

magic, and who might have been made much more effective than she is. The account of the Fée supper is very good; and the enforced departure of the beautiful wise fay wife on account of her husband's foolish boasting is well told, and the subsequent sorrowful stupidity into which the husband falls is very touching. The illustrations are exceedingly graceful; but the artist, E. V. B., hardly does justice to the wonderful cat, "Dame Blanche," who deserved a picture all to himself; only, as all artists and cat lovers know, it is very difficult to render the subtle graces and charms of even an ordinary cat, to say nothing of a cat skilled in magic! The picture of little Violette running down the steps to escape from her home, of which the evil spirits the Lutins had taken possession, is admirable in its wild fright, which the one weird clutching hand fully explains. 'The Magic Valley' is a book worthy of a drawing-room table.

'The Girl's Home Book' deserves its name, and Mrs. Valentine deserves the thanks of all who have to reign over school-room or nursery for the delightful and ingenious games she has got together. The directions for making dolls and dolls' dresses, dolls' furniture and dolls' houses, are intelligible and easy to follow with a little exercise of care and neatness. There are directions for gardening, and there are riddles and charades in abundance. The same kind of work has been done several times before, but those books have been too elaborate and expensive for ordinary purchasers. The present book is cheap, portable, and well, though not sumptuously, "got up."

Lady Verney's "sketches" will form pleasant reading for boys and girls from fourteen to sixteen years of age. There is a good deal of variety in these papers, and the illustrations, if not important, are appropriate. The only article that is open to objection is that on "Thanksgiving Day," which is pervaded by a *chauvinism* we hardly expected from Lady Verney. Surely English people might give up thanking Heaven that they are not envious or restless like those poor French.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*The Life of Pius the Ninth*, by T. A. Trollope, 2 vols. (Bentley & Son), which we are informed in the Preface is intended to give "an account of the public rather than of the private life of Pius the Ninth, and to set forth the character of the man in the light thrown upon it by his public conduct," may be allowed to have fairly realized the object which its author had in view. The leading facts of the Pope's history, from its obscure beginning in the little town of Sinigaglia till the days of the Vatican Council, are given, on the whole, with accuracy, and the story is told throughout in a lively style. The first fifty-four years of Mastai, of which Mr. Trollope gives a brief account in the first of the five books in which his volumes are parcelled out, were of the most uneventful nature. The interest of his life begins with his election to the Papacy. The story of the reign of Pius the Ninth divides itself naturally into two periods, the first introducing the Pope in the character of a political reformer, engaged in the attempt to give to his States a liberal government, till, finding himself irreconcilably opposed to the national sentiment, he was compelled to seek refuge in exile; the second, from the restoration down to the present day, with three distinct landmarks, the promulgation of the dogma of the immaculate conception, the definition of papal infallibility, and the loss of the temporal power. The best part of Mr. Trollope's book is probably the chapters in which he tells the story of the Vatican Council. His criticisms and analyses of character are, as a rule, unsatisfactory. He is not merely very shallow, but apt to lay hold of one idea to the exclusion of every other, and to deal with the facts of his narrative in a Procrustean fashion. He is also sadly wanting in the dignity which one not unreasonably looks for in an ecclesiastical historian. Thus, when telling us of the effect produced on

Pius the Ninth by the death of Antonelli, he takes occasion to introduce jokes about the Pope's old cat, which appears to have died shortly after, and when speaking of the Pope deprived of his civil sovereignty, he describes him "as putting his hand through the gratings of his prison window, with 'Pity the sorrows of a poor old man.'"

SIGNOR BONGHI'S brochure, *Pio IX. e il Papa Futuro* (Milano), is a valuable contribution to the literature on the subject. He divides the history of past conclaves into seven eras, making some interesting remarks on the characteristics of each series. He argues, in our opinion rightly, that Pius the Ninth would not have been elected if the Conclave had understood the character of the man before them, and sums up the result of the Pope's policy, or rather want of policy, as follows: "Non solo non ha condotto stato e chiesa lontano dagli scogli ma ha condotto bensì quello e questa negli scogli a dirittura e così bene, che l'uno vi s'è spezzato affatto ed è affondato, e l'altra è assai più prosima a pericolare che mai non fosse." A chapter well worth reading is the one on the next Conclave. In order to answer the question as to the character of the future Pope, Signor Bonghi examines the actual condition of Catholicism, its hopes and fears, the attitude taken up towards it by civil governments, and the composition of the College of Cardinals. The conclusion at which he arrives is thus stated: "Il Pontificato prossimo non uscirà dal giro dei Cardinali italiani, e sarà il più prudente, il più adatto a restituire cunctando rem, ch' essi troveranno in mezzo a loro."

MESSRS. SMITH, ELDER & Co. have sent us the first two volumes of a cheap and yet elegant edition of Thackeray's works. The type is, perhaps, slightly smaller than we should have chosen if the selection had lain with us, but it is distinct, the paper is good, and the insertion of the author's own illustrations adds much to the attractions of an issue that ought to prove popular.

An excellent translation of Mr. Browning's *Inn-Album*, by E. Leo (Hamburg, Manke Söhne), has been sent to us. It is extremely close. Indeed, the translator displays something of the same courage that Mr. Browning himself has shown in his version of the Agamemnon. The following is an example:—

On a spring-pattern-papered wall there brays  
Complaint to sly Sir Edwin's dripping stag,  
is rendered,—

Auf zweifelnmusterter Tapete schreit  
Sir Edwin's trübsand nasser Hirsch zum Himmel.

On only one occasion has the translator found it necessary to add a note of explanation. His rendering is not only faithful, it is readable and musical German verse, as the following extract will show. It is the translation of the splendid lines beginning, "Ay—give the baffled angler even yet":—

"Ja, schade wir's, wenn dem getäuschten Angler  
So sein Triumph erlinge, nun auf's Neue  
Den Fisch er lockt, der Einnal ihm entweicht.  
Wie künstlich deckt der neue Köder doch  
Das alte, blut'ge Eisen! Sollte wohl  
Das gold'ne Fischchen keinen Widerhaken  
Mehr denken? Und du heisst diesmal mich,  
Dem Mann, der mir vertraut, die Treue brechen,  
Nicht einfach dem Verriether mich vertrau'n.  
Und da durch dich ich sünd' und Schande kenne,  
So werd' ich fehn gehorchen, und sie hüpfen  
Auf einen Mann, der Beiden unbekannt,  
Obgleich mein Gatte—denn der Köder ist  
Ja Liebe, deine Liebe!"

The Germans are to be congratulated on obtaining such a spirited version of Mr. Browning's fine tale.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Theology.*  
Clayton's (L.) Story of Mission Work among the French of Belleville, Paris, 12mo. 2/6 cl.  
Connelly's (P.) Reason and Religion, with other Sermons, 3/ cl.  
Edwards's (W.) Morning Bible Readings, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.  
Good Shepherd and His Lambs, 16mo. 2/6 cl.  
Gregory's (Rev. A.) Patriarch Jacob, and some of the Lessons of his Life, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.  
Kingsley's (Rev. C.) All Saints' Day, and other Sermons, 7/6 cl.  
Lefroy's (W.) Prayers for Christ, Sermons, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.  
Manual of Private Devotions, compiled principally from Works of Jeremy Taylor and Bishop Andrews, 12mo. 2/ cl.  
Pridham's (A.) The Church or Assembly of God, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl.  
Sadler's (Rev. M. F.) Justification of Life, 12mo. 4/ cl.  
*Poetry.*  
Atkinson's (F.) Resurrection, and other Poems, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.  
M'Clymont's (J. R.) Songs and Popular Chants, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.

Moore's (Thos.) Prose and Verse, with Notes, &c., by R. H. Shepherd, cr. 8vo. 9/ cl.  
Raymond's (O.) The Seasons, a Poem, 12mo. 2/6 cl.  
Smith's (H.) Irecú Floss, and other Poems, 12mo. 2/ cl.

*Geography.*  
Columbus (Christopher) and the Discovery of the New World, from the French of Marquis de Bellor, roy. 8vo. 42/ cl.  
Mackinnon's (Rev. D. D.) Lapland Life, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.  
M'Nair's (Major F.) Perak and the Malays, 8vo. 21/ cl.  
Osley's (T. L.) From Calais to Karlsruhe, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl.  
Spence's (J. M.) Land of Bolivar, 2 vols. 8vo. 31/6 cl.  
Visitor's Guide to Cannes and its Vicinity, by F. M. S., 4/ cl.

*History and Biography.*  
Bianconi (Chas.), a Biography, 1780-1875, by Mrs. M. J. O'Connell, cr. 8vo. 10/6 cl.  
Martineau's Thirty Years' Peace, Vol. 3, 12mo. 3/6 cl. (Bohn's Sheet Library).  
Soton's (G.) St. Kilda, Past and Present, fcap. 4to. 15/ cl.  
Thomson's (Dr. V.) Relations between Ancient Russia and Scandinavia, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
Williams's (C.) The American Campaign, 1877, cr. 8vo. 10/6 cl.

*Philology.*  
Gladstone's (J. H.) Spelling Reform, cr. 8vo. 1/6 cl. lp.  
Johnson's (S.) Dictionary of the English Language, 10/6 cl.  
Sophocles' Tricology, with Notes by Rev. W. Liawood, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Virgil's Æneid, Books 1 and 2, edited by F. Storr, 12mo. 2/6 cl.

*Science.*  
Colenso's (Right Rev. J. W.) Student's Algebra, edited by Rev. J. Hunter, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.  
Cottrell's (J. H.) The Steam Engine considered as a Heat Engine, 8vo. 12/6 cl.  
Grove's (J. W.) Conversations with Little Geologists, 5/ cl.  
Lloyd's (H.) Miscellaneous Papers connected with Physical Science, 8vo. 16/ cl.  
Lupton's (C. R.) Arithmetic, Key to, 12mo. 6/ cl.  
Savory Moore's Condensed Compendium of Domestic Medicine, 18mo. 1/6 cl.

Transactions of the Clinical Society of London, Vol. 10, 7/6 cl.  
Wilk's (S.) Lectures on Diseases of the Nervous System, 15/ cl.

*General Literature.*  
Benson's (J.) Spirit Merchant and Licensed Victualler's Guide, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Besant (W.) and Rice's (J.) This Son of Vulcan, 12mo. 2/ bds.  
Blackwell's (A.) Practical Spiritism, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Brooks's (L.) A Beautiful Woman, 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 21/ cl.  
Carlyle (Thos.), Collected Writings of, 8vo. 9/ cl.  
Dinners at Home, How to Order, Cook, and Serve Them, by Short, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.  
Disraeli's (B.) Henrietta Temple, 12mo. 2/ bds.  
Estelle, by Author of 'Four Misers', 3 vols. cr. 8vo. 21/ cl.  
Little Scratchings, by L. M. P., fcap. 4to. 3/6 cl.  
Kingsley's (H.) Oakshott Castle, 12mo. 2/ bds.  
Lever's (C.) Nuts and Nutcrackers, 12mo. 2/ bds. (Select Library of Fiction).

Maithe's (J. A.) Bessie Harrington's Venture, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
Moulton's (L. C.) Swallow Flights, 12mo. 4/6 cl.  
Norbury's (J.) The Box of Whisties, imp. 4to. 21/ cl.  
Packer's (A.) How the Public are Plundered by Promoters of Companies, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl.  
Paton's (C. J.) Freemasonry, its Two Great Doctrines, 5/ cl.  
Ponce de Leon, or the Rise of the Argentine Republic, a Novel, by an Estanciero, 8vo. 12/ cl.  
Renny's (Mrs. G. S.) Blessing and Blessing, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.  
Saunders's (J.) Bound to the Wheel, 12mo. 2/ bds.  
Saunders's (J.) Guy Waterman, 12mo. 2/ bds.  
Taylor's (Sir H.) Notes from Life, The Statesman, 6/ cl.  
White's (F. A.) Boys of Raby, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
Wonnacott (Henry), Memorial Volume, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.

#### THE CURIOSITIES OF CREDULITY.

OWING to absence from home I have only just seen Dr. Carpenter's letter in the *Athenæum* of December 22nd, to which I now beg leave very briefly to reply.

I must first remark on the extreme inconvenience of Dr. Carpenter's erratic mode of carrying on a discussion. As soon as his lectures on 'Mesmerism, Spiritualism, &c.' were published, I wrote a review of them in the *Quarterly Journal of Science* of July last. To this Dr. Carpenter replied in *Fraser's Magazine* of November, promising a fuller reply to certain points in the new edition of his 'Lectures,' then in the press. As the article in *Fraser* was of a very personal character, I issued a rejoinder in the same periodical the following month. A discussion has also been carried on in *Nature*, and the scene of the contest is now removed to the *Athenæum*, many of whose readers are probably ignorant of its previous phases.

Dr. Carpenter comes before a fresh audience in order to reply to a specific charge of mis-statement which I made against him in the *Quarterly Journal of Science* (July, 1877, p. 398), which charge, as I will proceed to show, he endeavours to evade by a wordy defence, which really amounts to an admission of it. In his 'Lectures' (p. 71) is the following passage:—

"It was in France that the pretensions of mesmeric clairvoyance were first advanced; and it was by the French Academy of Medicine, in which the mesmeric state had been previously discussed with reference to the performance of surgical operations, that this new and more extra-

ordinary claim was first carefully sifted, in consequence of the offer made in 1837 by M. Burdin (himself a member of that Academy) of a prize of 3,000 francs to any one who should be found capable of reading through opaque substances. The money was deposited in the hands of a notary for a period of two years, afterwards extended to three; and the announcement was extensively published; numerous cases were offered for examination; every imaginable concession was made to the competitors that was compatible with a thorough testing of the asserted power; and not one was found to stand the trial."

My readers will observe that this is deliberately stated to be the first time that clairvoyance was carefully sifted in France; yet it now appears that Dr. Carpenter perfectly well knew of the Commission of the same Academy about ten years earlier, which, after five years of most careful and elaborate experiments, gave a unanimous Report positively in favour of the reality of clairvoyance.

But Dr. Carpenter would have us believe that he studiously avoided all mention of this Report because it had been proved to be wholly founded on imposture or error; and he endeavours to establish this by giving a single hearsay case of a confession of imposture on another person not even a member of the Commission! I feel sure that the impression conveyed to the readers of Dr. Carpenter's letters would be that the case of alleged imposture by one of the mesmeric patients of MM. Georget and Rostan occurred to members of the Commission, and that the case had been examined by them and reported on as genuine. But this impression would be entirely erroneous. The members of the Commission, whose names are appended to the Report, are as follows: 1, Bourdois de la Motte (President); 2, Fouquier; 3, Gueneau de Mussy; 4, Guersent; 5, Itard; 6, Leroux; 7, Marc; 8, Thillaye; 9, Husson (Reporter). Against the voluminous and interesting details of this Report, its carefully repeated experiments, its cautious deductions, its amazing facts, not one particle of rebutting evidence is adduced. Yet Dr. Carpenter thought himself justified not only in ignoring its existence, but in giving his readers to understand, by an express form of words, that no such inquiry was ever made! This was the accusation I made against him, and the readers of the *Athenæum* can now judge as to the candour and sufficiency of the reply.

I must add a few words on the way in which Dr. Carpenter treats M. Rostan, "one of the ablest medical psychologists of his day." Dr. Carpenter states, as a fact, that, "when a second edition of the 'Dictionnaire de Médecine' came out in 1838, he (M. Rostan) withdrew the article he had contributed to the first"; and then, further on, it is stated that "M. Rostan, by his own confession," had been led away by cunning cheats in the matter of clairvoyance. Now I have always understood that M. Rostan was much annoyed at his article being superseded in the second edition of the Dictionnaire; and, as this is *à priori* probable, I require some direct evidence of Dr. Carpenter's assertion that he voluntarily withdrew it. This is the more necessary because the still more important and damaging statement—that M. Rostan made a "confession" that he had been led away by cunning cheats—is also given as a hearsay report without any reference or authority; and it looks very much as if Dr. Carpenter's logic had deduced the "confession" as an inference from the "withdrawal," no evidence whatever being offered for either of them. If this should really be the case, then the severest things I have said as to Dr. Carpenter's mode of carrying on this discussion will be more than justified.

Throughout my discussion of this subject with Dr. Carpenter I have strictly confined myself to questions of fact and of evidence, and have maintained that these are of more value than opinions, however numerous or weighty. My criticisms have, for the most part, been directed to misrepresentations of facts and suppressions of evidence on the part of my opponent. The readers of the *Athenæum* will now be able to judge, as regards

one case, whether that criticism is sound; and for numerous other cases I refer them to my articles in the *Quarterly Journal of Science* and in *Fraser's Magazine*. If they read these, they will, I think, agree with me that the cause of truth will not be advanced by the further continuance of a discussion in which one of the parties perpetually evades or obscures the most important points at issue, and at every step introduces fresh mis-statements to be corrected and fresh insinuations to be rebutted, as I have shown that Dr. Carpenter has done in his numerous writings on this subject.

ALFRED R. WALLACE.

#### THE CONFERENCE OF LIBRARIANS.

DR. LEOPOLD SELIGMANN has made a Report on the recent Conference of Librarians to Dr. Falk, Minister of Public Instruction in Prussia. He objects to calling the Conference International, as so many great libraries were not represented, and English only was spoken; and he states that he differs much in opinion from the American representatives. Dr. Seligmann is of opinion that it was a mistake not to draw a distinct line between libraries for scientific purposes—as most German libraries are—and those for the public at large. Such a distinction would have shown the unsoundness of the views advocated by the Americans with regard to the introduction of ladies as librarians, the share fiction and novels ought to have in libraries, the freedom of access to them, the relation of the library officials to the public, and so forth. But, at the same time, he admires the eagerness of the Americans for the cause, and thinks they deserve the thanks of all librarians for having carried out the idea of a Conference.

The Report contains a long chapter on cataloguing and the questions connected with it. Dr. Seligmann is not a librarian, but refers to his experience as a reader in many libraries of Europe, and especially at the British Museum; he advocates a printed general catalogue and classified catalogues, and quotes several authorities for his opinion from the Report of the Select Committee on the British Museum, ordered by the House of Commons, 1836, and the Report of the Royal Commission of 1850. But Dr. Seligmann says a printed catalogue, &c., is advocated also by Mr. George Bullen, whose authority has the greatest weight with every one—Englishman or foreigner—who has visited the British Museum. Signor Mondino advocated a general catalogue of MSS., but Dr. Seligmann remarks that Signor Mondino would find it difficult to form a catalogue of the MSS. existing in Italy. The Papal authorities would hardly sanction such a plan.

The relations between Germany and the Conference are explained by quotations from those librarians who mentioned Germany in the Conference. These librarians are Mr. Winter Jones, Mr. Wheatley, Dr. R. Caulfield, of Queen's College, Cork, and Mr. Vickers, of Cincinnati. At the conclusion Dr. Seligmann divides the results of the Librarians' Conference into direct and indirect. The direct results are the constitution of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, by which a continual mutual exchange of ideas is made possible, by which those ideas can be practically carried out, and by which the interests of the public, the librarians, and the libraries can be discussed and protected; but Dr. Seligmann does not think Mr. M. Dewey's organ, the *Library Journal*, ought to be the mouthpiece of the English librarians, as it certainly would not be that of the Germans. The indirect results are the new suggestions which were forthcoming in the Conference, and which may be utilized in the different libraries hereafter.

#### SERVETUS AND CALVIN.

In reply to Mr. Dyer I beg to say that had my publishers not objected to the somewhat more lengthy Preface I had written than the one that appears in my book, he would have had no cause to complain of me for neglecting to mention his 'Life of Calvin.' Fresh from the study of the

original documents from which Mr. Dyer worked and I worked, no one could have been better qualified than myself to appreciate the completeness and impartiality that distinguish his able book. But it does not follow because our narratives agree so closely, and because a single sentence of mine is translated from one of Calvin's letters in all but the same words as Mr. Dyer uses, that therefore I borrowed from him. Had I done so I should have acknowledged my indebtedness, as I have done to others. But I did not even know that Mr. Dyer had written a Life of Calvin for more than a year after my book was finished and had been proposed to more than one of the leading houses of London before I found a publisher. Mr. Dyer's book was only put into my hands by my friend, Dr. Davidson, in the spring of the year that has just passed away; and I now declare, without reservation, that I did not once use it in aid of my work, which, I hope, bears intrinsic evidence that I took no small amount of pains to master my subject from sources as near the fountain-head as I could get them. The other matters referred to in Mr. Dyer's letter do not interest me particularly; but I venture to say that I do not think he has always read me aright, and that my text will not bear the interpretation he puts on it. I do not think, and do not even suggest, that Servetus was the victim of Berthelier and Perrin; but I believe that their evil counsel did much to make the fate of the sinfully-used Spaniard inevitable. He was the victim of Calvin alone, prompted as the Reformer was by his bigotry and personal hate.

R. WILLIS.

#### SEMITIC LITERATURE IN 1877.

*Syriac*.—Here, again, England claims a high place with Dean Payne Smith's fasciculus of his 'Thesaurus Syriacus,' which ends with the letter *Teth*. The Maronite father August Scobab, of Aleppo, has brought out at Rome the poems of Bar-Hebræus with an Arabic and Latin glossary. Glossaries by natives are important, and always add something to the lexicography of the language. The third and last part of the same author's ecclesiastical chronicle is now in the hands of the public, with an accurate Latin translation and a good index by Drs. Abelos and Lamy. We have already congratulated in these columns the two learned editors and translators on the achievement of their difficult task. Dr. Schröter has published in the *Transactions* of the German Oriental Society the text and translation of Jacob of Serug's letter of consolation addressed to the Himeritic Christians, from MSS. in the British Museum, copied and collated for him by Prof. W. Wright. That letter has been generally considered unhistorical. Dr. Schröter thinks it refers to the time of the persecutions of Dū Nowās (the beginning of the ninth century), the ruler of Himer, who, on being converted to Judaism, took the name Joseph. In the same *Transactions* we find some valuable notes to the text of 'Kalilag ve Dimnag,' mentioned in our last year's report, by Dr. Im. Löw. France has also contributed to Syriac literature by the publication of the symbolical sentences of Theodosius, Patriarch of Antioch, towards the end of the ninth century, according to the editor, M. Zotenberg (*Journal Asiatique*). The greater part of these sentences seems to be translated from the Greek, but the explanations are added by the translator. M. l'Abbé Martin continues to study his favourite subject, the Syrian punctuation, a matter of the highest importance for the history of the Hebrew vowel points. He has published a treatise on it by Bar-Zugbi. Besides the treatise of the Maronite priest Petrus Aldvensis, which is of value for the history and understanding of the liturgical poetry of the Maronites, M. l'Abbé has given a sketch of Syriac studies in the second volume of the 'Congrès International des Orientalistes' in Paris. In the same volume we also find important notes by Prof. Albert Socin on Syriac dialects still spoken. To this department belongs Dr. Nestle's edition of the 'Psalterium Tetraglosson,' where the Targum and the Syriac