

## Boston Notes.

BOSTON, Nov. 22.—The new volume of the Riverside Art Series is "Sir Joshua Reynolds," and the author, Miss Hurl, has selected the pictures with the intention of giving as much variety as possible. Needless to say that they make a charming group. If one could always see men and women through Sir Joshua's eyes, or make one's own as kind as his, as quick to see the best! His portrait and Johnson's, Master Crewe as Henry VIII., Penelope Boothby, Master Bunbury, Mrs. Payne-Gallwey and her child, the Duchess of Devonshire, Mrs. Siddons, Lady Cockburn and her children are among them with some of the fanciful and allegorical pictures. Nearly all are from photographs or carbon prints, but one is after an engraving by S. W. Reynolds, and one is engraved by Andrew after Bartolozzi, and it must be a stupid young reader who does not discern the difference.

The Cambridge edition of Mrs. Browning's poems has the index notes and other working aids for the student, but it also contains "The Battle of Marathon," the verses privately printed by her proud and loving father, and "The Essay on Mind," issued in 1826. The Athenaeum papers on "Greek Christian Poets," printed after Mr. Browning's death, also appear in the appendix. The notes are partly critical and of a literary quality so admirable that it is a duty to read them. The biographical sketch is Miss Harriet Waters Preston's, and is written with that perfect good taste which has been absent from much of the recent discussion in regard to the Brownings. Miss Preston knows when to speak and when to be silent, and distinguishes with unerring good taste between public interest and private right.

Considering the very large quantity of new and rare matter in the volume this edition should not be neglected even by those who call themselves Browning students.

Somebody a shade more malicious than the average envious being who pursues successful women started a beautiful story in regard to Miss Lillian Whiting, to the effect that while traveling in Syria she had been converted to Babism. Her pub-

lishers, Messrs. Little, Brown & Co., have sent out a little circular, to the general effect that she has not been converted to anything and has not been in Syria.

They might have added that Persia is the proper place to go to be converted to Babism. What they do add is that Miss Whiting has never heard of Babism, but this seems incredible to assert of one who reads Renan, not to say the French writers on modern Oriental religions. Undoubtedly she has forgotten him, but she must once have known the story of that most picturesque of modern prophets, the rival of "half-hangit Meggie Dickson." However that may be, she was born and bred an Episcopalian, and may be seen at Trinity any Sunday.

Most of the small volumes bearing the name of Sienkiewicz on the title page are published by firms unknown to the author, but Messrs. Little, Brown & Co. are now issuing a tiny book containing "The Judgment of Peter and Paul on Olympus" and "Be Thou Blessed." It is a holiday book, printed in purple, with ornamental borders in green, and with its poetic text, it is very well adapted to the season.

Mr. Edmund H. Garrett's "The Pilgrim Shore" includes more than one would expect from its title, for it begins with Dorchester, Neponset, and Quincy, and continues down the coast to Plymouth, missing nothing of any consequence. The pictures number about seventy-five, besides initials, headings, and tailpieces, all finished with the loving care that an artist would naturally lavish on his own book. The Mayflower appears on title page and cover, and an excellently reproduced water color of "Priscilla" is the frontispiece. The end papers give the passenger lists of the Mayflower, the Fortune, the Anne, and the Little James.

Another holiday book, Miss Katharine Pyle's "The Christmas Angel," is meant for children, and is a variation on the old theme of the child who penetrates to the land whence come the toys. The pictures are extremely good. It is astonishing how truly terrible a rag doll can look on occasion.

There is a Christmas bill of fare at the end of Miss Henrietta Sowles's "I Go a-Marketing," but the work is really a cookbook, written in colloquial American, and much more likely to tempt the reader to gastronomic excess than if arranged in the conventional fashion.

In the preface to the new edition of his "Old Landmarks and Historic Personages of Boston" Mr. Samuel Adams Drake calls the book an appeal to the historic conscience, and sadly refers to the changes which have swept away many landmarks mentioned in his first edition. New pictures have been added, including some views of old Boston, and the text has been revised where necessary. At the present rate of elimination there will soon be no old landmarks in Boston, and the number swept away since 1872, when this book was first published, is very large.

Unpublished poems by Lowell—or, as The London News called him the other day, James Lowell Russell—are first among the pleasant things promised for The December Atlantic, for they take precedence even of the serial stories by Miss Jewett and Mrs. Wiggin; of the Christmas story, "A Little Christ at Swanson's," by Miss Florence Wilkinson, and of the Countess Martinengo's "An Alpine Christmas Play," an account of one of the still-surviving relics of the middle ages. Mr. Gerald Stanley Lee will write of "The Dominance of the Crowd," Mr. Benjamin Ide Wheeler on "Art in Language," and Mr. Charles Johnston on "The Essence of American Humor," and Mr. A. Maurice Low will describe Washington, which he calls the "city of leisure."

The flood of books continues to rise, and it seems as if any magazine might well expect to be submerged. One of the most amusing of those prepared for children is Miss Frances Courtenay Baylor's "A Georgian Bungalow," in which she displays her favorite contrast, the English family and the Southern negro. It is only a little book, but it has space for a cake walk, a barbecue, a country fair, four entirely absurd darkies, a German governess whose English is a joy, and an English boy with American genius for attracting dirt and trouble. Miss Eliza Orne White's "Ednah and Her Brothers" is for very little readers, its oldest character being but nine years of age. The lucky youngsters have studios for playrooms, except when they go into the woods or the meadows, and they make a gypsy journey, sleeping on the hay of highly indignant farmers.

Messrs. Little, Brown & Co. produce a new edition, larger by three chapters, of Miss Annie Payson Call's "Power Through Repose," a work of which one sees the results, not only in the improved teaching in all sorts of physical exercises, but also, the physicians say, in a decrease of nervous diseases among women who read. They also have a new book for children, "The World's Discoverers," by William Henry Johnson. The group of voyagers described includes all those who sought the Indies or the northwest passage by sailing westward, and those who followed in search of gold.

Has New York yet discovered the extraordinary cleverness of Mr. Charles G. D. Roberts's "The Heart of the Ancient Wood," which bears the imprint of Silver, Burdett & Co., New York and Boston? Miranda, the child of the clearing, who insists on making friends with the huge black bear Kroof, calling it a dog, and thenceforth is free of the forest, being protected by its hugest denizen, is as fine a creation as Mowgli, and she is perfectly credible. Mr. Roberts's short stories about animals have shown his observation and power to lay aside his human prejudices and to see the strict justice governing the impulses and acts of the wild animal, and one ought not to be surprised at the merits of this story, but Kroof is as good in her way as Baloo in his, and infinitely better than any other bear of literature.