

REVIEWS OF NEW WORKS.

The Coin Collector's Manual; or, Guide to the Numismatic Student in the Formation of a Cabinet of Coins. 2 vols. By B. NOEL HUMPHREYS. London: BOHN. New-York: BANGS & Co.—This is another of Mr. BOHN'S admirable reprints, forming the latest addition to his "Scientific Library." It will not, perhaps, attract so much notice in this country, as many other works in the same series, since Numismatics, as a science, is not, we expect, much studied on this side of the Atlantic. Our citizens have other tastes, and devote more in the present and the future, than in those remote periods, which are illustrated by ancient coin. Nevertheless, to the student of Greek and Roman history, a well-selected cabinet of coins can never be without interest. It is true, that it requires the outlay of a small fortune to procure a perfect collection. But where the taste for coin-collecting—a magnificent branch of archaeology," as MIGNONNI calls it—exists, the American student will find this the most attractive and comprehensive work on the subject,—always, of course, excepting the erudite and voluminous work of ECKHEL, which will never find many readers among us.

Mr. NOEL HUMPHREYS, the author of the present work, is, we believe, entrusted with the superintendence of the splendid collection of coins and medals contained in the Numismatic Department of the British Museum. He has made Numismatics the study of his life, and is as much an authority on the subject, as LYELL, or AGASSIZ in Geology, or ARAGO in Astronomy. A great merit of his work, and one which only those who have had occasion to refer to PINKERTON, can appreciate, is its strictly chronological arrangement. The writer commences with the earliest indications of positive coinage among the Greeks, and traces the rise of the art and its subsequent decline, consequent on the decay of the kingdoms of the Macedonian Empire. The Roman coinage is treated in the same way, and then the English and French. A table of the marketable value of the various coins is appended, which amateurs, who are not skilled in their purchase, will find extremely serviceable.

One of the attractions of the work are the beautifully engraved plates of coins, representing over a hundred of the choicest specimens now extant, and commencing with the gold coinage of Miletus and Lydia, dating as far back as 800 years before the Christian era. Specimens of the later coinage follow, evidencing the wonderful skill of the Greeks,—not less remarkable in die-sinking than in sculpture and architecture. The profiles of princes, especially of the Macedonian dynasty, are exceedingly beautiful, both in design and execution. The finest coins of modern times never excel and rarely equal the exquisite coinage of the Greeks.

Romance of Abelard and Heloise. By O. W. WIGHT, Translator of COUSIN'S History of Philosophy.—Notwithstanding the popularity of POPE'S poem, the real lives of ABELARD and HELOISE have long since passed into mythology. In BAYLE'S Dictionary, the history of these lovers was detailed—open to the same criticism that questions HOMER'S personality, and makes the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* a collection of ballads. The rigor of such criticism was, indeed, never applied; and readers of general literature, who were not travelers, cherished indistinct notions of a stone in the cemetery of *Pere la Chaise*, at Paris, which marked the spot where true love lay entombed. Travelers sought that spot, and were sentimental or not, according to their inclination. With the French themselves, there was no myth in the record of those lives—so touching, and so immoral. We have ourselves seen the reputed portraits of the lovers, cut in cameos, and worn as a brooch on the breasts of virgins.

They were monk and nun—this ABELARD and HELOISE. And Mr. WIGHT has well styled their lives a romance. Imagination, aided by tradition, may have given the romantic element a dye deeper than the reality; but the life of romance has its sustenance in truth, or, to quote the hackneyed line of BYRON:

"Truth is strange—stranger than fiction."

Mr. WIGHT furnishes the succinct history of these lovers with as much delicacy as can be expected. His quotations from POPE might have been omitted with propriety. But, considering his subject, he has done well. Let any sceptic compare his work with BAYLE'S sketch. At the same time we would not recommend his work to indiscriminate perusal.

Evidently Mr. WIGHT is misled by his love of scholastic philosophy to place an over-estimate on the intellectual abilities of ABELARD. That was the age when schoolmen disputed how many angels could stand on the point of a needle, or ride on a beam of the sun. ABELARD was above that weakness, and, so far, in advance of his age; but, really, in philosophical matters he was a poor fellow. We are inclined to believe that he saw deeper than he confessed—but he wanted the pluck to acknowledge it. Had he been a brave man—had his been the heart of a Reformer—he would have antedated WICKLIFFE, have cast off the shackles of a celibate priesthood, and, by marrying HELOISE have left us no "romance." D. APPLETON & Co.

The Bride of Omberg. By EMILIE F. CARLEN. CHARLES SCRIBNER.—The authoress of this work, though she will never equal FREDERIKA BREMER in any of the qualities of a great writer, is still a pleasing contributor to that list of works of fiction, by the novelists of Northern Europe, which have, of late years, been rendered so popular among us, by the aid of efficient translators. Highest among these we rank Miss BREMER and HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN. The Countess HAHN HAHN belongs, properly, to another latitude, and has few features in common with the Danish and Swedish novelists. Of the latter class, EMILIE CARLEN is the latest representative. It is only within a year or two that she has attained a reputation with American readers, from the translation of some of her works, which have found their way among us. The best of these is the novel now under consideration.

The Bride is a simple story of "true love." The incidents are few; there is nothing in it romantic or exciting. But then, life is not romantic, and well-balanced minds shun excitement. We cannot place *The Bride of Omberg* in the highest—or, indeed, in a high—rank of fiction; but we can recommend it as a pleasing, though somewhat a sentimental story, which ends very happily, and introduces the reader to some interesting customs of Swedish life.

The Humorous Speaker. NEWMAN & IVISON.—The addendum to the title—"A collection of amusing pieces, both in prose and verse, for the use of Schools,"—sufficiently explains the nature of this work. But we may add that the selections are well made, and embrace extracts from the most humorous writers of England and America, with translations of the best of YRIARTE'S fables, and REIMER'S humorous lyrics. Thus the good things of HOOD, SAXE, HORACE SMITH, JUDGE HALIBURTON, HAWTHORNE, DICKENS, HOLMES, and the *Ingoldsby Legends*, are mingled with the best things of COLMAN, GARRICK, GOLDSMITH, WOLCOT, and others of the last century. As the work is intended for the use of young people, great care has evidently been taken to admit nothing bearing the likeness of an *equivoque*, or a *double entendre*.

The Teacher and the Parent. A Treatise upon Common School Education. By CHARLES NORTHEND—A new edition of a work that has already attained its popularity. It is not altogether to our taste, being somewhat discursive and prosy, for parents of small leisure; but its value has been put to a severe test by the sale of two editions; and we can only add that the author's views, though rather hard to dig out of the mass of type in which they are set forth, are for the most part sound and sensible, when their meaning is attainable. A. S. BARNES & Co.

The Pilgrim's Progress. New edition. LANE & SCOTT.—A neat pocket edition of a work, which, next to the Bible, has been more read than any book in the world, from the child, who reads it as a fiction, just as he reads *Robinson Crusoe*, to the simple and devout Christian, who strengthens his faith with the perusal, and the philologist, who enjoys its pure, unidiomatic Saxon—its "well of English undefiled,"—all ages and immortals have done reverence to this work of the immortal Tinker of Elstow.

A biographical sketch and a good introduction add to the value of the present issue.

Readings in Zoology. Part I. Mammalia and Birds. By L. COMSTOCK, M. D.—Another of the higher order of school-books, and a very acceptable one. It is compiled with great care, and evidently by a lover of the animal creation. His friendship for birds is apparent in every page in which he treats of them. The library of no young person can be considered complete without this addition to its department of Natural History.

Pleasure and Profit, or Lessons on the Lord's Prayer. By Mrs. MANNERS.—An excellent little work for children, with more fun in it than we expected from the title-page. But Mrs. MANNERS' sprightly work will be read where a sombre treatise would lie unheeded, or provoke a yawn. We recommend her book as embracing a great deal of pleasantry, with real religious feeling. EVANS & BRITTAN.

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