

not see the propriety of including the Crimean war in the subjects treated; for, though it occurred after the time at which Mr. Murdock begins his narrative, it had nothing to do with the reconstruction of Europe, and its connection with the later events described is very remote. Of course, the greater part of the volume is devoted to the unification of Italy and Germany, and the author shows pretty clearly why the revolutionists of 1848 failed to reach these ends, and why and how they were afterwards attained. The diplomacy of Cavour and Bismarck is well described, while the obtuseness of the French Emperor and his ministers and marshals is strikingly shown. Some of the great battles of the epoch, especially that of Sadowa and the engagements around Metz, are very clearly delineated, and those who are fond of military history will find many interesting chapters in Mr. Murdock's book. He closes without alluding to the Russo-Turkish war of 1878, doubtless because the work of reconstruction in that quarter is not yet completed, and no one can tell how it will end. On the whole, and in spite of some drawbacks, Mr. Murdock has written an interesting work, and one that will be specially useful to those persons who wish to keep informed of the general course of European affairs without going into all the details.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

ARNOLD & Co., Philadelphia, publish this week Mrs. S. T. Rorer's book on "Home Candy-Making."

— Among the scientific notes in the *Johns Hopkins University Circulars* for September are "Contributions to the Mineralogy of Maryland," by George H. Williams; "Note on some Minerals from the Chrome-Pits of Montgomery County, Md.," by A. C. Gill; "A Study of the Oyster-Beds of Long Island Sound with Reference to the Ravages of Starfish," by C. F. Hodge; and "Association in Substitution and Rotation," by Professor Morton W. Easton of the University of Pennsylvania.

— *The Publishers' Weekly* notes the promotion of one of the most popular and promising members of the trade. Mr. Edward W. Bok last week resigned his position as manager of the advertising department of Charles Scribner's Sons, to assume the editorship of *The Ladies' Home Journal* of Philadelphia, under most favorable arrangements. Mr. Bok has been with the Scribners for five years, and in graduating to the editorial chair becomes, perhaps, the youngest chief editor in the country. He is twenty-five years of age. In this connection, the following extract from the New York *Star* possesses special interest at this time: "Only those on the 'inside' of New York literary and journalistic circles know any thing about 'The Bok Syndicate Press,' a bureau from which emanate many of the best and most striking literary articles by famous authors found in the modern newspaper. It is owned and managed by two brothers, Edward W. and William J. Bok. The combined ages of these two young publishers do not make the figure fifty, and yet within their control rests one of the most remarkable literary influences of to-day. They control the literary work of some forty-five of the most famous men and women of the day, which they supply to newspapers simultaneously all over this country and in Canada and England. Edward Bok holds a responsible position in one of the big New York publishing-houses, and his name is withheld from the enterprise. William devotes all his time to the work, and under his name the business is conducted. While Edward makes all the contracts with authors, William stands at the helm and carries out the ideas of his younger brother. A better matched couple of brothers it would be difficult to find. Edward has a wonderfully extensive acquaintance among famous people. He is well read, has good literary judgment, and knows precisely what the people want. William is of untiring energy, and a doubtful literary venture becomes a success in his hands. The brothers are very popular in society, and one is almost sure to meet them at any prominent literary or social event. Both are good talkers, have pleasant manners, and what the one lacks the other supplies. They have built up their business from nothing. Henry Ward Beecher started Edward by making him his literary manager, and in this way the bureau began. Now almost every author of note writes for the two brothers. They have no difficulty in securing writers, for they pay promptly and

manage excellently. Their principal writers include Grace Greenwood, Wilkie Collins, Marion Harland, Lew Wallace, Ella Wheeler, Will Carleton, Max O'Rell, and a score of others. They work quietly, the general public hears but little of them, yet it is doubtful whether any two young men in New York have so bright a future before them."

— Brentano's will publish shortly a collection of papers on technical and historical subjects under the title of "Military Miscellanies," by Gen. J. B. Fry, U.S.A.

— Roberts Brothers have just ready "Louisa M. Alcott: her Life, Letters, and Journals," edited by Ednah D. Cheney, illustrated with portraits and a view of the Alcott house in Concord.

— Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. published on the 5th "A Summer Journey to Alaska," by Maturin M. Ballou, who describes in a most interesting manner not only the resources and features of the country and people of Alaska, but also the wonders of the Yellowstone Park and the marvellous country along the Canadian Pacific Railway; "The Reconstruction of Europe," a sketch of the diplomatic and military history of continental Europe, from the rise to the fall of the second empire, by Harold Murdock, with an introduction by John Fiske; also the first two volumes of the scientific papers of Asa Gray, selected by Charles Sprague Sargent, comprising reviews of works on botany and related subjects, 1834-87, and essays and biographical sketches, 1841-86. They publish this week the pretty two-volume edition of the "Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table." It is promised in beautiful type, tasteful binding, and with steel-engraved titlepages. Miss Lucia T. Ames's novel, "Memoirs of a Millionaire," comes very opportunely, when the public is engaged as never before in thinking on social questions; and her story, which suggests some excellent uses for wealth, is likely to find eager readers. Rev. Julius H. Ward's little book, "The Church in Modern Society," is an attempt to show what influence the Church is entitled to exert, why it fails now to exert it, and how it may regain its lost prerogative. The new edition of the *Atlantic* index, affording ready access to the varied riches of the sixty-two volumes of the *Atlantic Monthly*, will be welcome to many.

— Count E. De V. Vermont, author of "America Heraldica," and a publisher at 744 Broadway, this city, is no relation to the man arrested under the name of W. C. Tenner, *alias* Terrail de Vermont, for having forged various checks in New York, Canada, etc.

— The friends of *Psyche*, a journal of entomology published by the Cambridge Entomological Club, have made an appeal to entomologists for support. The limited funds of the club are not sufficient to publish the journal with the present subscription list without falling into arrears, so that the journal has been a heavy drain upon its local supporters, though several friends at a distance have generously assisted. A slight increase of the subscription list would render it nearly self-supporting, which is all the club asks, and it is believed that the special circumstances of the present time, indicated in the form of a subscription, will find a response from those interested in its welfare. Sample copies will be sent to any one desiring to call the attention of others to its character. A friend of the Cambridge Entomological Club having assured the publication of *Psyche* to the end of 1893 on condition that fifty new subscriptions to the present volume (at five dollars the volume) are received before Nov. 1, 1889, Mr. George Dimmock of Cambridge has subscribed for five copies; Mr. Samuel H. Scudder of Cambridge, for five; Mr. Roland Hayward of Boston, for two; and Mr. Holmes Hinckley of Cambridge, for one copy. Subscriptions and payments may be made to Samuel Henshaw, treasurer, Cambridge, Mass.

— "The Butterflies of the Eastern United States and Canada, with Special Reference to New England," describes in detail all the butterflies known to occur in North America east of the Mississippi, excepting such as are found only in the unsettled parts of Canada or south of Kentucky and Virginia. It was originally issued in twelve monthly parts, each containing 8 plates (colored and plain) and about 150 pages of text. The first part was published Nov. 1, 1888; the last will be published Oct. 1, 1889. As now completed, it contains 17 plates of butterflies, 6 of eggs, 11 of

caterpillars, 2 of the nests of caterpillars, 3 of chrysalids, 2 of parasites, 33 of structural details in all stages of life, 19 maps and groups of maps to illustrate the geographical distribution of butterflies, and 3 portraits of early naturalists of this country,—in all, about 2,000 figures on 96 plates, of which 41 are colored. The text contains 2,000 pages, including an introduction of 104 pages, and an appendix of 150 pages, which contains descriptions of such species concerned as have not been found within the limits of New England, and also descriptions of all known parasites of North American butterflies, by Messrs. Howard and Williston. Special attention is paid in this work to the distribution, habits, and life-histories of our butterflies; and careful descriptions are given of every stage of life, not only for the species, but for the genera and

higher groups wherever the data are attainable. Analytical tables applicable to every stage (a feature never before attempted in a work of this kind) are introduced wherever possible. Seventy-six essays scattered through the work discuss such special questions as arise in studying butterflies, and in themselves form a complete treatise on the life of these insects. The work makes three volumes: the first contains the introduction and the family *Nymphalidae*; the second, the remaining families of butterflies; the third, the appendix, plates, and a full index. Explanations of the plates are placed beside them. The price, bound in three volumes, half levant, gilt top, is \$75. It will be ready for delivery, bound, Oct. 1, 1889. Communications concerning it should be addressed to Samuel H. Scudder, Cambridge, Mass.

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— The London correspondent of *The New York Times* says, "The *New Review* has been such a remarkable success that it will henceforth contain ten additional pages. Its freshness, ability, and scope have made even the *Fortnightly* and the *Contemporary* seem dull by comparison, and this month in the table of contents it easily leads all its older and costlier rivals. A little two-page paper by Cardinal Manning on the strike is one of the wisest and most valuable deliverances on the subject I have ever seen, and John Burns's longer article is extremely forcible."

— In the *New England Magazine* for October many of the articles are devoted to subjects relating to education. Mr. Albert P. Marble, the retiring president of the National Educational Association, contributes an article on the history and prospects of the association; W. A. Mowry, the editor of *Education*, writes on Dr. Harris and the Bureau of Education; there is a brief article on history, by A. E. Winship, the editor of the *New England Journal of Education*; and there is a long and fully illustrated article on the educational institutions of Nashville. Nashville receives further notice in a general article on the history and new life of the city, by Hon. A. S. Colyar. This article also is illustrated, and is timely, as the recent meeting of the National Educational Association in this "Athens of the South" has drawn to it the attention of thousands of the teachers of the country. It is the first of a series of articles, in which the *New England Magazine* proposes to present the enterprising cities of the New South to Northern readers. Dr. Holmes, whose eightieth birthday has just been celebrated, receives attention in this number of the magazine. The frontispiece is a portrait of Dr. Holmes, from a recent photograph. There is an illustrated article, "Dr. Holmes at Fourscore," by George Willis Cooke; an article on "Dr. Holmes's Pilgrim Poems;" and interesting facts about the poet among the editorial notes. Professor Hosmer's story, "The Haunted Bell," is continued, and there are some short stories, one by Mrs. Celia P. Woolley, the author of "Love and Theology." Mr. Mead's study of the question, "Did John Hampden come to New England?" is finished, the whole evidence on this puzzling point being laid on the table. Another historical article is by Professor Charles H. Levermore, "Pilgrim and Knickerbocker in the Connecticut Valley." Mr. Hale has a gossip paper entitled "Tarry at Home Travel," not easy to describe, but delightful to read. There is a brief article on John Boyle O'Reilly; and a long and thorough one by William Clarke of London on Parnell, which will attract much attention. It is accompanied by a portrait of Parnell, from a recent photograph. The articles on O'Reilly and Dr. Harris also have portraits.

— Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. have published a small volume by Mary E. Burt, an Illinois teacher, entitled "Literary Landmarks." The authoress is impressed with the importance of giving children a taste for better reading than much that they now indulge in, and more knowledge of the literary history of the world. She lays the most stress on works of imagination, though she does not neglect scientific and historical books, and others that convey information. She gives some account of her experience in teaching the history of literature by means of specimen works, — a study which she has found more interesting to school-children than is commonly supposed. The book contains some charts to illustrate the literary history of the world, one of which is quite elaborate, and would, we should think, be useful to other teachers. Miss Burt is perhaps a little too positive in expressing her views, and the list of books that she recommends for young people is too full for ordinary use; but we welcome her attempt and all attempts to raise the standard of juvenile reading.

— "Evolution of Morals," by Lewis G. Janes, and "Proofs of Evolution," by Nelson C. Parshall, are the contents of Nos. 11 and 12 of the *Modern Science Essayist*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Lightning-Strokes.

THE attempt of *Science* to obtain information regarding lightning-strokes and their damage is very praiseworthy, and it is to be hoped that it will result in a clearer understanding of the danger

from these strokes to unprotected houses. I have heard intelligent men say that a lightning-rod attracted the lightning, and was more dangerous than none. This is unquestionably an entirely erroneous supposition, in case the lightning-rod has a good ground, for its whole duty is to cause electricity of increased tension to pass off silently and insensibly, rather than to gain a sufficient potential to give a disruptive discharge. The following is a brief account of a few strokes that have come to my attention, in which damage resulted, in the past four years.

On Aug. 23, 1885, a church with a high steeple, and protected by an iron lightning-rod, was struck in a severe storm. The stroke stopped the tower clock, but without serious injury. The electricity came down the rod to within fifteen feet of the ground, when it dashed across twenty feet of air space, to a faucet connected with the city water-pipes, and disappeared without further injury. It slightly dazed a man who was within a few feet of the line from the rod to the faucet. A singular point is, that this same church was struck in precisely the same way several years before; and on that occasion, as the stroke entered the water-pipe, it broke the marble front of the sink, and threw it on the floor. It is very plain that the whole difficulty in this case was an insufficient ground. After the last catastrophe the rod was changed to copper, but it is plain that the only method of avoiding danger is by improving the ground.

In this same storm, lightning struck a house about three-quarters of a mile from the church. This house had no rod. The main part had a hip roof, and was shingled; while a lower southern extension had a tin roof, from the south-west corner of which a tin eaves-spout ran down to about ten inches above the earth. The lightning struck the south-west corner of the extension, and divided, a part going down to the end of the spout, and then into the house, where it knocked off the plastering. The other part crossed to the north-east corner, passed down between the weatherboarding and plastering, and finally dug a furrow in the ground, and disappeared in a pool of water about fifteen feet from the house. The latter part of the stroke drove off, as by an explosion, the plastering on the inside and the weatherboarding on the outside. There was no trace of scorching on the boards. A woman and her two sons in the house were dazed and partly stunned.

A year or two later a modern house was struck on one of the principal avenues of the city. It had no lightning-rod; but, from a tower having a slate roof, a gilded ornament projected to about three feet. The whole house excepting this tower was roofed with tin. The stroke passed down the inside of the tower, knocking off the plastering, stunning one of the inmates, and doing other slight damage. This house has had the same ornament erected, and no rod put in place to protect from a similar stroke.

The last stroke that has been called to my attention occurred this summer. A gilded wooden cross about four feet in height, on the tower of a beautiful stone church which had no protection from lightning, was struck. Various ornaments on the tower were shattered, and the tower itself was damaged. The whole damage was two hundred or three hundred dollars. The gilded cross has again been erected without a lightning-rod to invite another visitation by Providence.

It seems to me the architects of modern buildings are largely responsible for this state of affairs. It is probable that in a large city with numerous tin roofs the danger from lightning on ordinary roofs is very slight; but certainly in isolated spots, and all projecting metallic or gilded points, there is a constant hazard from lightning unless protected by a rod well grounded.

H. A. HAZEN.

Washington, D.C., Oct. 7.

A Queer Maple-Tree.

A HARD-MAPLE tree in the yard of S. G. Scott at Plainwell, Mich., is an object of great curiosity. It has been shedding its foliage through September, but new leaves are again appearing, and after the fall frosts the tree again drops its leaves. This it has done regularly for several seasons. It differs only in respect of shedding its foliage twice a year, from other maples standing within a few feet of it.

M. G. MANTING.

Holland, Mich., Oct. 4.