.) Piedmont, 3 vols., 8vo, cloth, 41 1s.
- Guthrie's (G. J.) Commentaries on Surgery, 8vo, cloth, 15s.
- Holland's (Sir H.) Medical Notes, 3rd edit., 8vo, cloth, 18s.
- Huss (M.) on Typhus and Typhoid Fever, 8vo, cloth, 7s.
- James's (J. A.) Earnest Ministry, 6th edit., 12mo, cl., 3s. 6d.
- (G. P. R.) Delaware, 12mo, boards, 1s. 6d.
- Johnson's Astronomical Atlas in Portfolios, 10s. 6d.
- Jones's (Joseph) Scripture Gardens, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
- (Owen) Flowers & their Kindred Thoughts, £1 11s. 6d.
- Krummner's (Rev. P. W.) Suffering Saviour, 8vo, cl., 7s. 6d.
- Lee's (Holme) Gilbert Massenger, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.
- Longfellow's Poems, Illustrated, post 8vo, cloth, £1 1s.
- Lytton's Harold, 12mo, boards, 2s.
- Montgomery's (Rev. J.) Memoirs, Vols. 3 & 4, post 8vo, cloth.
- Oliphant's (L.) Minnesota, 8vo, cloth, 12s. 6d.
- Palissy's (B.) Memoir, by H. Morley, post 8vo, 2nd edit., 12s.
- Picess's (G. W. L.) Perfumery, crown 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
- Plain Commentary on the Gospels, 7 vols., cloth, £1 8s. 6d.
- Prescott's (W. H.) Philip II. of Spain, £1 8s.; small edit., 10s.
- Ray's (J. D.) New System of French Conversation, 12mo, cl., 3s.
- Sedgewick and McCoy's British Palaeozoic Fossils, cl. £2 2s.
- Tegetmeir's (W. B.) Manual of Domestic Economy, cl., 1s. 6d.
- Traveller's Library, Part 93, Pictures from Cuba, sewed, 1s.
- Walton's Mechanical Problems, 8vo, cloth, 18s.
- West's (Rev. C. A.) Parish Sermons, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
- Wilson's (Prof.) Noct's Ambrasinians, Vol. 2, post 8vo, cl., 6s.
- Wilson's (O.) Glory of the Redeemer, post 8vo, cloth, 7s.
- Grace and Truth, 3rd edit., fcap. 8vo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
- Woodgate's Sermons on Sunday Historical Lessons, cl., 6s.

ENGLAND.—Mr. Macaulay's 'History of England,' Vols. III. and IV., price 90s., will be published in December. The price having been fixed, and the work "subscribed" to the trade, the title by an oversight found its way into this list prematurely in our last number.

BORNEO.

ATTENTION having been called this week, in the City Article of 'The Times,' to the abundance of coal which is now being obtained in Borneo, we have pleasure in giving insertion to a letter from a correspondent in that locality, descriptive chiefly of the people and natural history of the district. The advices above referred to from Labuan are dated 11th of August, but our own letter, received by way of the Cape, is of earlier date.

SI MUNJON Coal Works, Borneo, May 25th, 1855. It is only about a year since coal was discovered in this part of Borneo. The works have been just commenced by a Singapore house, under the superintendence of an English engineer, and as the district around is an interesting one, I have made this my head quarters for some time.

The Si Munjon river is not yet known to fame; I must therefore describe its whereabouts. It is an eastern branch of the Ladong River, whose mouth is about twenty miles east of Sarawak. The district is not in the territory of Sarawak, but is under Sir J. Brooke's government, having been lately made over to him by the Sultan of Bruni.

As far inland as I have yet seen, this country may be briefly described as a dead level, a dense forest and a perfect swamp. It would therefore be very uninviting were it not for a few small hills which here and there rise abruptly—oases in the swampy wilderness. It is on one of these that we are located, a hill covering perhaps an area of three

or four square miles, and about a thousand feet in height. Two or three coal seams exist in this hill; one, three and a half feet thick, of very good coal for steamers, crops out round three-fourths of the hill, the rest dipping below the surface of the swamp. It can therefore be very easily worked by levels at the foot of the hill. We have near a hundred men here, mostly Chinese; ground has been cleared, and houses built, and the principal preliminary work, a road across the swamp to the junction of the Si Munjon and Saday rivers, a distance of two miles, is in process of formation. One of the principal reasons which induced me to come here was, that it is the country of those most strange and interesting animals, the orang-utans, or "mias" of the Dyaks. In the Sarawak district, though scarcely twenty miles distant, they are quite unknown, there being some boundary line in this short space which, obeying the inexplicable laws of distribution, they never pass. The Dyaks distinguish three different kinds which are known in Europe by skulls or skeletons only, much confusion still existing in their synonymy, and the external characters of the adult animals being almost or quite unknown. I have already been fortunate enough to shoot two young animals of two of the species which were easily distinguishable from each other, and I hope by staying here some time to get adult specimens of all the species, and also to obtain much valuable information as to their habits.

The jungle here is exceedingly gloomy and monotonous; palms are scarce and flowers almost wanting, except some species of dwarf Gingerwort. It is high on the trees that flowers are alone to be found. There may be seen occasionally bunches of the magnificent scarlet *Aschynanthus* and spikes of orchidaceous flowers, those of the genus *Coleogyne* being the most abundant and beautiful. Oak trees are rather plentiful, as I have already found three species with red, brown, and black acorns. This is confirmatory of Dr. Hooker's statement that, contrary to the generally received opinion, oaks are equally characteristic of a tropical as well as a temperate climate. I must make an exception to the scarcity of flowers, however, tall slender trees occurring not unfrequently, whose stems are flower-bearing. One is a magnificent object, ten or fifteen feet of the stem being almost hidden by rich orange-coloured flowers, which in the gloomy forest have, as I have before remarked of tropical insects under similar circumstances, an almost magical effect of brilliancy; not less beautiful is another tree similarly clothed with spikes of pink and white berries.

The only striking features in the animal world are the hornbills, which are very abundant, and take the place of the toucans of Brazil, though I believe they have no real affinity with them, and the immense flights of fruit-eating bats which frequently pass over us. They extend as far as the eye can reach, and continue passing for hours. By counting and estimation, I calculated that at least 30,000 passed one evening while we could see them, and they continued on, some time after dark. The species is, probably, the *Pteropus edulis*; its expanded wings are near five feet across, and it flies with great ease and rapidity. Fruit seems so scarce in these jungles that it is a mystery where they find enough to supply such vast multitudes.

Our mode of life here is very simple, rather too much so, as we have a continual struggle to get enough to eat. The Sarawak market is, to a great extent, supplied with rice, fowls, and sweet potatoes from this river, yet I have been obliged to send to Sarawak to purchase these very articles. The reason is, that the Dyaks are almost all in debt to the Malay traders, and will therefore not sell anything, fearful of not having sufficient to satisfy their creditors. They have now just got in their rice harvest, and though it is not a very abundant one, there is no immediate pressure of hunger to induce them to earn anything by hunting or snaring birds, &c. This also prevents them from being very industrious in seeking for the "mias," though I have offered a high price for full-grown animals. The old men here relate with pride how many heads they have taken in their youth, and

though they all acknowledge the goodness of the present Rajah's government, yet they think that if they could still take a few heads they would have better harvests. The more I see of uncivilized people, the better I think of human nature on the whole, and the essential differences between so-called civilized and savage man seem to disappear. Here are we two Europeans, surrounded by a population of Chinese, Malays, and Dyaks. The Chinese are generally considered, and with some truth, to be thieves, liars, and careless of human life, and these Chinese are coolies of the very lowest and least educated class. The Malays are invariably characterized as treacherous and bloodthirsty, and the Dyaks have only recently ceased to think head-taking an absolute necessity. We are two days' journey from Sarawak, where, though the government is European, yet it only exists by the consent and support of the native population. Now, I can safely say that in any part of Europe, if the same facilities for crime and disturbance existed, things would not go on so smoothly as they do here. We sleep with open doors, and go about constantly unarmed. One or two petty robberies and a little private fighting have taken place among the Chinese, but the great proportion of them are quiet, honest, decent sort of men. They did not at first like the strictness and punctuality with which the English manager kept them to their work, and two or three ringleaders tried to get up a strike for short hours and higher wages, but Mr. C.'s energy and decision soon stopped this, by sending off the ringleaders at once, and summoning all the Dyaks and the Malays in the neighbourhood to his assistance in case of any resistance being attempted. It was very gratifying to see how rapidly they came up at his summons, and this display of power did much good, for since then everything has gone on smoothly. Preparations are now making for building a "joss house," a sure sign that the Chinese have settled to the work, and giving every promise of success in an undertaking which must have a vast influence on the progress of commerce and civilization in Borneo and the surrounding countries. India, Australia, and every country with which they have communication, must also be incalculably benefited, by an abundant supply of good coal, within two days' steam of Singapore. Let us wish success, then, to the St. Munjon coal works.

A. R. W.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE news this week from Greenland, of the return of the American Arctic expedition, under the command of Dr. Kane, after an absence of two years and a quarter, will be welcomed with sincere feelings of congratulation by all. The intelligence reached London on Thursday in a letter to Mr. Peabody, at whose expense, in partnership with Mr. Grinnell, the expedition was fitted out, from which the following are extracts:—

"The explorations of our party embraced the entire shores of Smith's Sound, and a new channel expanding from its north-eastern curve into an open Polar sea. This great water-course embraced an area of 3000 square miles entirely free from ice. It washed a bold and mountainous coast, which has been charted as high as lat. 82°30'.

"Smith's Sound terminates in an extensive bay which bears your name, and the coast of Greenland, after being followed until it faces the north, was found cemented to the continent of America by a stupendous glacier which checked our further progress towards the Atlantic.

"Throughout this long extent of new coast, the result of much hard travel and exposure, I have found no traces of the lost party whose search indicated your own connexion with our expedition.

"The past two winters exceeded in severity any that have before been recorded. Both scurvy and locked jaw embarrassed our efficiency, and our dogs, to the number of fifty-seven, perished of this latter scourge. A zone of eighty-one miles of solid ice interposed between us and the nearest water, and to have remained a third winter would have proved fatal."

Dr. Kane adds, that he will present a report to the Admiralty and to the Geographical Society, as soon as he can arrange his papers and charts.

A meeting is announced to be held on Monday week, the 5th of November, at the Egyptian Hall, for the purpose of considering whether the Public Libraries and Museums Act should be adopted in

the City of London. It has been introduced with spirit already into several provincial towns and boroughs, and a motion for its adoption was carried a few days since in Hertford, against a minority of only four votes. We should have supposed that in the metropolis, where the tax, with so large a population, need be but trifling to a degree, and where a museum for the preservation of the City antiquities, as well as a reading-room and library of reference, are so much wanted, there would be little difficulty in the matter. But among the men who constitute the City executive, there are many, we fear, dead to all appreciation of the advancement of art, of science, and of letters, and an opposition is expected on this occasion which it will require great energy to cope with. Alderman Sidney, the defender of the Smithfield nuisance, and upholder of the expensive ton-foolery of theatrical pageants, by road, by river, and by rail, considers a Library and Museum tax, no matter how insignificant, as odious and abominable, and requested the Lord Mayor that some larger building might be selected for the forthcoming meeting than the Egyptian Hall, as it would be inadequate to hold the opposition. Let us hope that the bankers and merchants, and more intelligent freemen of London, will muster strong on this occasion, and aid, by their presence and persuasion, in redeeming the City from its present state of intellectual apathy and barbarism.

The death of Sir William Molesworth, Bart., at the early age of forty-five, will be deeply regretted in literary as well as political circles. Of the public men of the time he was one of the most intellectual and studious, and having long devoted his attention to colonial affairs, about which he had written much, his appointment to that secretaryship is universally admitted to be a signal if rare instance of "the right man being in the right place." In his earlier life he was deeply versed in metaphysical and political studies, and the publication of a complete edition of the works of Hobbes, in sixteen volumes, will be a lasting monument of his philosophical zeal and literary industry. He collected copious materials for a biography of Hobbes, but this was never completed. In journalism and periodical literature Sir William Molesworth was also much engaged. For a time he was proprietor and editor of the 'Westminster Review,' to which he contributed many able papers. His political opinions were latterly considerably modified from the time that he was known as a leading man among 'the philosophical radicals,' as some of the disciples of Jeremy Bentham were termed. Except his biography of Hobbes has recently been revised, it will scarcely afford a fair view of the compiler's estimate of the English Machiavel, though the facts collected with much industry may still be turned to use by another editor.

The obituary of the week also announces the death of Mr. Frederick Lucas, M.P., Meath County, whose name, though chiefly connected with political events, is to be noticed in the records of literary journalism. Mr. Lucas having been the founder of the 'Tablet' newspaper, and a frequent contributor to the 'Dublin Review.' He died at the age of forty-three. In the early part of his life he belonged to the Society of Friends, and joined the Roman Catholic Church in 1838, publishing at the time a pamphlet of reasons for the step he had taken.

Last Saturday Sir J. Bickerton Williams, F.S.A., died at his seat, the Hall, Wem, Shropshire. The deceased knight was the representative of an old non-conforming family, and was a leading man among the congregational dissenters of the present day. He wrote a 'Life of Matthew Henry,' the commentator, of whom he was a collateral descendant; a 'Life of Sir Matthew Hale,' and other works of biography. It is stated that he was knighted by the Queen at the personal request of the late Duke of Sussex.

A French engineer of repute, M. Favre, announces that an Anglo-French Company will positively be immediately organized for the construction of a submarine tunnel and railway beneath the bed of the Channel between England and France. For

several weeks past some able hydrographers and engineers have been employed in surveying the coasts in the neighbourhood of Boulogne and Calais on the French side, and of Dover and the South Foreland on the English side, and taking soundings, and the practicality of this wondrous scheme is assumed to be beyond doubt. "Our project," says the report, "consists in a tunnel of about thirty kilometres in length, formed under the sea, and offering as much security as a railway under the open sky. 1. The tunnel will be pierced in a manner so that the bed of earth which will divide it from the sea will never be less than twenty-five metres, even at the greatest depth of the Straits. 2. The tunnel will be lined with a double arch, the first to be of granite and of impermeable cement, the second of thin iron plate, pierced in different places in order to discover the least filtration. It is affirmed by the surveyors that the soundings, which have been made with great care, show us that we shall meet a rock, which will enable us to establish a tunnel of very great solidity. The earth itself will form a natural vault of freestone, which will tend to prevent any filtrations." To clear away the debris it is proposed to sink five maritime wells at intervals of the passage, and by tunnelling simultaneously from each, it is computed that the communication may be opened for traffic in about five years, at an expense of about four millions. This appears all very feasible in the abstract, but we fear M. Favre would have been classed by old Dr. Johnson, in the Rambler, with the enthusiasts, among whom he describes one as "a man of a very grave and philosophic aspect, who required notice to be given of his intention to set out, a certain day, on a submarine voyage, and of his willingness to take in passengers for no more than double the price at which they might sail above water."

A scheme has been put forward this week by the "leading journal" for the completion of the designs in connexion with the New Houses of Parliament, which savours rather of the ludicrous. Most of our readers have doubtless observed that the side of the clock tower which faces New Palace-yard has at its base a brick superficial arch, indicating the intention to join it to some other buildings. Sir Charles Barry proposes to inclose New Palace-yard, and to form a quadrangle, by buildings of a similar character to the rest, on its north and west sides, with a magnificent gateway at the north-western angle, for which purpose it will be necessary to remove the block of houses between New Palace-yard and Bridge-street; and in order to give effect to the whole mass of buildings at Westminster, including the Abbey and the new buildings, Sir Charles proposes to take down St. Margaret's Church, and to remove it to a spot on the other side of the road towards the new Victoria-street, close by Tothill-street. The plan which 'The Times' submits to the legislature is to pull down only the trunk of St. Margaret's Church, leaving the tower standing "as a measuring standard to the Abbey, to increase its apparent magnitude," and to build a new church alongside the Westminster-road, on the site of the block of houses destined to be removed, in place of the Barry quadrangle of parliamentary offices. 'The Times' deserves all its supremacy on questions of politics and commerce, but it rarely dabbles with success in matters of art or science.

Baron Marochetti has presented to the Sardinian government a model, on a small scale, of the monument to be erected to the memory of the late King Charles Albert. The monarch is on horseback, sword in hand, in the attitude of a man who appeals to it as the only means of emancipating Italy from foreign rule. Around the pedestal are seated four allegorical figures. What has become of Baron Marochetti's fine statue of our English Richard Cœur de Lion? We still think the best site for it would be at Waterloo-place, facing up Regent-street. There is here an open site in one of the most public thoroughfares, and the club-houses are not so near as to dwarf the statue, as was the case in Parliament-yard, where the effect was tried.

Mr. Boys, the print publisher, destroyed some