

giving the student an opportunity to turn to account the study of the preceding two parts, and to acquire a greater command over the language and more self-confidence than by the process of mere translation. Like its fellow-volume in German, this contains a copious double vocabulary.

*Elements of Plane Analytic Geometry.* By JOHN D. RUNKLE. Boston, Ginn & Co. 8°. \$2.

THE author of this work is Walker professor of mathematics in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Boston, and the matter composing the first eight chapters of the book has been used by the students of that institute for some few years. The needs of the students have not been lost sight of in the preparation of the book. Though it is necessary that they should become reasonably familiar with the more elementary and fundamental parts of the subject, still the time which they can devote to it is limited. Therefore the earlier chapters are treated with somewhat more fulness than is usual in books of the kind, and particular care has been taken to illustrate and enforce all parts of the subject by a large number of numerical applications. Only the simpler problems have been selected; and an effort has been made to have the number of problems proportioned to the time which the students can profitably devote to them. The latter part of the book is based on a treatise upon conic sections by Charles Smith, M.A., of Cambridge, England, the later chapters following Mr. Smith's work quite closely. Teachers and students besides those in the Institute of Technology will find Professor Runkle's book adapted to their needs.

*The Beginner's Reading Book.* By EBEN H. DAVIS. Philadelphia, Lippincott. 12°. 42 cents.

THIS little book contains a series of elementary lessons for youngest readers, with appropriate pictorial illustrations, and in these respects it does not differ essentially from other works of a similar kind. But the author has a theory about the best method of teaching children to read, and he explains his method in an introduction. He begins his instructions by talking with his pupils about the various objects provided for them, thus leading them to frame brief sentences about the objects. These sentences are then placed upon a blackboard in script letters, and the children are taught to read them; and not until some twenty weeks have been spent in this way are the pupils to take up their reading-books and begin to read print. Whether this is the best way to teach children to read, experience must decide; but it seems a roundabout process. However, there is an old saying that the shortest way across is sometimes the longest way round; and so Mr. Davis's method may, after all, be the best.

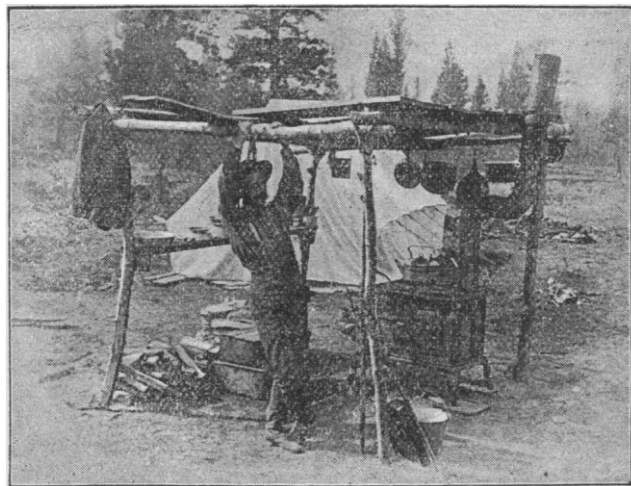
#### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

WE reproduce in this number three illustrations, "The Kitchen," "Jim," and "Canadian Grouse," from "B. C. 1887," a book of travel and adventure in British Columbia, published by Longmans, Green, & Co., and reviewed lately in these columns.

— A contest has long been waged among educators as to which is of greater practical value in education, the classics or the sciences. For many years the friends of the classics had it pretty much their own way, but of late the scientists have been putting in some strong pleas in behalf of their side of the case. The latest of these, about to be issued in book form by S. C. Griggs & Co., Chicago, is by the well-known author and scientist, Dr. Alexander Winchell, University of Michigan, and is entitled, "Shall We Teach Geology?" Few, if any, American writers are better qualified for discussing this question than Dr. Winchell. While his treatise is a special plea for teaching geology in the public schools, it is intended to cover the whole ground of contest between the sciences and the classics, and hence promises to be of great interest, not only to teachers, but to all who are interested in observing the tendencies of modern education.

— Charles Scribner's Sons have just ready "French Traits," by W. C. Brownell, an analysis of French character and French society. The method of criticism is comparative throughout, the social

customs, intellectual habits, art instincts, and moral standards of the French being brought into juxtaposition with those that prevail in the United States. They have also just ready a treatise on metaphysics, by Dr. James McCosh, entitled "First and Fundamental Truths," which is regarded by the author as the keystone of what



From "B.C. 1887."

Longmans, Green, & Co.

THE KITCHEN WINDERMERE STORE.

he has been able to do in philosophy, and in which he formulates and explains the fundamental law governing the associated mental exercises. Finally, they have a new and revised edition for 1889 of Thomas A. Janvier's "Mexican Guide."

— A. C. Armstrong & Son have just published three important works on the Asiatic continent,—*"Through the Heart of Asia over the Pamir to India,"* by Gabriel Bonvalot, which has been translated



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JIM AND THE SORREL NAG.

from the French by C. B. Pitman, and is published in two volumes, with 250 illustrations by Albert Pepin; "The Industries of Japan," by Professor J. J. Rein of the University of Bonn, which gives an account of the agriculture, mining, forestry, arts, and commerce, from travels and researches in Japan, undertaken at the cost of the Prussian Government; and a second edition of the same author's work on "Japan, Travels and Researches," which, by verdict of the London *Spectator*, will be "the standard authority in such mat-

ters" for a long time to come. The new volume in the Book-Lovers' Library is "Foreign Visitors in England, and What They have thought of Us," which makes the ninth in this series.

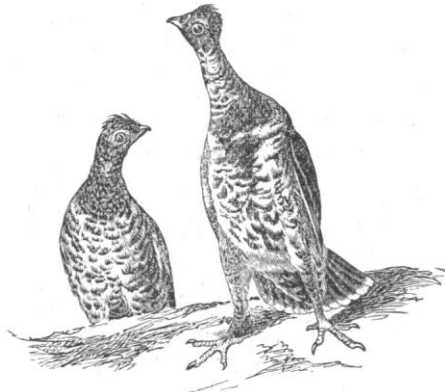
— The new *Atlantic* index is rapidly approaching completion.

— Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. have just issued Henry S. Dana's "History of Woodstock, Vermont."

— Lee & Shepard have just published "Essays, Religious, Social, Political," by David Atwood Wasson. The book includes an autobiographic sketch, and a biography of Mr. Wasson, by his friend and contemporary, O. B. Frothingham.

— "Franklin's Works," published by subscription at five dollars a volume, are now quoted at ten dollars each, or one hundred dollars for the set. Remarking on this, the *Critic* says, "What a pity it is, by the way, that the Putnams issued so small an edition! To think that only 600 out of 60,000,000 of free-born antimonopoly Americans can own a copy of Franklin's complete works!" We trust some day Messrs. Putnam will see their way clear to publish an abridged edition.

— G. P. Putnam's Sons have in preparation a translation, by Miss Ruth Putnam and Mr. Alexander Arbuthnot, of the "Histoire de la



From "B.C. 1887."

Longmans, Green, & Co.

THE CANADIAN GROUSE (DENDRAGAPUS CANADENSIS).

Participation de la France à l'Établissement des États-Unis d'Amérique," by Henri Doniol. The edition will probably be a limited one. They have also in press a work by Theodore Roosevelt, on the early history of our Western territory, entitled "The Winning of the West and South-west, from the Alleghenies to the Mississippi." This is expected to be complete in two volumes, the first of which will cover the period 1769-83; that is, to the close of the Revolution.

— William Wood & Co. have recently inaugurated a new and original plan for furnishing the most recent, the most advanced, and the most authoritative writings of prominent instructors and practitioners of medical science throughout the world. They have issued the first of *Wood's Medical and Surgical Monographs*, containing three articles, — "The Pedigree of Disease," by Jonathan Hutchison; "Common Diseases of the Skin," by Robert M. Simon; and "Varieties and Treatment of Bronchitis," by Dr. Ferrand. They propose to issue one of these monographs per month, covering the details of experiments and methods which have led to the latest discoveries and newest practice. The translations from foreign languages will be intrusted to experts on the subject as well as good linguists. All that is being learned and done throughout the world will thus month by month be reported in the best manner. The first issue is one of 259 pages, and this will be the average size.

— Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. will soon publish "Home Gymnastics for the Well and the Sick," containing directions how to preserve and increase health, also how to overcome conditions of ill health by simple movements of the body, adapted to all ages and both sexes, edited by Dr. E. Angerstein, superintendent of the gymnasia of the city of Berlin, and G. Eckler, head teacher of the Royal Institution for Educating Teachers of Gymnastics, translated from the eighth German edition by Mr. Berthold Schlesinger, a well-known business-man of Boston, and amply furnished with illustrations.

— The supplement has become an important feature of *Harper's Weekly*. "American Men-of-War," by Lieut. J. D. Jerrold Kelley, U.S.N., with twenty-seven illustrations, forms the supplement to the issue of Feb. 9: that to the Feb. 16 number is devoted to an illustrated description of Omaha, Neb.

— All teachers of modern languages feel the need of varying the reading-matter used in their elementary classes. Not only do they themselves tire of going over familiar ground, but their pupils are apt to conceive a certain contempt for a language which they see represented year after year by the same two or three time-honored productions. D. C. Heath & Co. are issuing a series of texts, selected from the best writers, in inexpensive editions. To the twenty German and French texts of their list, they have just added, by purchase of C. H. Kilborn, "The Story of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves;" "Der Zwerg Nase: Marchen von Wilhelm Hauff;" "Chamisso's Peter Schlemihl;" "Heine's Die Harzreise;" "Choix D'extraits de Daudet;" "Souvestre's Confessions d'un Ouvrier." They will add to the above this week "Jeanne D'Arc," edited by Barrère.

— Thomas L. James, postmaster-general in Garfield's cabinet, will contribute his first magazine article to the *March Scribner*, entitled "The Railway Mail Service." Thomas A. Janvier ("Ivory Black") will tell a bunch of Mexican folk-tales and superstitions collected by him during his many trips in that country. Gilberto Cano, "the best waiter at the Café Anglais," in the City of Mexico, told him many of these strange stories. The city of Treves, in Germany, founded 2004 years before Christ, and later for a century capital of the Roman Empire, will be described by Professor W. B. Scott of Princeton, who has recently made a careful study of its antiquities. Henry James will contribute the end paper, "An Animated Conversation" on international topics between Americans and Englishmen who meet in a London hotel. The paper is in dialogue form.

— In *The Home Journal* of Feb. 6 is given a selection of the poems of the late George Perry, who for many years was literary editor of that journal.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

\*.\*Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.

Twenty copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent on request.

The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

#### O'Reilly's "Greenland."

MR. PILLING'S "Bibliography of the Eskimo Language" has received a bit of undeserved criticism, which I am very glad to be able to correct. An unsigned review in the *Athenæum* (Aug. 4, 1888), which is, on the whole, quite fair, and even complimentary, finds fault with Mr. Pilling for including in his bibliography O'Reilly's "Greenland," "though that work is now generally understood to have been a literary mystification." This interested me, as I had consulted the work in question, which purports to be an account of the writer's visit to Greenland in 1817, and had inserted the title in some bibliographical work of my own, not yet published.

The fact of its being a "literary mystification" did not appear to be "generally understood" in America, whatever might be the case in England. On the other hand, there appear to me to be strong internal evidence that the writer had made a visit to Greenland, and that the undoubted rubbish with which the book is filled was merely due to the ignorance and conceit of the author.

I accordingly put myself in communication with the editor of the *Athenæum*, and after a while received, in reply to my inquiries as to the history of the book, a memorandum from the reviewer, — who, however, declined to reveal his name, — as follows: —

"The person who wrote 'O'Reilly's' work on Greenland is not known. The author had probably made a voyage on board a whaler, but the greater part of the volume is simply imagination. In the *Quarterly Review* for 1818, p. 209, it is eviscerated, and the small portion which is 'not absolute nonsense' pronounced 'either fiction or downright falsehood.'"