

ON Saturday, July 15, the one-mile bicycle and ten-mile tricycle championship races of the National 'Cyclists' Union were run on the Crystal Park track. It rained shortly before the start, and once during the races.

One-Mile Bicycle Championship. — H. W. Gaskell won the third heat in the first round in $2.52\frac{1}{5}$, the first and final heats in the second round in $2.50\frac{2}{5}$ and $2.55\frac{2}{5}$, respectively, thereby securing the title of one-mile amateur champion. The fastest time of the day was made in the first heat, by A. Thompson, being $2.46\frac{4}{5}$. T. D. Oliver was only six inches behind him.

Ten-Mile Bicycle Championship. — First and final heats, C. E. Liles; time, $40.50\frac{1}{5}$ and $35.00\frac{3}{5}$, respectively. Second heat, M. J. Lowndes; time, 36.15. Lowndes led in the final heat up to the middle of the last lap, when, being seized with cramps, he was forced to retire. Liles won the championship.

THE third annual races of the Edinburgh University Bicycle Club were held at Powderhall Grounds, on June 30. A heavy rain set in toward the close. The Scotch one and three-mile records were broken. In the one-mile handicap, T. Haddon (100 yards) won in $2.53\frac{1}{4}$. The two-mile Inter-Club Championship, for the University Challenge Cup, was won by Hine of the E.U.B.C. Time, $6.52\frac{1}{2}$. The two-mile bicycle handicap (confined to members of the E.U.B.C.) was won by A. C. Roberts (220 yards). Time, 6.04. J. R. Forsyth (100 yards) won the two-mile tricycle handicap. Time, 7.21. The three-mile handicap (open) was won by D. W. Laing (scratch). Time, 9.02. Hine was only a few inches behind. C. S. Patterson won the one-mile tricycle race for novices. Time, 3.49. The last was a combination race. (Walk

one lap, run one lap, ride one lap), won by Whitelaw. Time, 4.02.

In the one-mile handicap tricycle race (open) at Wisbeck, July 4, G. A. Beales (90 yards) won, with H. Sturmev (25 yards) second. Time, 3.48.

Races at Agen, France.

The Agen races were a marked success. More than 10,000 people witnessed the exciting events. The track is accounted the second best in France. We append a brief summary of the events:—

One-and-a-half mile Club Race. — Duffan first, in 4.16.

Race for Southern France. — Teissier, first; Krell, second; Wills, third.

Grand International. — Medinger, Paris, first; Terront, Paris, second; Wood, Leicester, Eng., third. Distance, about six miles.

Tricycle International. — Gerrard, Coventry, first.

Championship of France. — Medinger, first; Lemont, second. Distance, $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

Trick Riding Competition. — Jules Terront, first; Chas. Terront and C. Gerrard, equal for second prize.

Handicap. — Knowles (700 yards), first. Distance, about 4 miles.

SECOND DAY.

Tricycle Race. — Gerrard first.

Long-Distance Race. — Medinger first; Wood second; Terront third. Distance, 56 miles. Time, 3h. 13m. 3s.

Course d'Honneur. — Wood first.

THE bicycle has been introduced into China, to the great astonishment of the natives, who think it goes with a spring.

BOOK NOTICES.

French Lyrics.

SELECTED AND ANNOTATED BY GEORGE SAINTSBURY.

THE name of its author is a sufficient voucher for the taste and discrimination used in the compilation of this little book. It bears the stamp of the same wide and minute information, correct judgment, and warm enthusiasm that mark Saintsbury's "Short History of French Literature." The charming essay that prefaces the selections is of critical value. The writer claims that even in modern times French lyric poetry occasionally reaches the highest point of excellence, and certainly no selection in the volume before us

would lead the reader to think it had ever declined from its loftiest attainment. All the verses here sing themselves into the heart of the reader. No poem has been admitted whose lyrical form would not bear the strictest tests; sonnets have been excluded, with all purely iambic poetry, except lyrical tercets and quatrains. At the same time Mr. Saintsbury admits that perfection of lyrical form is comparatively rare among modern French poets, and accounts for the fact, not by any defect in the national genius, but by the monotonous cadence of the language in its modern pronunciation, which excludes dactyls and anapæsts, confines poets to the use of the iambs, and

renders impossible the "regular irregularity . . . which Euterpe loves." This monotony of sound is the result of the prevalence, since the Renaissance of the Alexandrine, a measure fatal to lyrical effect, but, as our author says, "more suited than any other to the dramatic work which was gaining more and more of public favor." It has, however, even appeared to us that the inflexibility and monotony of the French accent render it seriously defective for all metrical composition, even for dramatic poetry. The unchanging position of the cæsura in the Alexandrine, and the invariable pause in the thought at the end of the line, render the works of the classical dramatists insufferably tiresome to the ear of an English reader. But this was the case only after the language had come under the moulding and restrictive influence of the classical period. In no tongue can anything be found sweeter and of more varied music than the French *ballades*, *rondeaux*, and *pastourelles*, with their enchanting refrains and devices of form; while the more irrepressible because of its bondage arises the genius of moderns who have given us such songs as "The Falling Stars" of Béranger, or the "Gastibelza" of Victor Hugo, with its weird refrain of —

"The wind that comes across the mountain top
Will drive me mad!"

The author distinguishes "three great periods of flourishing in French lyric; that of the *romances*, and *pastourelles* and of the earlier *ballades* and *rondeaux*, a period of fresh and graceful emotion and varied (sometimes half-articulate) music; the period of the Renaissance, one of a singular mixture of ardent and somewhat sensual passion, with extreme fertility in rhythmical invention and skilful adjustment of classical color; and that of the present day, when large and vague aspirations, and the other symptoms of the *maladie du siècle*, with historical retrospects of picturesque antiquity, form the substance, while the form is singularly various and at the same time singularly perfect. These three periods are represented here, it is believed, fully and fairly."

It is impossible to render by translation the music and the pictorial charm of these lyrics.

LES ETOILES QUI FILENT.

Berger, tu dis que notre étoile
Régle nos jours et brille aux cieus.
— Oui, mon enfant; mais dans sou voile
La nuit la dérobe à nos yeux.
— Berger, sur cet azur tranquille
De lire où te croit le secret:
Quelle est cette étoile qui file,
Qui file, file, et disparaît?
— Mon enfant, un mortel expire;
Son étoile tombe à l'instant.
Entre amis que la joie inspire,
Celui-ci buvait en chantant.
Heureux, il s'endort immobile
Auprès du v in qu'il célébraît.
— Encore une étoile qui file,
Qui file, file, et disparaît.

— C'est celle d'un puissant monarque ! . . .
Va, mon fils, garde ta candeur.
Et que ton étoile ne marque
Par l'éclat ni par la grandeur.
Si tu brillais sans être utile
A ton dernier jour on dirait:
Ce n'est qu'une étoile qui file,
Qui file, file, et disparaît.

THE FALLING STARS.

Thou tell'st me, Shepherd, that our star
Rules life for us and lights the skies.

— Oh, yes, my child; but in her veil
The night conceals it from our eyes.

— To read, O Shepherd, the calm blue
Men say thou dost possess the art;
Pray tell, what is that star that falls,
That shoots, and falls, and disappears?

— My child, a mortal's life expires;
And on that instant falls his star.
Among his friends whom mirth inspires
That man was drinking while he sang.
Happy, he yields to endless sleep
Before the wine he celebrates.

— Behold another star that falls,
That shoots, and falls, and disappears.

— That is a mighty monarch's star ! . . .
Keep thou, my son, thy spirit pure.
Take care that thy star be not bright
With fame or glare of worldly state.
If thou should'st shine with useless light,
At thy last hour all men would say:
'Tis nothing but a falling star, —
A star that falls and disappears.

The form of the volume (one of Appleton's parchment series) is dainty and choice enough to correspond with contents as inviting as these verses.

Underground Russia¹

Is a series of sketches illustrating the different phases of Nihilism in Russia, and describing the character and operations of some of the most prominent Nihilists. It is written by a Nihilist, and bears the stamp of being a truthful account of actual occurrences. Although written by a revolutionist it probably comes nearer to giving the true state of the revolutionary movement than any work to which we have access; for such is the restraint imposed by the law upon the press that it dares not say anything that the government disapproves of, and foreign travellers are never able to get at the bottom facts. The only way, therefore, in which the revolutionists can fairly present their side of the case is to operate through the press of outside nations. This Stepniak has attempted to do.

The book is peculiar. It might almost be called an anomaly. One hardly knows whether to look upon it as history or romance. In either case the book is one of intense interest, and no one interested

¹Underground Russia; Revolutionary Profiles and Sketches from Life. By Stepniak, formerly editor of *Zemlia i Volia* (*Land and Liberty*). With a Preface by Peter Lavroff. Translated from the Italian. 1 vol., 12mo, \$1.25. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1883.

in the revolutionary agitations in Russia and elsewhere should fail to read it.

"READING of Books"¹ is, in some respects, a book to be commended. It has this advantage over other well-known books on this same subject, that it contains all the recent books of value. The chapter on biography is admirable, so are those which follow on history and travel. When he touches upon the subject of fiction, Mr. Thwing enters a field in which there is a wide difference of opinion, even among the people of finest education and tastes. Perhaps it is for this reason that he has omitted many books that would seem to belong there. Many would take exception to his chapter on poetry, and it will be news to learn that sensuousness is necessary to poetry of the first rank, as he would seem to say on page 79, in speaking of Keats. His veneration of the English, and distrust of American poets, leads him into the error of regarding the latter as being unworthy of recommendation, — only two living poets, Tennyson and Browning, being mentioned. The chapter on religious books is probably the fullest and best of all. Those on books of literature, language, philosophy, science, and the fine arts, books for children, and forming a library, are all good. The value of the book is greatly added to by an appendix, containing a classified list of books.

"TIMES of Battle and Rest"² is the second of the volume of the English version of Professor Topelius' Swedish "Surgeon Stories." Those who have read the first volume will find this one even more interesting. The other carried us through the times of Gustaf Adolf, and this beginning where the other left off, carries us through to the close of the reign of Charles XI. The book is divided into three parts, the first of which describes the reign of the dark and stormy Charles X. and the Swedish conquests in Poland and Denmark; the second part begins with the reign of Charles XI., and describes with terrible vividness the persecution of those believed to be infected by witchcraft; the third part deals with the close of the reign of Charles XI. Professor Topelius is a forcible dramatic writer, and is justly venerated by all who have read his works.

King's Dictionary of Boston.³

MR. KING has added another to his list of books on Boston. To quote from the prefatory note: "The effort has been, not to prepare a guide-book simply, nor yet a handbook conveniently arranged, but to fur-

¹ The Reading of Books; its Pleasures, Profits, and Perils. By Charles F. Thwing, author of "American Colleges: Their Students and Work." Boston: Lee & Shepard. New York: Charles T. Dillingham.

² The Surgeon's Stories; Times of Battle and of Rest. By Z. Topelius. Translated from the original Swedish. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg, & Co. 1883.

³ King's Dictionary of Boston. By Edward M. Bacon. With an Historical Introduction by George E. Ellis, D.D. Moses King, Publisher, Cambridge, Mass. 1883.

nish as complete information as is possible of all that goes to make the Boston of to-day, — a guide-book, handbook, and condensed history of the city, its noteworthy institutions, its many organizations, — charitable, benevolent, literary and social; its religious denominations, and churches; and its varied and most interesting features, all in one compact volume.

To say that the effort has been entirely successful is but to express feebly one's satisfaction on its perusal. It is replete with desirable and valuable information. It is all that it claims to be, and is almost as necessary as the directory itself.

Both the editor and publisher will thankfully receive corrections and suggestions for improvements, as they intend to make it a standard work, and revise it from time to time.

Gettysburg to the Rapidan.¹

GENERAL HUMPHREY'S original intention was to include this book in Vol. XII. of his campaigns of the Civil War (that volume dealing with the campaign in Virginia in 1864-5), but, owing to the bulk of that volume, it was excluded, and is now published separately. It is hardly satisfactory, owing to its extreme brevity. On this point Gen. Humphrey pleads lack of time to make alterations, and presumably, elucidations. The style is clear, simple, and direct, and some excellent maps, which aid greatly in understanding the situations, accompanying the text.

'Cyclst's Touring dub Handbook and Guide.

WE have received from the Secretary of the C.T.C. the above book. It contains a list of officers; rules and regulations: hotel rates in England, Scotland, France, and America; Railway rates in England; list of chief consuls, and map showing chief consulates, with boundaries, and a vast amount of other valuable information regarding this enormous Association. It is neat and compact, and can easily be carried in the pocket. Every member of the C.T.C. should have a copy. It can be obtained of E. R. Shipton, secretary and editor of the *Monthly Gazette*, at the chief offices of the club, 139 and 140, Fleet street, London, E.C.

Minor Notices.

"SONGS of the Bicycle Tourist" is a little 14-page book, bound in paper, by Angus S. Hibbard, the singing wheelman of Milwaukee. Several of these appeared in THE WHEELMAN. To speak of their merits to readers of THE WHEELMAN is unnecessary, since to them they are well known, and to others than wheelmen they possess no interest. It is printed by Symes, Swain, & Co., Milwaukee.

¹ Gettysburg to the Rapidan: The Army of the Potomac. July, 1863, to April 1864. By A. A. Humphreys. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1883.

"SUCCESSFUL Men of To-day." (Funk & Wagnalls, New York.) There are many ways of making books, and many reasons urged for making them; but the manner in which this hook was made is certainly decidedly novel, and the reason for its existence rather obscure. The author has gathered "facts and opinions in regard to the causes of success and failure from a large number of the prominent men of to-day." "harvesting these golden statistics from the fields of ripe experience," using, "as a reaper, printed circulars." Poor portraits of a number of these prominent men are given, among which we look in vain for Jay Gould, Vanderbilt, or Russell Sage.

"A BOOK about Roses," by S. Reynolds Hole (W. S. Gottsberger, New York, publisher), is an excellent little treatise on roses. It is necessary to the lady who wants to be successful in cultivating her roses, and to the exhibitor it is indispensable. It contains lists of select roses, which are complete up to date, and form one of the most valuable features of the book. If it were not for frequent digressions from the subject on hand, and a too free use of foreign phrases, the hook would be without an objection.

"NATURE Studies" (Standard Library 91, Funk & Wagnalls) is a number of essays by Grant Allen, Andrew Wilson, Edward Clodd, and Richard A. Proctor. They originally appeared in *Knowledge*, of which Mr. Proctor was editor. From the same publishers is "India; What Can It Teach Us?" (Standard Library 92.) It is a course of lectures delivered before the University of Cambridge, and is from the pen of the well-known and versatile Max Müller.

VOLUME I., Number 1, of "Topics of the Time: A Series of Representative Essays on Questions of the Day," contains eight admirable essays on subjects of living interest by well-known European writers. The series is edited by T. Munson Coan, and is published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. Subscriptions for twelve volumes, in cloth, \$6.00; in paper, \$2.50.

Recent Fiction.

"TIGER-LILY and other stories" (Charles Scribner's Sons) is an admirable collection. There are five of them in all, and each seems, if possible, more interesting than the preceding one. Mrs. Schayer is a master-hand at portrayal of character, and in "Tiger Lily" she selected a field that gave ample scope to her powers. The book itself is in keeping with its contents, and is neatly bound and well printed.

"THOSE Pretty St. George Girls" (T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Phila.) is a "romance of English High Life." "The whole novel flavors of flirtation delicately but piquantly carried on in fashionable and aristocratic society." It abounds in romantic names,

situations, and incidents, and is full of sentimental speeches. "Lady readers" will no doubt "be delighted with it, for a 'more thorough exposition of the little secrets, vanities, and weaknesses of the softer sex would be difficult to find.'" At the last the hero and heroine stand in "the sunlight together," and so much are their hearts warmed by it that all humanity is included in their silent song of praise.

"LITTLE Brown Top" (D. Lothrop & Co.) is a hook intended for juvenile readers. It is printed in clear, large type, with plenty of space between the lines, has a handsome cover, is very attractive in appearance, and reads even better than it looks. The author, Mr. E. A. Rand, is one of the best of our juvenile story writers; and his works, in addition to the interest they possess, always leave a good impression.

"A TRAGEDY in the Imperial Harem at Constantinople" is the title of a book published by William S. Gottsberger, New York. It is well written; the scenes and situations are well chosen; the descriptions are vivid; the interest is concentrated, and a vigorous style, which never lags, is maintained throughout. The author's abilities are above the average, and it is to be regretted that she was so injudicious as to select such a subject. The tendency of the book is to debase, and such literature, however true to life, can never be commendable. It is translated from the French of Leila Hanoum by General E. R. Colston.

"LOÿ'S" "Lord Beresford and other tales," by the author of "Phyllis," etc., is a collection of very interesting short stories of which the first-named is the longest. It is published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., and affords a very pleasant way of whiling away a hot afternoon.

"FAIRY Gold" (J. B. Lippincott & Co.) formerly appeared as a serial in *Lippincott's Magazine*. It is printed from the same plates, and is bound in paper. It deals with a wealthy, self-made man, who disgusts the reader with his low breeding and vulgarity, and who stands out in strong contrast with the heroine who accepts her sudden wealth with quiet dignity. It is a bright little story and quite entertaining. The engravings are not at all uniform in merit, some being excellent, while others are execrable.

"HER Sailor Love," by Katharine S. McQuoid (G. P. Putnam's & Sons), is a very long and not extremely interesting novel. It is divided into eight books, which is, in some degree, responsible for its interminable length and dryness,

"XYZ," a detective story, by Anna Katharine Green (G. P. Putnam's Sons), is a story full of thrilling incidents and blood-curdling situations; but ends happily, as every one expects.