

in the more hopeful tendencies of the day a recoil from a cold materialism, and a yearning for the spiritual ideal. This ideal he finds realized in the Roman Catholic Church. Be that as it may, undoubtedly it is true that the pessimistic cast of much of our literature is due to the unsettled mood which arises from transition. Philosophy is leading literature back to the ideal—old ideals, but transmuted into an unwonted brightness. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.)

Thoreau's record of comments and descriptions of the four seasons has now been completed by the publication of *Autumn*. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.) Thoreau, in a measure, wrote his own biography in his journals, and kept a running record, not so much of experience as of observation. His journal relates to the seasons less by definite reflection upon them than by the registry from day to day of natural phenomena and incidents in the life of the woods and the fields. Thoreau takes his cue from days as they pass, and consequently selections from his journal which have their date in the autumn constitute a kind of natural history of this season. We have in this volume, as in all Thoreau's works, not a definite, progressive, and orderly statement, but keen observation, incisive comment, and idiosyncratic form. If the journal could not be published entire, it is difficult to imagine a more intelligent and trustworthy principle of selection to bring out the best that is in them than that which has been adopted by the editor of these four volumes.

"The Pagan Review"

This new British publication is but a moderate straw, which indicates the blowing of no very violent wind. It is not an organized assault upon any citadel of received doctrine; its promoters do not appear to be troubled about creeds. Nor have they any desire to be unkind; their only direct polemic statement is that "the religion of our forefathers has not only ceased for us personally, but is no longer in any vital and general sense a sovereign power in the realm." It is a thing of the past, these young gentlemen think, and as such hardly worthy of more words; though they amiably (and somewhat inconsistently) admit that "it is still fruitful of vast good." Disdaining to slay the slain, they are concerned with the inauguration of "a new epoch," which "is indeed in many respects already begun." The chief feature of this new epoch appears to be the deliverance of Woman from feudal and conventional bonds. (As for Man, he is perhaps in this regard tolerably free already; but Woman is not.) Those concerned will please notice that "the long half-acknowledged, half-denied duel between Man and Woman is to cease." Not that these reformers wish "to disintegrate, degrade, abolish marriage;" on the contrary, they "would fain see that sexual union become the flower of human life. But first the rubbish must be cleared away."

Least this programme should appear too precise, the "Foreword" goes on to say that "these remarks must not be taken too literally" as indicating the character of the new periodical, which is to be "purely literary, not philosophical, partisan, or propagandist;" i. e., it is not a review at all, but a magazine with a bias. It is to be "a mouthpiece of the new pagan sentiment of the younger generation." And what is this sentiment? Here at last we get something definite. "The supreme interest of Man is—Woman; and the most profound and fascinating problem to Woman is Man." Therefore "literature dominated by the various forms of the sexual question should prevail." True, the French have sometimes gone too far, and there are minor matters which deserve attention in their degree. Matthew Arnold said that Conduct was three-fourths of Life—not the whole of it. "The Pagan Review" (in substance) accepts this dictum, substituting for "Conduct" "the Sexual Emotion."

The contents of the first number fairly carry out the professions of the "Foreword." Feelings and relations supposed to exist between men and women furnish the inspiring theme. But Zolaesque realism—and realism of any kind, indeed—is happily absent. The ardor is imaginative, dreamy, romantic. One of the stories goes back to prehistoric (or undated) barbarism for its theme; another is called "The Rape of the Sabines;" a third has its scene in "an upland glade among the Himalayas;" only the worst and feeblest of the lot comes as near home as Paris. The prose pieces are not less poetical than those which essay meter and rhyme.

It is not necessary to take these young writers as seriously as they take themselves. Their effort is not so much to be wicked as to be free—from bonds which they could not easily describe. They are tolerably honest, very restless, and extremely eager for they don't know what—except that it is to get into the depths of "Life" and meantime, lacking experience of what it is, to depict what they fancy it might be. Their work smacks of

unoccupied energies and too much leisure. It is not as new as they suppose; we had far too much of this sort of thing before. One or two of them show ability, but not enough to set the Thames on fire. Mr. Swinburne (whom they do not mention) is far and away their master.

No one need lose sleep through fear of the harm the "Pagan Review" is going to do. As the editor proudly says, "We aim at thoroughgoing unpopularity;" and this aim he is pretty sure to compass.

Literary Notes

—A new complete edition of Père Lacordaire's famous Conférences at Notre Dame de Paris will be published early this month by Thomas Whittaker. The same publisher also announces a new cheap reissue of "The Class and the Desk" by J. Comper Gray.

—The édition de luxe of "A Window in Thrums" is rapidly advancing. There will be only 550 copies printed for Great Britain and America, and each copy will be numbered. The book is printed by Messrs. R. & R. Clark, of Edinburgh, on special English hand-made paper, and will be sold before publication at thirty-one shillings and sixpence; afterwards the price will be advanced. The etchings by Mr. William Hole, R.S.A., are particularly successful, more especially, perhaps, that of "Jess," which is said to be a triumph.

—In accordance with a wish expressed by Mr. Whittaker several years ago, his literary executor, Mr. S. T. Pickard, of Portland, Me., will prepare his biography. After the death of Longfellow Mr. Whittaker had in mind the probability that there would be a call for some account of his own life, and he then began to collect materials that would be serviceable to his biographer. These he intrusted to Mr. Pickard, who assisted him in the collection. It was his wish that his friends, who may have preserved letters he wrote them which contain passages that might be of interest to readers of his memoirs, would send them to Mr. Pickard, who will carefully preserve and promptly return them.

—Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co., of this city, announce a very attractive edition of the most interesting group of Anthony Trollope's novels, the "Barchester Tower Series," including the novel of that name, "The Warden," "Framley Parsonage," "Dr. Thorne," "The Small House at Arlington," and the "Last Chronicles of Barset." These stories are to be set in thirteen volumes, and illustrated by photographs from designs by C. R. Grant. The most accurate and interesting study of English clerical and country life in and about a cathedral town to be found in English fiction is presented in this group of novels. The publishers also announce large paper copies of the same edition.

Books Received

- AMERICAN BOOK CO., NEW YORK
Milne, William J. Standard Arithmetic. 65 cts.
- D. APPLETON & CO., NEW YORK
Drake, Jeanie. In Old St. Stephen's. \$1.
Adler, Felix. The Moral Instruction of Children. \$1.50.
Sharpless, Isaac. English Education.
Wright, G. Frederick. Man and the Glacial Period. \$1.75.
Gordon, W. J. Englishmen's Haven. \$1.50.
Stoddard, William O. The Battle of New York. \$1.50.
- THE JOHN CHURCH CO., CINCINNATI
Palmer, H. K. Garnered Gems of Sunday-School Song.
CONGREGATIONAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL AND PUBLISHING SOCIETY, BOSTON
Wright, Elvirton. Marjoribanks. \$1.25.
- T. Y. CROWELL & CO., NEW YORK
Thompson, A. C. (Rev.) Our Birthdays. \$1.
GINNY & CO., BOSTON
Addison's Criticisms on Paradise Lost. Edited by Albert S. Cook. \$1.10.
- HUNT & EATON, NEW YORK
Butler, William. Mexico in Transition. \$2.
- CHARLES H. KERR & CO., CHICAGO
Powell, E. P. Liberty and Life. 50 cts.
- PENN PUBLISHING CO., PHILADELPHIA
Alger, Horatio, Jr. The Young Boatman. \$1.50.
Sunday-School Selections. Edited by John H. Bechtel. 20 cts.
Shoemaker's Best Selections for Recitations. Compiled by Mrs. E. C. Noble. 30 cts.
Holiday Selections for Recitations. Compiled by Sara S. Rice. 30 cts.
Morton, Agnes H. Etiquette.
- PORTER & COATES, PHILADELPHIA
James, Prof. B. W. Alaskana.
- G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, NEW YORK
Atkinson, Edward. Taxation and Work. \$1.75.
Strange, Daniel. The Farmers' Tariff Manual. \$1.25.
- ROBERTS BROS., BOSTON
Ward, Herbert D. The Captain of the Kettlewink. \$1.25.
Brewster, Marian. Under the Water-Oaks. \$1.25.
Austen, Jane. Northanger Abbey. \$1.25.
Austen, Jane. Persuasion. \$1.25.
- RURAL PUBLISHING CO., NEW YORK
Bailey, L. H. Horticulturists' Rule-Book.
- UNITED STATES BOOK CO., NEW YORK
Bean, F. Ruth Marsh. 50 cts.
- FREDERIC WARNE & CO., NEW YORK
Jones, C. A. A Modern Red Riding Hood. \$1.25.
- CHARLES L. WEBSTER & CO., NEW YORK
Whitman, Walt. Autobiography; or, the Story of a Life. 75 cts.
- E. & J. B. YOUNG & CO., NEW YORK
Sunday for the Young.