

by Major-Gen. Joseph Wheeler; also, during the season, 'Washington the Soldier,' by Gen. Henry B. Carrington; 'Songs of Good Fighting,' by Eugene R. White; 'The Land of Contrasts: A Briton's View of his American Kin,' by James F. Muirhead; and a 'Treasury of Canadian Verse,' by Theodore Harding Rand.

Further announcements by Charles Scribner's Sons are 'The War of 1898,' by Richard Harding Davis; 'Commercial Cuba,' by William J. Clark; 'The Column and the Arch,' by W. P. P. Longfellow; and 'Music and Poetry,' first of a series of uncollected prose writings by the late Sidney Lanier.

'A Source Book of American History,' by Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart of Harvard, and Clara Tschudi's 'Life of Marie Antoinette,' translated from the Norwegian by E. M. Cope, are in the press of Macmillan Co.

M. F. Mansfield & Co., New York, will reprint from the English edition Kipling's 'Departmental Ditties,' with a new edition of the 'Barrack-Room Ballads,' in two volumes, with twelve color drawings by Blanche McManus; also, 'Youth at the Prow,' a novel by E. Rentoul Esler.

'Along the Bosphorus,' by Mrs. Susan E. Wallace, wife of Gen. Lew Wallace, and 'A Cruise under the Crescent,' by Charles Warren Stoddard, are announced by Rand, McNally & Co.

Henry Frowde is about to bring out 'The More Excellent Way,' by the Hon. Mrs. Lytton Gell.

T. Fisher Unwin's fall list includes 'Lithography and Lithographers,' by Joseph and Elizabeth R. Pennell; 'A Literary History of Ireland,' by Dr. Douglas Hyde; 'Unpublished Letters of Dean Swift,' edited by Dr. George Birkbeck Hill; 'Shakspeare in France,' by J. J. Jusserand; 'The Life and Letters of Lewis Carroll (the Rev. C. L. Dodgson),' by Mrs. S. D. Collingwood; 'Through New Guinea and the Cannibal Countries,' by Capt. H. Cayley Webster; and 'The City of the Caliphs: A Monograph on Cairo and its Environs and the Nile and its Monuments,' by E. A. Reynolds Ball.

Purcell's uncomfortable 'Life of Cardinal Manning' has been reissued by Macmillan Co. in two volumes less elegant but not less readable than the much more expensive first. The same plates have been used, and the binding is fit for any library.

Gen. Miles's 'Military Europe,' the series of papers which he wrote after his official visit of last year, has appeared in quarto, illustrated by fifty-six engravings, most of them reproductions of photographs (Doubleday & McClure Co.). The circumstances of the tour were such as to preclude the idea of free criticism of the armies inspected by the author, but even the casual observations of so experienced an officer will have many points of interest. The numerous portraits of eminent personages and distinguished officers are not the least of the attractions of the volume.

The Macmillan Co. bring out a handy and useful little manual entitled 'Questions and Answers in the Theory and Practice of Military Topography,' by Major J. H. Bowhill, late Adjutant of First Battalion Wiltshire Regiment (England). It is a considerable series of practical problems in topographical engineering, beginning with the use of scales, and passing to the construction of maps, plotting from field-books and notes, contouring, eye-sketching, reconnaissance of roads, rivers, etc. The answers to the prob-

lems are given in the second part of the volume, and large scale-illustrations of the methods are supplied in an accompanying portfolio of loose plates engraved and printed in colors.

'Wireless Telegraphy,' by Richard Kerr, F. G. S. (Charles Scribner's Sons), is a very popular little book indeed; there is not a dry word in it. Mr. W. H. Preece, an adept in the art, supplies a chernimatic preface which was richly deserved. He goes as far as he well could—not to the point of justice. Whoever reads the book should read between the lines of this preface. Mr. Preece, by the way, is at as much pains to do justice to Americans as Mr. Kerr seems to be to avoid mention of them. One blunder is worth notice simply because it is a frequent popular misapprehension. Mr. Kerr (p. 18) says: "It was conjectured by . . . Clerk Maxwell and others that light . . . and electricity . . . only differed in degree. . . . Their velocity . . . was the same." What Clerk Maxwell repeatedly said, as in his posthumous book ('Elementary Electricity,' p. 98), was: "It is quite possible that the velocity of electricity in a telegraph wire may be less, say, than the hundredth of an inch in an hour." The ratio between the dynamical and static methods of measuring electrical phenomena is a quantity of the dimensions of a velocity, and that velocity was shown by Maxwell and later physicists to be the velocity of light. Hence, we have reason to believe that the luminiferous ether is really electricity. Electricity is not a vibration, like light; it is a thing, attracting and repelling as other things, though very differently from other things. It is a fluid, though a peculiar fluid. To hesitate to call it so is simply to boggle over names. Whether or not electricity is a chemical substance, or whether it be something *sui generis*, is a question probably needing a good many years definitely to answer.

Prof. Frank Sargent Hoffman's 'Sphere of Science' (G. P. Putnam's Sons) might do for a summer afternoon in a hammock. The writer is in a Cartesian stage of culture, but we do not remember any genuine old Cartesian book so nebulous. We were finding fault the other day with an example wrongly given as a *petitio principii* by an estimable rhetorician and quoted by Mr. MacEwan. We can recommend the present volume to those writers as a mine of the sort of argumentation of which they were in search.

'Whist of the Future,' by Lieut.-Col. B. Lowsley (Macmillan), though small, merits consideration, but we must reserve it until we can collect a pile of books on this active branch of science. It contains, we need not say, a discussion of American leads, and it takes moderate short-hand ground. But about half the volume is occupied with the laws of whist, with a limited American leaning.

In the current Proceedings (for May, 1898) of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Mr. John T. Hassam has a series of biographical sketches of early Suffolk Recorders from Stephen Winthrop (1639-1644) to John Ballantine (1714-1735). In the case of each of the Recorders his autograph is facsimiled; and since the portraits of several are extant, it would have been agreeable to find these also accompanying the text. The sketches consist chiefly of citations from early sources, and it is surprising how much of the history and manners and customs of the period thus incidentally

appears. We may instance the first authentic record of any provision for the poor of Boston, the origin of the school committee, the founding of the Old South Church, the arrival of the first ship in New Haven, etc. "The Grammar Free School" was the designation of the Boston Latin School, since "grammar" then had reference to classical instruction. Recorder Daniel Allin had the good sense to vote (November 25, 1693) against a bill restricting candidates for Representatives to residents of the respective towns for which they were chosen. This, he contended, was contrary to Charter custom of England and of the Province, and "might prove destructive to the Province."

Virginia has of late years much outstripped other Southern States in matters genealogical. The latest product in this line in book form is 'The Vestry Book and Register of Bristol Parish, Virginia, 1720-1789,' a very careful reprint of the book which was lost from sight for nearly fifty years. The transcribing and editing have been done in the most exemplary manner by Mr. Churchill Gibson Chamberlayne, who is his own publisher (Richmond, P. O. Drawer 927), and the printing is noticeably elegant and correct. The contents possess chiefly a genealogical interest, culminating in an alphabetic register of births, baptisms, and deaths, and an index to the whole work. The vestry's accounts occupy a large space, seldom lighted up by such entries as (May 2, 1772) "To 2 quarts of Rum To Bury Jane Long." From year to year persons are appointed to "procession" lands, bounds, and lines, along with "counters" of tobacco plants. Specifications for parish buildings are also frequent, as are exemptions "for ye futor" to the infirm from the parish levy, the binding of an orphan or of a bastard to such a one, "supposed to be ye Reputed father," and allowance for the keep of paupers, including "Ann hanks" (p. 218), who might appear a collateral ancestor of Lincoln; but the list of errata bids us read "hauks." Capt. Thomas Jefferson figures in the entries for 1723. A free school for pauper children in connection with the poorhouse is talked of in 1757.

The annual report of the State Geologist of New Jersey for 1897 is mostly a continuing document, but Prof. Salisbury's report of progress on the surface geology—an altogether novel investigation—may be read with entire interest by any one new to the subject; and the same may be said of Dr. Kummel's candid and perspicuous report of progress on the Newark system of sandstone and trap formations. The former is accompanied by a small colored map; the latter by well-chosen photographic views. Prof. W. B. Clark of Johns Hopkins reports on the Upper Cretaceous formations; Mr. Lewis Woolman extends his long list of artesian wells, throwing light on water horizons and on the succession of strata; while Mr. Vermeule restates the advantages of draining the Hackensack and Newark tide marshes, and the dangers attending their present neglect and pollution. Finally, the clay and mineral industries of the State are catalogued afresh.

The *Geographical Journal* for September opens with a technical description of the Yangtse-kiang, derived chiefly from the notes of recent travellers. It leaves a heightened impression of the vastness of the