

Our readers need not that we repeat from our former notices the claims of this edition to be regarded as superior to all others in completeness and correctness, or its merits on the score of typography and mechanical execution. The fifth volume contains the closing portion of the Natural History, several of the Latin treatises, and the New Atlantis, which, apart from its worth as embalming the social and ethical optimism of the times and the man, is of special interest as exhibiting the poetic and imaginative side of Bacon's mental character.

27. — *Legends of Charlemagne ; or, Romance of the Middle Ages.* By THOMAS BULFINCH, Author of "The Age of Fable," "The Age of Chivalry," etc. Boston: J. E. Tilton & Co. 1863. 12mo. pp. 373.

THESE legends are of hardly less importance, in a literary point of view, than the classic mythology. Besides having been reproduced in various forms and in every generation, they are constantly the subjects of allusion and reference, so that some acquaintance with them is essential to every person who desires to understand all that he is likely to read. Yet hitherto there has been no easily accessible manual of this mediæval mythology, and our knowledge of it has been acquired in miscellaneous ways, and by slow and uncertain stages. The want which was thus felt, though unexpressed, Mr. Bulfinch has supplied. His book has the double merit of being at once a manual of instruction in its own department of literature, and a rich collection of romances charmingly narrated. It bears the characteristics which *his* books must needs bear, — conscientious accuracy, pure taste, symmetrical and graceful finish. His moral nature would not let him do anything with less than his best ability, and his ability is that of an accomplished scholar, a true poet in conception and fancy, (though we know not whether he has ever written verse,) and a writer of exquisite refinement and delicacy of thought and expression. The publishers have issued this book in a form and style worthy of its merits, and have enriched it with well-executed engravings and wood-cuts. We are glad to learn that the same publishers have issued in a similar style of beauty a new edition of Mr. Bulfinch's "Age of Fable."

28. — *Hellas, her Monuments and Scenery.* By THOMAS CHASE, M. A. Cambridge: Sever and Francis. 1863. 16mo. pp. 220.

THIS is a scholar's itinerary in Greece, and it verifies the formula which we have repeatedly enunciated as applicable to all books of travel,

that what a man brings home from a foreign land is in proportion to what he carries. To those who have not seen this little book, and to those only, it will seem extravagant to say that more of Greece may be learned from it than can be found in any other single book within our knowledge. By Greece, we here mean, not the Greeks, but the land in those permanent features that recall, and those precious memorials that represent, its ancient inhabitants. We would also express our high admiration of Mr. Chase's style, simple, nervous, rhythmical, flexible with the demands of the theme in hand, and showing in every sentence how faithfully the author has obeyed the Horatian precept,—

" Vos exemplaria Græca
Nocturna versate manu, versate diurna."

29. — *Poems*. By THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH. New York: Carleton. 1863. 12mo. pp. 161.

MOST of these Poems have been printed in the author's former collections; they are here brought together in the blue and gold, which has of late been chosen for, or by, poets as their appropriate dress. Many of these pieces have great beauty of conception, imagery, and expression, and "Babie Bell" alone is sufficient to establish Mr. Aldrich's place among the true poets of the day. This still remains unequalled, though not unapproached. Nearest to it in merit, and among the pieces which their readers would not willingly suffer to pass into oblivion, are "The Unforgiven," "A Great Man's Death," and "Invocation to Sleep." We trust that the author's future poems will invite us to enlarge our catalogue of those to be specified for emphatic praise.

30. — *The National Almanac and Annual Record for the Year 1863*. Philadelphia: George W. Childs. 1863. 8vo. pp. 698.

THIS work seems to us perfect in its kind, and even pluperfect; for while it omits no head of information for which one would naturally resort to it, it contains a large amount of valuable and desirable knowledge which we should not antecedently expect to find there, though we should not know where else to look for it. The plan is that of the American Almanac, but much enlarged and amplified, containing, in our estimate, nearly three times the quantity of matter, and including several new departments, among which we are glad to find a list of books published in the United States in 1862. The value of the work is enhanced by several essays on subjects of present or permanent in-