

A Digest of English and American Literature. By ALFRED H. WELSH. Chicago, S. C. Griggs & Co. 12°. \$1.50.

THE object of this work is to give an epitome of English literature from the earliest Anglo-Saxon period to the present day. The matter is arranged in four columns: the first containing a brief mention of the most important historic events; the second, a review of the characteristics of each age, so far as they affected literature; while the remaining two are devoted to the various authors and their principal works. The space given to each author is necessarily small, rarely extending to a page; but the style is concise and sententious, and usually clear, so that a good deal of information is conveyed in a compact and intelligible form. The work is divided into periods; and on the whole the division is well made, though it seems to us that some of the writers credited to the Puritan period belong, both by style and by subject, to the earlier, or renaissance period. As regards the authors who ought to be noticed in such a work as this, opinions will differ somewhat according to the standpoint and the taste of each reader. Some of those to whom Mr. Welsh has accorded considerable space seem to us unworthy of a place in such a book; while others of greater weight and influence, such as Charles Darwin, John Henry Newman, and E. A. Freeman, are not noticed in the body of the work, and receive but a bare mention in the appendix. Such omissions, however, are mostly confined to the concluding portion of the book, and are perhaps accounted for by the author's unfortunate death, which prevented his giving the final touches to his work. On the whole, this digest is excellent, and will be useful not only to students, for whom it is more particularly designed, but also as a reference-book for general readers.

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