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[Despatch Abstract.]

Annual Report on Books & Publications

Addressing the Govt of India on the subject of the preparation of ~~annual~~ ~~Report on~~ registered under act XX of 1867, in the Madras presidency.

BACK PAPERS.

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Government {1900} of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL.

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G.O., &c., Nos. 398, 399, 28th August 1900.

AUGUST.

Annual reports on books and publications.

Addressing the Government of India on the subject of the preparation of — registered under Act XXV of 1867 in the Madras Presidency.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following paper :—

G.O., Nos. 427, 428, Educational, dated 4th July ~~1900~~ 1899.

Read—the following papers :—

From S. C. HILL, Esq., Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Books), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 31st March 1899, No. 465.

It has been brought to the notice of the Government of India that the Report on Books and Publications registered under Act XXV of 1867, which is now annually submitted by Local Governments and Administrations, is capable of considerable improvement.

2. It has been observed that these reports consist almost entirely of descriptions of books taken from the quarterly lists published in the local gazettes, of short summaries dealing chiefly with figures, and of a number of tables showing the languages in which the various books are written. The descriptions are often of books of no importance whatever, and, as they give very little but the plot of the work, convey no information regarding style, purity of language, novelty of ideas, moral, social or religious teaching, the growing influence of the West, etc. The summaries and tables, being of the nature above described, are of equally little use. In fact, the reports as at present written do not serve the purposes of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature as literature, nor of Government which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country and of all advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors. It has therefore been proposed that, whilst the quarterly lists in the gazettes should be continued so as to provide material for the Annual Reports, these latter should be composed, not as mere compilations from the quarterly lists but on the model of the Annual Review * of Continental Literature published in the Athenæum, with such modifications as may be necessary for this country.

* This review contains reviews of the literature of all European languages; those of Russia and France are appended.

3. It appears to the Government of India that the defects of the reports as now published are due mostly to the fact that they are generally drawn up by men who, on the one hand, from their want of general information (especially as regards foreign literature), have little or no sense of the proportionate value of the books they have to deal with, and who, on the other hand, owing to a want of critical training, do not know what is most worth noticing in books. The result is that useless books are described at length, whilst valuable information as to the spread and growth of ideas is neglected. It has been suggested that, in order to make these reports really useful, they should in future be drawn up by a responsible European officer, and it seems that, from the nature of his work, the officer best qualified for this purpose will be the Director of Public Instruction as at present in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. This officer might of course avail himself of the services of his subordinates, but would be directly responsible for the report.

4. I am to add that the Governor-General in Council will be glad to receive any further suggestions on any matter connected with this subject.

Enclosures.

FRANCE.

In France for some years past we have got into an annoying habit of only considering as relevant to "literature" collections of verse, novels, dramatic pieces, and occasionally studies in criticism or literary history. Many reasons might be given for this; the principal is that all the world considers itself fit to decide the value of a *vaudeville* or a novel; and, in fact, a novel or a *vaudeville* is addressed to all the world. In the second place their only aim is to "please." The engrossing claims of art are more obvious, more constantly in evidence here than in a book of history or philosophy for instance, and here no effort is made to teach the reader or improve his morals. "Historia quoquo modo scripta semper placet," said an old writer: which comes to this, that the *raison d'être* of history is not solely to divert. But a novel must be interesting, and a theatrical piece must not be tedious. For all these reasons no petty piece is played at the Alcazar or the Eldorado without finding the immediate support of twenty writers of *feuilletons* to criticize it. No novel by, say, M. Zola or M. Paul Bourget is published without being fully chronicled on the very day of its appearance. And in some journals at least, or in some reviews, if the poets are infinitely less befriended than the novelists, yet they are spoken of and discussed. But the historians, the scholars, the philosophers, the scholars, are left in the cold. It seems as if criticism was afraid to meddle with them. They do not interest the readers to whom our journals address themselves. So it is that for the last half century a foreigner whose knowledge of French literature depended on our press would run the risk of thinking us a great deal more frivolous than we are. It is true that our great *savants* and philosophers, ancient and modern, and even our historians, have too often on their own part affected to disdain the art of writing. And in French there is an art of writing. It is not enough to say true things, just things, profound things; they must be said in a way which hides their profoundity, which imparts to justice an air of paradox, and something piquant and ingenious to truth itself. They must be said, too, in a way which does not seem factitious, which can be understood by everybody, and does not astonish, or even attract attention, or strike the reader as original until he reflects about it afterwards. Such are the qualities most of our historians and philosophers appear sometimes to have despised, thus doing harm both to their own reputations and all the world, by preventing or diminishing the circulation of their ideas.

No such charge can be brought against M. Auguste Sabatier's book, 'Esquisse d'une Philosophie de la Religion d'après la Psychologie et l'Histoire'; on the contrary, all must agree that some parts of it are remarkably written. It is the conclusions which are not very clear, and we French find it hard to understand what a religion is which is entirely individual and internal. In a Catholic country like France the very notion of religion cannot be separated from the idea of common discipline, rites and external observances, and dogma. It is not that we do not recognize readily this "état d'âme," but it seems to us no longer a "religious," but a purely "philosophic" state, and we ought to have the courage to account for it. This is a courage which M. Victor Charbonnel does not show in his book on 'Le Congrès des Religions'. It is one of the most curious and interesting to be read anywhere, because M. Charbonnel seldom takes upon himself to speak; he leaves that to numerous correspondents consulted by him all over the world on the advisability of a Congress of Religions; and they have extremely divergent views on the question. But what he has not seen is that if it is easy to make a Buddhist, a Mubammadan, a Christian, and a Freethinker agree in certain common principles, it is done by ranking them as "philosophers" or "rationalists," and not at all as faithful adherents to a communion. He is like those Socialists who would establish "internationalism" on the basis of a "respect for nationalities." How much franker is the attitude of M. Pierre Laffitte in his big book on 'Le Catholicisme'! A disciple of Comte and a thoroughgoing Positivist, he thinks that a day may, or rather will certainly, come when Positivism will triumph over all rival systems, and morality will be founded on the basis of solidarity. This was George Eliot's idea too. But while waiting for this day to dawn M. Laffitte, in view of the organized moral force which Catholicism represents, declares that he is ready to treat with it on a basis of common action, and here he finds the advantage of being able to speak of it in the past, as well as of Christianity in general, with a remarkable and lofty impartiality. If with these books we connect a certain number of others, such as that of M. G. Goyau on 'L'Allemagne Religieuse,' or of M. G. Fonsegrive on 'Le Catholicisme et la Démocratie,' or of M. Maignen with its strange title 'Le P. Hecker est-il un 'Saint?'; if we consider the success of the translations of such books as Mr. Balfour's 'Foundations of Belief,' 'The life of P. Hecker,' or Cardinal Gibbons's 'The Ambassador of Christ'; lastly, if we remember the book of M. Francis de Pressensé on 'Le Cardinal Manning,' the existence of a review like *La Quinzaine*, and the polemics of many recent *brochures* like mine on 'Science et Religion' and 'La Renaissance de l'Idéalisme'—all point to the undoubted conclusion that, for some time past, in France, as well as Europe, more attention is being paid than ever to religious questions, above all in their connexion with social questions.

Preoccupations of the same sort appear among the most notable plays of the year, such as the 'Repas du Lion,' by M. François de Curel; the 'Mauvais Bergers' of M. Octave Mirbeau; the 'Vassale' of M. Jules Case; and the 'Aînée,' of M. Jules Lemaître. They are not all of the same value; and, without doubt, the 'Repas du Lion' ranks before the others, thanks to the fresh, intrepid, and ingenious, if slightly incoherent manner in which the author has stated

the question of the "rapports du capital et du capital et du travail," and also to the tragic fashion in which he has represented, in the feudal soul of his hero, the conflict of the future with the past in an aristocrat's son. M. J. Lemaître's comedy raises questions less lofty, but more delicate, perhaps, and of a nature to pique the curiosity of English readers. How can a Protestant pastor who has some daughters to marry settle them without compromising in some slight degree his character? How can he reconcile his "spiritual" and "temporal" views? And are the means a layman might adopt, such as speculations in Transvaal mines, permissible in the case of a Churchman? There is much else besides this in M. Lemaître's comedy, in especial two or three characters of young maidens which are felicitous creations. There is also a rare mastery of style, and a singular skilfulness exhibited in daring and saying everything. This feature is wanting somewhat in M. Octave Mirbeau, whose frequently declamatory talent, like his other fine gifts, shows in its very declamations a beautiful strain of pity. His 'Mauvais Bergers' is the history of a strike dramatized. Here, again, we find the struggle between capital and labour. The piece is not ill constructed, and its effects, although somewhat broad, were thrilling on the stage. Madame Sarah Bernhardt here wore the "livery of misery" with as much facility as, on twenty other occasions, she has adopted the mantle of queen or empress. But M. Mirabeau lays too much stress, insists too much, and his impetuosity carries him beyond his mark. He is deficient in moderation and self-possession. It is a pity, for nothing he does is indifferent; and in the 'Mauvais Bergers' notably, there is a continual vibration of generous feeling which does as much honour to his inspiration as his habitual eloquence does to his talents. The 'Vassale' of M. Jules Case endeavours to deal with a problem often attacked, notably by M. Paul Hervieu—the question of marriage; but it is only half realized. Are such questions suitable for the theatre? In France, at least, general opinion says No. Of course, as the dramatist chooses his special case, he can make one party responsible for all the wrong and the recipient of all the indignation of the audience. On the other hand, illustrious examples going back as far as the 'École des Femmes,' down to the author of 'L'Étrangère' and 'La Princesse Georges,' show that the preoccupation of a thesis to be proved detracts nothing from the merit, as mere drama, of a theatrical piece. There will be always enough *vaudevilles* for those who only go to the Palais Royal or the Variétés for distraction and an agreeable opportunity to digest. This year they had M. Sardou's 'Paméla,' an historic *vaudeville* in the style of Scribe or Dumas the elder, with the 'Trois Filles de M. Dupont' of M. Eugène Brieux, and the 'Marriage Bourgeois' of M. Alfred Capus. I fear it may be somewhat unfair to style these last two *vaudevilles* and, everything considered, they are not very far from being what we call real comedies of manners. So much cannot be said for the 'Jalouse' of MM. Leclercq and Bisson, or the 'Transatlantiques' of M. Abel Hermant, or the 'Nouveau Jeu' of M. Henry Lavedan. A foreigner would be sadly misled if he saw in them a picture of French society, or even of the life of Paris. The manners of a few *fêtards* or a few *boulevardiers* are not all Paris, and all Paris is not all France.

A great number of verse dramas have appeared this year: the 'Frédégonde' of M. Dubout, the 'Cyrano de Bergerac' of M. E. Rostand, the 'Don Juan de Manara' of M. Haraucourt, the 'Martyre' of M. Jean Richepin; and why should not I add the 'Ville Mortie' of M. G. d'Annunzio? The 'Ville Morte' is a poem in prose, in which observations of a very subtle psychology, realistic and symbolic by turns, are expressed in a language both romantic and precise. On the contrary, the 'Frédégonde' of M. Dubout and the 'Martyre' of M. Richepin are respectively pseudo-classic tragedy, and drama or melodrama of the false romantic sort, and the more artificial for the bios of realism exhibited by their authors. The first is taken from the 'Récits Mérovingiens' of Augustin Thierry, the second from some nondescript confusion of the essence of Christianity with the profanest element in the passions of love. A similar combination is readily discernible in the 'Don Juan' of M. Haraucourt; the atmosphere is that of an ardent sensuality, also studied in the 'Passé' of M. G. de Porto Riche. The latter piece, which does not come under any of the previous heads, is a psychological—or rather physio-psychological—drama in prose, distinguished by bold and penetrating, but decidedly unpleasant observation. Given at the Odéon, 'Le Passé' is one of the least successful pieces of the year, yet one of the strongest, if not the best constructed, and perhaps, with the 'Repas du Lion,' in quite another kind, the most worthy of notice. The success of the twelve months, 'Cyrano de Bergerac,' is, I have no doubt, known to most of my readers, and Heaven forbid that I should deny its singular merit! It has life, youth, and gaiety, but for a five-act piece in verse it lacks depth and originality somewhat. This is not an essential point, and does not raise any question of art or groundwork. M. Rostand is an admirable artist, and his present play marks a decided advance on his previous efforts. He must, however, mould his verse to a more precious metal of more homogeneity and strength.

May I recommend our poets to do the same? We have many very clever ones, both old and young, and two or three who are more than distinguished. Whence comes it that we find them too clever? Is it not because they lack not exactly originality, but personality? But this is also due to their being trained in the teaching of what we call the "Parnassian" school, as the declared intention of the school has been to react against the abuse of finery on the part of the romantics. In conformity with this principle, 'Les Siècles Morts' of M. le Vte. de Guerne was nothing but a development—often, it is true, magnificent—of the 'Poèmes Antiques' of Leconte de Lisle; but there is more liberty, in some sort, and more ease in his 'Bois Sacré.'

There is still more of the kind in the 'Jeux Rustiques et Divins' of M. Henri de Regnier, one of the masters of the young school, and one of the most indubitable poets and artists of recent years. His poems are distinguished by the sharp outlines with which his precise and coloured visions stand out slowly and insensibly against a background of shade and obscurity, and by the effect of fidelity secured by a poet who reproduces sensations in combination with an artist who finds the means, words, and rhythms to make his images real. If the verses of M. de Regnier are those of an artist—by which I mean a sculptor or painter—M. Samain's poems are those of a musician in his collection entitled 'Au Jardin de l'Infante.' There are many pieces whose insinuating and winning charm is precisely of the sort which defies analysis. I must not omit in this hasty account two other collections—one by M. Francis Vielé-Griffin, 'La Clarté de Vie,' and another by M. Henri Ronger, entitled 'Poèmes Fabuleux.' If rhetoric was not so prominent in the latter, and the former indulged in fewer liberties with prosody, they would serve well to limit the actual term of this evolution of lyrics in the direction of music—an evolution not so long since predicted, or rather prepared, by Paul Verlaine in France, and canonized all over the world by the success of Wagner.

I now turn to the novel. At starting I must regret that I have no room here to speak in detail of the 'Jacquine Vanesse' of M. Victor Cherbuliez, of the 'Boisfleury' of M. André Theuriet, of the last novel of Daudet, 'Soutien de Famille,' of the collection of M. Paul Bourget under the title of 'Complications Sentimentales,' which contains three of his most interesting stories, or the 'Paris' of M. Zola. 'Paris' appears to me much more interesting, better "documented," and more significant than 'Rome' or 'Lourdes.' M. Bourget's work displays his extraordinary powers of analysis to perfection. Daudet's deserves an entire study to itself. As for 'Boisfleury' and 'Jacquine Vanesse,' it is enough to say to English readers that they are worthy of their authors' reputations. For many years M. Theuriet has been the recognized exponent of provincial life and woodland nature; and no one could draw with more wit, malice, and art than M. Cherbuliez portraits more like very various originals, or more "unique" of their kind, and yet more human. I say nothing either of M. de Vogüé (to whom I shall return later) or of Pierre Loti, M. Paul Hervieu, M. René Bazin, or M. Marcel Prévost, who have unfortunately done nothing or almost nothing this year. In the same expression of regret I may include M. d'Annunzio, the Italian poet, who, thanks to his translator, M. Hérelle, may really be called a French novelist.

But five other novels are awaiting notice, which all mark what we call a "date" in the career of their authors. First I place 'Le Mannequin d'Osier' of M. Anatole France, following his 'Orme du Mail.' The notable thing in these two volumes is the talent of their author, which has never been more original—so original as to be disconcerting—and above all the way in which he has succeeded with a minimum of intrigue in producing a most lively and ironical impression of the life of to day. The book exhibits no determined purpose, except that of looking on as a philosophic spectator at the eternal comedy of humanity—no "hero," no "catastrophes," hardly a few events of the ordinary sort, but mere talks and talkers in the streets, under "les ormes du mail," or in the back shop of the bookseller in the little town. A world of prefects, generals, wives, daughters, bishops, priests, engage in commonplace conversation with an air of paradox, or, to put it the other way round, paradoxes in all their mouths assume the appearance of truisms. The wit of the author, without indulgence or compassion, circulates amongst them without their knowing it, spurs them on, and drags from them the avowal of their follies, their small ambitions, the secret of their true character. The whole amounts to a novel of a new sort, the desultory character of which resembles life itself, while its cruel and dissolving irony makes a more realistic work than any of Balzac's or Flaubert's, more amusing and more disquieting. 'La Cathédrale,' by Huysmans, is equally devoid of intrigue and even of characters, but the perusal of it is, on the contrary, infinitely more laborious, and, in fine, less diverting. "Multæ sunt mansiones in domo patris." There are many mansions, and many ways to reach them. M. Huysmans has chosen the way of art, and if ever he is converted to Christianity, it will be the work of Gothic architecture, the plain chant, and Christian symbolism. Nothing could be more natural or more legitimate. The character of a religion is impressed on all its works, and Gothic architecture is no less a revelation of the grandeur of Christianity than the Acropolis and the Parthenon are of the Greek genius. But the ordinary reader, and even the reader who finds himself most in sympathy with the ideas of M. Huysmans, will find too much archæology in 'La Cathédrale,' too much history, too much of the singular and *bizarre*, and too many childish comparisons. There are also too many unseemly, if not profane expressions, calculated to degrade the feelings which the book should inspire. M. Huysmans's manner of writing exaggerates the annoyance of these comparisons. One does not like to see confession, for instance, compared in all seriousness to the cleaning of plates and dishes, and the pricks of the conscience to hiccoughs. The style of the book is very personal, and, so to speak, "invented," never commonplace, always unexpected, picturesque and humorous, but still too deeply rooted in the depths of the old naturalism. 'Les Déracinés,' the novel of M. Maurice Barrès, is of quite another sort, and may be styled political or sociological. This explains the length of the dissertations to be found in it on a number of subjects not usually dealt with by novelists, but M. Barrès has always nursed political ambitions, a fact which explains the assurance with which he remodels French society. The "uprooted ones" are a group of young men who leave Nancy to complete their education and win fame and fortune at Paris. The result of such procedure, the author

desires to show, is not happy. For one success there are ten failures; some aspirants end in poverty, crime, and need, like two of the heroes of 'Les Déracinés,' others in a mediocrity more painful to their pride than poverty itself; and while Paris is warmed. or rather thrown into a fever, by the ardour of these acquisitions from the country, solitude, silence, and a dull calm form the lot of the rest of France. There is some truth doubtless in this, but also much exaggeration. Marseilles or Lyons, Bordeaux or Toulouse, Nancy even, or smaller towns still, are not yet so mummified as the author would have us believe. And what remedy is there? M. Barrès will explain no doubt, as 'Les Déracinés' is only a beginning. Meanwhile, why does he not set the example and move to his favourite Nancy instead of living at Paris? I do not grudge MM. Paul and Victor Margueritte the success of 'Le Désastre.' This is the unforgettable capitulation of Metz in 1870. No more tragic and exact picture could have been painted than that of the two sons of General Margueritte, one of those who found death and glory at Sedan. Those who speak of military actions possess a great advantage if they can boast a soldier's blood in their veins, and this makes the difference—a whole abyss of difference—between 'Le Désastre' and 'La Debâcle.' The brothers have not hidden or disguised anything, but differ from M. Zola in touching a bleeding wound with pious hands, in showing that this awful calamity did not discredit any of the qualities of the race of French soldiers. I like as well, though for different reasons, the last novel of M. E. Rod, 'Le Ménage du Pasteur Naudié,' and I readily recognize in it his masterpiece. One cannot serve two masters at once, and the heart of man is not sufficiently large to hold at the same time all that is most passionate in the love of the creature, and all that is most noble, but necessarily impersonal, in the love of God. Such is the theme of M. Rod's book, developed with a freedom and simplicity of means, a sure tact, and a nobility which I can only characterize as admirable. M. Rod has also made an excellent choice of environment for his story in the old and melancholy city of La Rochelle; and Protestant as he is, I need scarcely say that his book reveals no intention of satire, still less of proselytism.

Other novels worth notice are 'Temple d'Amour,' by M. Rémy Saint-Maurice; 'Golo' by M. Pol Neveux; 'Devant le Bonheur,' by M. Jean Thorel; La Confession d'un Enfant du Siège,' by M. M. Corday; and the 'Saint Cendre' of M. Maindron. This last author, I warn the reader, is not for bread-and-butter misses. To write a history of the sixteenth century and to get thoroughly at home, M. Maindron has re-read Brantôme, one can see, and not forgotten him sufficiently. But in spite of the undue license of some scenes, one cannot help praising the erudition, the sense of the picturesque, and the local colour in this reconstruction of an epoch; it would be equal to 'La Chronique de Charles IX,' by Prosper Mérimée, if Mérimée had not had the luck to come first, and had not shown a sobriety the later man lacks.

Some dozen new letters of Mérimée have been lately published. I will not repeat Bouchot's comment on Voltaire, and say that letters of Mérimée will be rediscovered "till the Judgment Day"; but I know that there are still some unpublished, and hope that they may appear and make his correspondence complete. *La Revue de Paris* has gone on publishing the letters of Balzac. We have seen two new volumes of the correspondence of Lamennais under the title 'Lettres Inédites de Lamennais à Montalembert' and 'Un Lamennais Inconnu,' containing his letters to Benoit d'Azy. Other letters, addressed to Emmanuel d'Alzon, have been published in the *Revue Bleue*, but not yet collected into a volume. People have been busy with Lamennais for some time, and have every reason to be so if his influence is responsible for what is variously called "Christianisme Social" and "Socialisme Chrétien" in proportion as the Christianity or Socialism is predominant. The second volume of Victor Hugo's correspondence is less interesting. Not so the 'Correspondence de Renan avec M. Berthelot,' which contains many fine passages. I may also note here that Madame Darmesteter's 'Life of Renan,' which throws much light on the personality of the master, has lately appeared in a French translation.

One is sometimes inclined to protest against posthumous indiscretions, and to defend authors against themselves, if their letters compromise them; but documents of the sort afford such precise information that one ends by excusing and even thanking the indiscreet. Look at Madame A. Barine's book 'Névrosés,' and admire in this study of literary pathology the part played by the letters of Gérard de Nerval, and the indiscretion of Edgar Poe's biographers. There is much else in the book on the effects of wine, alchohol, opium—and pure "folie" in Gérard de Nerval's case—on eccentric men of genius. English readers will best be able to judge if the author has spoken rightly of De Quincey and Poe. They ought also to pronounce on the merits of 'Ruskin et la Religion de la Beauté,' by M. Robert de la Sizeranne. We can only say that in France no one has spoken of art and æsthetics with greater charm and eloquence for some years. A thesis so recently supported as the 1st of June at the Sorbonne, 'Walter Scott et son Influence sur le Mouvement Romantique,' by M. L. Maigron, I do not know myself, but it has been recommended to me as capital by such good judges as M. Emile Faguet and M. Alexandre Beljame, who translated 'Macbeth' so well. I have, on the contrary, personal knowledge of the 'Écrivains Étrangers' of M. T. de Wyzewa; the 'Henri Heine' of M. J. Legras; the 'Ferdinand Lassalle' of M. Ernest Seillière; the 'Richard Wagner, Poète et Penseur,' of M. Henri Lichtenberger, and his monograph on 'La Philosophie de Nietzsche'; a big, learned book by M. Ch. Andeler on 'Les Origines du Socialisme d'État en Allemagne'; the book of M. Jean Dornis, who is, I believe, a lady, on 'La Poésie Italienne Contemporaine'; and the book by Madame Th. Bentzon, 'Choses et Gens d'Amérique.' Her profound knowledge of English and her talent for observation have enabled her to see further into her subject than anybody else has done. To the collection of "Grands Écrivains Français" have been added two new volumes—'Marivaux,' by M. Gaston Deschamps, and 'Racine,' by M. Gustave Larroumet M. Charles Livet, before he died, had time to see the appearance of the third and last volume of his 'Lexique Comparé de la Langue de Molière.' This is a great help to the vexed question of Molière's style. From La Bruyère, who reproached Molière with not having known how to avoid "le jargon et le barbarisme," down to Edmond Scherer, nearly all the purists have quarrelled more or less bitterly with some parts of his style. It is somewhat surprising that no aspirant has chosen this as a thesis for his doctorate; the present book would supply the necessary material. M. Louis Bertrand in his work on 'La Fin du Classicisme dans les Dernières Années du XVIII^e Siècle,' and M. Henri Potez in his book on 'L'Élégie en France depuis Parny jusqu'à Lamartine,' both agree that André Chénier is the last of the classics—an opinion in which I entirely concur. He is as classic as Ronsard, and more classic even than Boileau. This idea I have developed in a 'Manuel de l'Histoire de la Littérature Française,' which I published last November. M. Joseph Vianey's monograph on 'Mathurin Regnier,' M. des Granges's on 'Geffroy et la Critique Dramatique sous le Consulat et l'Empire,' and M. Paul Stapfer's somewhat curiously entitled 'Bossuet—Adolphe Monod,' have all been crowned by the French Academy. M. Zyromski in a book on 'Lamartine, Poète Lyrique,' and M. Strowski in another on 'Saint François de Sales,' have also made interesting contributions to the history of French literature. M. Émile Faguet has published 'Drame Ancien, Drame Moderne,' which is full of piquant comparisons of the Greek, French, and English theatres; and M. René Doumic, before leaving for America to discourse on romanticism to the students of Harvard, a new series of his 'Études sur l'Histoire de la Littérature Française.'

Two volumes may well form the transition to history: 'Voltaire avant et pendant la Guerre de Sept Ans,' by the Duc de Broglie, and the 'Historie et Poésie' of the Vicomte E. M. de Vogüée. In the latter a natural nobility of thought and a talent for writing equal to that of Chateaubriand are notable, but M. de Vogüée differs from the great romanticist in being familiar with all the latest discoveries of the day in science. The volume of the Duc de Broglie is a study of Voltaire's relations with Louis XV, and Frederick the Great. It would be a mistake to say that the work increases our respect or admiration for Voltaire, unless, indeed, he wins some applause for the beauty of his impudence. It is, at any rate, amusing. In the two volumes which M. Lecestre has published under the title of "Lettres Inédites de Napoléon I^er," many people have seen a new side of Napoleon. They are composed of certain letters which the editors of the 'Correspondence' thought it necessary to keep back, as they did not do much credit to his character. They thus create a one-sided and exaggerated impression, and exhibit a very unfair amount of egotism, violence, passion, and despotism. They will be read, however, by those who wish to form a true idea of Napoleon, together with the two volumes of M. Frédéric Masson on 'Napoléon et sa Famille,' and the two of M. Arthur Chuquet on 'La Jeunesse de Napoléon,' the first of which is entitled "Brienne" and the second 'La Revolution.' Both authors are well known, and both works are full of unedited documents. Sallust says, "Arduum res gestas scribere," and the difficulty of knowing all the necessary facts is suggested by the amount of things we did not know revealed quite lately in the 'Lettres adressées d'Algérie au Général de Castellane,' published by one of his daughters, Madame la Comtesse de Beaulaincourt.

Under history and biography I must also notice the volume of M. de Heidenstamm, a Swede who writes most agreeable French, on the subject of 'Ulrique Éleonore, Reine de Suède,' sister of Frederick the Great and mother of Gustavus III. We only know her through Voltaire's correspondence and a madrigal, a masterpiece of the sort, which he addressed to her. We did not know much either of that Marie, who became Queen of Poland, and the wife of the Great Sobieski, whose history M. Waliszewski has told in his 'Marysienka.' We were better acquainted with the lively lady who figures in M. le Comte d'Haussonville's recent book 'L'Alliance Savoyarde et la Duchesse de Bourgogne,' in which biographical history may be said to pass into diplomatic or general history. Here may be classed the somewhat heavy volume of M. Alfred Baragnon on 'La Maison de Savoie et la Triple Alliance au XVII^e Siècle,' and 'L'Alliance Autrichienne,' at the period of the opening of the seven years' war, by the Duc de Broglie. This fine volume terminates that diplomatic, political, and military history of the war of the Austrian succession which has taken years to write, and which cannot be too highly praised. It is a model of the art of the historian in clearness of composition and unequalled ease of style.

I must not terminate this rapid and summary survey without referring to the book of M. Reuss on 'L'Alsace au XVII^e Siècle,' and the first two volumes of the 'Histoire de Bretagne' of Comte A. de la Borderie. M. Albert Sorel, M. le Comte Vandal, M. Henry Houssaye, and M. G. Hanotaux have published nothing in the way of history this year, or only fragments of volumes to be published in the near future. Their efforts are awaited with impatience. Finally, in this place, though they are more philosophic than historical, must be mentioned four large volumes by M. Renouvier, 'Philosophie Analytique de l'Histoire.' Why, indeed, do we write history if not to philosophize? We go to history in order to know ourselves bet[illegible], and by means of this increasingly accurate, extended, and various knowledge we flatter

ourselves that we can gather some information about our destiny. This is the object of the philosophy of history, which has sometimes been met with an affectation of disdain; yet we return to it as the very end and aim of history, its *raison d'être*, and the justification of the interest we should not otherwise take in the queen Ulrique Éléonore or Marysienka. I may say also that history is the gate by which ideas enter into literature. And, as I indicated at the beginning of this article, it is not sufficient for a book to be full of ideas to be qualified as "literature": it must have some qualities of form and style which raise it above its fellows. But it is not enough for its form to be original or exquisite: it must contain ideas, too! Nothing is more generally admitted—in theory, at least, and discussion—and nothing is more forgotten by historians of literature, or less put into practice, than this two-sided truism.

F. BRUNETIÈRE.

RUSSIA.

Contemporary Russian literature—like, indeed, nearly all contemporary European literatures—is in a condition of decay and stagnation. Having produced some great names which have gained a world-wide celebrity, Russian genius has for a time as it were exhausted itself. The heroic period of artistic production is ended, and the literary activity of contemporary Russia produces on the observer the same impression as is produced by dull, every-day life after a brilliant and noisy festival. It is certainly impossible to deny that special talent does exist in Russia even now, and that it is interesting from various points of view; but such talent as does exist is not vigorous enough to make an impression when isolated, nor when united to create an actual literary school. The productions of men of ability are lost in the mass of mediocre efforts of persons without literary gifts. Here it must be remarked that in this respect criticism plays an undesirable part and exercises a pernicious influence on literary development in the country. From 1860 to our own day it has been unceasingly guided by principles in reality completely foreign to literature. In the estimation of this or that writer there is generally taken into consideration not the æsthetic value of his productions, but their relation to social questions. If a man is occupied exclusively with questions of art and is apathetic to social questions he is never pardoned, and, owing to this strange point of view, many ephemeral scribes have been raised to the first rank, while, on the other hand, considerable writers—as, for instance, the pantheistic poets Tiutchev and Fet—till their last days were the subjects of bitter attacks or were passed over in silence. Out of the number of books which have appeared during the past twelve months only two or three are worthy of attention, to wit, the 'Tales' ('Razskasi') of Anton Chekhov; 'The Mirrors' ('Zerkala'), a collection of stories and poems by Zenaida Gippius; 'Shadows' ('Tieni'), a collection of tales and poems by Th. Sologub; and the second volume of the poems of M. Lokhvitskaya.

In the collection by A. Chekhov are included two tales: 'The Peasants' ('Muzhiki') and 'My Life' ('Moya Zhizm'). The first of these made considerable stir, and has reached the distinction of a translation into French, unfortunately a very inaccurate one. It paints in dark colours a contemporary Russian village, with all its unsightliness and coarseness. The other, which touches village life only indirectly, delineates in a skilful manner Russian provincial life, constrained, gloomy, and merciless to gentle natures which are incapable of showing a strong will. Chekhov has already written a whole series of important works, in which Russian life in all classes, from the highly educated to the convicts of Sakhalin, is depicted. He possesses an attractive and altogether original gift. He has unusual powers of observation, and vigorously seizes the situation before him and the psychological details; without visibly aiming at effects, he succeeds in producing a deep impression on the reader by the straightforward and clear presentment of actuality, with all its heartlessness, cruelty, and tragic colour. In the tales of the young poetess Zenaida Gippius there prevails quite a different tone. We see in them a great effort at elegance and orginality; but the results are not altogether successful. The first work she wrote, which appeared two years ago, was 'New People' ('Novie Liudi'), a collection of symbolical stories and poems which were of great promise. Her creations were fresh; there was originality in the subjects she chose, and that sincerity of intonation which is always heard in the voice of a man who has just understood a truth which is agitating him. If in this book there were many imperfect and crude performances, the reader might ascribe these deficiencies to the youth of the author, and might hope that in subsequent productions she would rid herself of her feeble characteristics, and develope as completely as possible the really valuable element in her work. She would thus achieve a high literary position. Her second book, 'The Mirrors,' has disappointed these expectations. Those stories in which she wishes to appear as a poetical symbolist are, in reality, much weaker. Symbolical poetry—as the best lovers of symbolism have understood it, men like Calderon, Blake, Shelley, and Edgar Poe—is the most delicate of all styles. Understood in this way, it recalls to our minds the truly beautiful lines in 'Epipsychidion':

> In her mild lights the starry spirits dance,
> The sunbeams of those wells which ever leap
> Under the lightnings of the soul—too deep
> For the brief fathom line of thought or sense.

But to be able to create such delicate, rich beauty it is necessary to have "the deep and labyrinthine soul," and Madame Z. Gippius, like all the young Russian poets who wish to be symbolists, has not the requisite spiritual depth nor the requisite training. By far the best are those tales in which she gives herself up to the immediate impulses of her heart, and describes in a natural manner the lives of simple, insignificant people, as, for example, the governess overpowered by circumstances and persecuted in 'The Witch' ('Viedma'), or the old porter thinking, in the midst of the stifling city, of the pinewood and the freshness of the lake of his birth-place (the story 'Home,' 'Rodina'). Among the highest merits of Madame Gippius may be reckoned her power of individualization of style, her skill in making each hero speak in his own language. Of the poems contained in the collection 'New People' (mentioned above), some are really fine, as, for instance, the beautiful poem 'Love only' ('Liubov odna') ending with the words:—

> Love takes our very life as guerdon,
> The true soul knows its goal is won;
> One love is given to soothe life's burden;
> Yea, love is one—as death is one.

Th. Sologub possesses gifts akin to the talent of Madame Gippius. In his volume entitled 'Shadows' ('Tieni') are contained three excellent stories of child life: 'The Worm' ('Cherviak'), 'Shadows' ('Tieni'), and 'To the Stars' ('K' 'Zviezdam'). Here the poet depicts the spiritual development of a child's soul. The language employed is somewhat thin, but on the other hand there are no false airs, and in the soul of the poet there is an inner chord which wins over the reader to him. Among the poems collected in the volume which bears the title 'Shadows,' our attention is most drawn to the short light sketches full of elegance and music; sometimes they recall the little sketches of some artistic Impressionist and leave in the reader the sense of something delicate and aërial, which, as it were, accidently brings to us a harmony from some broken, unfinished, but musical piece.

But if any contemporary Russian poet can boast of really melodious verse and conspicuous musical feeling, it must be Myrrha Lokhvitskaya, who has written quite a series of beautiful poems. Madame Lokhvitskaya is young, yet she has already published two volumes of pretty verse, which have attracted public attention, and have earned her a reputation for lyrical talent. Her verses are always harmonious and devoted almost exclusively to the two eternal subjects, love and death. In them we feel the inexhaustible efflorescence of youth, the splendid luxury of a spring morning with its abundance of sound, colour, and fragance. The reader seems to be wandering in an umbrageous park, where the trees are laden with fragrant blossoms; and even if some of the trees lack blossoms, they are shapely and graceful in their melancholy, like cypresses. If Madame Gippius has a Northern soul, in that of Madame Lokhvitskaya the Eastern element is predominant. If in the garden of the former there are growing half-withered and half-closed lilies, in the garden of the latter are young roses and poppies, only just bursting forth, but already disclosed. Especially good are those poems of Madame Lokhvitskaya in which she uses as a canvas for her creations Eastern fancies and legends—'The Queen of Sheba' ('Tsaritsa Savskaya') in the first volume of her poems, and 'The Broken Wine-jar' ('Razbitaya Amphora') in the second—or those in which, with delicate feeling and true artistic perception, she describes Russian nature: 'In the Rye' ('Vorzhi'), 'So Low over the Ripening Cornfield' ('Tak nizko nad zreioustchei nivoi'), and 'Among the Field-Flowers' ('V' 'polevikh tsvietakh,' volume II). The little love poems also are beautiful where the outbursts of a woman's passionate heart are expressed in nervous, rhythmic strophes as bold as the fragments of Sappho.

While speaking of books which have appeared during the past year, I cannot pass over in silence the interesting novel of a young writer, L. Gurevitch, 'The Table-Land' ('Ploskogorie'), which first appeared in one of the best Russian literary journals, the *Northern Messenger* (*Scvierni Viestnik*), which she edits. In this organ also was published the interesting tale by a new writer, M. Gorski, entitled 'Malva.' The author came from the midst of the people, and has been able to make himself acquainted with the characters and types of the working-men. H. Zlatovratski is a *littérateur* sprung also from the people, who has gained a considerable reputation by his numerous tables and sketches from national life, and is known not only to cultured readers, but to many educated men of the working class. He has issued his works in a third edition in three volumes (Moscow, 1897). The able, although but little-known poet S. Andreevski has published a second edition of his poems, full of a melancholy tenderness which is purely Russian ('Poems of the Years 1878–87,' St. Petersburg, 1898). Among metrical translations which appeared in this volume are those of some of the poems of Edgar Poe, who can boast in Russia many more admirers and friends that he can claim in America. Generally speaking, foreign poets—especially English, German, and Scandinavian—enjoy much popularity in contemporary Russia. During the past year in St. Petersburg there appeared a collection of the works of Henrik Ibsen in a Russian translation. The works of Byron, Shelley, Tennyson, and Burns have been translated afresh, and again find readers. It is by familiarizing itself with the great models of European poetry, and the careful study of them, that Russian literature will escape its contemporary barrenness, and take to itself original forms. The Russian reading public is well aware of this fact, and thus meets with sympathy every attempt to bring treasures into the domain of Russian literature which have been created by the elder sisters of the Russian muse, who is still young and inexperienced.

During the last year Russian literature has been enriched by the publication of the works of two conspicuous Russian *savants* now dead. I mean those of the Moscow professor I. S. Tikhonravov, published in Moscow by M. and S. Sabashnikov, and the works, published in St. Petersburg, of K. D. Kavelin, who busied himself a great deal with the settlement of the serf question. Tikhonravov, together with the lately deceased Th. Buslaev, appears as one of the most profoundly learned men in Russian antiquities, popular traditions, legends, and the evolution of Russian thought and language. Kavelin, author of the work 'The Serf Question,' and various monographs on Russian history, did much for the spread of liberal ideas, and was one of the first to throw light on the true character of the reforms of Peter the Great.

The well-known critic S. Vengerov continues his important work, 'A Critico-Biographical Dictionary of Russian Writers and Scholars' ('Kritiko-biographicheski Slover Russkikh Pisatelei i Uchenikh'), which promises to be of gigantic dimensions. Five volumes, which furnish only the beginning of the encyclopædic work undertaken by Vengerov, contain rich materials, but make us fear that the esteemed critic will never be able to bring his work to completion unless a life like that of the partriarchs in the Bible is allotted him. The same author has undertaken simultaneously an important new work, entitled 'Russian Poetry' ('Russkaya Poezia'). Here he has collected the productions of the Russian poets partly in a complete form and partly in extracts, to which are added highly important critico-biographical notes and portraits. In the first volume of this work Vengerov has printed already specimens of a hundred and sixteen poets of the eighteenth century. Unfortunately, the quality of Russian poetry of the eighteenth century is in inverse proportion to its quantity.

Among other historical works I may mention that of E. Karnovich, 'Russian Officials in Past and Present Times' ('Russkie Chinovniki v' Biloye i Nastoyastchee Vremya,' St. Petersburg, 1897), an incomplete but interesting study of the history of Russian administration, brought down to the very latest times; the book by Venevitinov, 'The Russians in Holland: the Great Embassy, 1697—8' ('Russkie v' Gollandii: Velikoe Posolstvo'), a study of the time of Peter the Great, compiled from Russian and Dutch sources; the book of Prof. V. Aleksandrenko, 'Russian Diplomatic Agents in London in the Eighteenth Centuary' ('Russkie Diplomaticheskie Agente v' Londonie v' XVIII. Viekie," Warsaw, 1897); and the essays of the well-known critic A. Volinski on the history of the Italian Renaissance (Leonardo da Vinci), which he has published in the *Northern Messenger* during the past and present year, and which form a large work compiled from original authorities.

CONSTANTINE BALMONT.

No. 1047, Financial.

Transferred to the Educational Department.

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

19*th April* 1899.

No. 234, Educational.

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

By Order.

(Signed) A. EDGINGTON,
Ag. Asst. Secretary.

5*th May* 1899.

From the Honourable Mr. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.SC., LL. D., Director of Public Instruction, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Ootacamund, 20th May 1899, No. 5657.

In returning endorsement No. 234, dated 5th May 1899, I have the honour to state that it is quite true, as remarked in letter No. 465 of the Government of India, that the annual reports "do not serve the purposes of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature as literature, nor of Government which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country and of all advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors".

2. To do what the Government of India has in view would require a man not only endowed with wide general information, literary tastes, and critical training, but also possessing considerable leisure, so that he could not merely read the productions of the year but enter into the spirit of them. Even if he possessed the intellectual

qualifications which the Government of India contemplates, it would be quite impossible, as things are at present, for the Director of Public Instruction to undertake this additional duty. His office work leaves him hardly any time to read, much less to read critically, anything not bearing on the work of his office. The multiplicity of languages in the Southern Presidency would also be a difficulty in the way of the Director of Public Instruction or any one man doing the work satisfactorily; for he would have to depend on summaries written by such of his subordinates as are acquainted with the languages in which the books are written. And such summaries would be apt to partake largely of the useles character of the descriptions now given in the annual reports.

3. The difficulty arising from the multiplicity of languages is one which is felt by the Registrar of Books, who at present writes the annual reports under reference. For a knowledge of the contents of books written in languages other than Tamil, Telugu and English he has to depend on the summaries prepared by others. This is a difficulty which will have to be met under any arrangement that may be made.

4. I do not know whether the Government of India contemplates attaching the Registrarship of Books to the Director's office. When Act XXV of 1867 was brought into force, Mr. Powell, who was then Director of Public Instruction, was appointed the first Registrar of Books. But at his own request he was soon relieved of the duty and M.R.Ry. Krishnamachariyar, the present Registrar, was appointed.

5. While I admit that, from the nature of his work, the Director of Public Instruction would seem to be the officer best qualified for the work the Government of India has in view, I have to add that unless his establishment were strengthened so as to relieve him of a large amount of the routine work of his office which now devolves on him, it would be impossible for him to undertake the work.

Order—Mis No. 427, Educational, dated 4th July 1899.

The Government of India will be addressed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. J. WEIR,
Ag. Secretary to Govt.

Letter—to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, No. 428, dated 4th July 1899.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Hill's letter No. 465, dated 31st March last, observing that the reports on books and publications registered under Act XXV of 1867, which are now annually submitted by local Governments and administrations are capable of considerable improvement and suggesting that, in order to remedy the defects pointed out, they should in future be drawn up by a responsible European officer and that the Director of Public Instruction would seem to be the officer best qualified for the work.

2. In reply I am to state that this Government agrees with the Government of India that the reports, as at present written, do not serve the purposes of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature, nor of Government which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country and of all advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors, and that if it were practicable it would be advisable that they should in future be drawn up by a European officer. This Government however does not consider that the Director of Public Instruction is the most suitable officer in this Presidency to undertake the work. As the Director of Public Instruction has pointed out, to do what the Government of India has in view would require a man not only endowed with wide general information, literary tastes and critical training, but also possessing considerable leisure, of which the Director of Public Instruction in Madras has little or none. For this reason alone

His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that it is impossible to entrust the preparation of the annual report to the Director of Public Instruction in this Presidency.

3. I am further to state that the amount of the present allotment, viz., Rs. 150 a month, made to the Registrar of Books, who draws up the annual reports, precludes any important steps being taken to improve the report in the direction suggested, but that if it is thought desirable by the Government of India this Government is ready to make the experiment of granting an honorarium for the preparation of the review to a selected officer, who would be placed on special duty for the purpose.

4. I am finally to observe that the vernacular literature of this Presidency differs widely from the continental literature reviewed in the *Athenæum* being, by comparison uninteresting and wanting in originality, and that the multiplicity of languages, no less than fourteen in number in which it is written, causes the officer who prepares the report to be dependent on men who are mere clerks, capable of translating and nothing more, and would render the task of reviewing in this Presidency especially difficult—if not beyond the efforts of one officer—to accomplish in the way that is desired.

Read—also the following papers:—

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Books), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational Department, dated Simla, the 4th May 1900, No. 665.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 428, dated the 4th July 1899, regarding the preparation of the annual reports on books and publications registered under Act XXV of 1867, and of your endorsement No. 115, dated the 10th March 1900, forwarding the review and analysis of such works for the year 1899.

2. The Government of Madras agree with the view of the Government of India expressed in Home Department letter No. 465, dated the 31st March 1899, to the effect that the reports as at present written do not serve the purposes of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature, or of Government which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country and of all advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors, and that, if it is practicable, it is advisable that the reports should in future be drawn up by a European officer. The Governor in Council is, however, of opinion that it is impossible, as suggested by the Government of India, to entrust the work to the Director of Public Instruction since he has little or no leisure for it.

3. I am to enclose, for the information of His Excellency in Council, a copy of the correspondence marginally noted with the Government of Bombay on this subject. In that Presidency the quarterly catalogue of books and publications will continue to be prepared by the existing staff subordinate to the Oriental Translator, but it will be supplemented by a review drawn up by the Director of Public Instruction in the manner suggested by Mr. Giles in his letter, dated the 31st May 1899. The Director will also bring to the notice of the Local Government any inaccuracy which he may discover in the descriptions contained in the "Remarks" column of the catalogue.

1. Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 117-M., dated the 23rd October 1899, and enclosure.
2. Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 815, dated the 7th February 1900, and enclosure.
3. Letter to the Government of Bombay, No. 484, dated the 9th March 1900.

4. I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Governor in Council, that a similar arrangement should be followed in the Madras Presidency. I am to add that the other Local Governments have adopted the suggestions which were made by the Government of India in the letter of the 31st March 1899.

Enclosures.

From J. DeC. ATKINS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, No. 117 M., dated Bombay Castle, the 23rd October 1899.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Home Department letter No. 466, dated the 31st March last, in which it is suggested that, as the review of Native publication in this Presidency, as at present prepared, is defective in several respects, it should be entrusted to a responsible European officer and that from the nature of his work the officer best qualified for the purpose will be the Director of Public Instruction.

2. In reply I am to state that the Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, was consulted on the subject, and a copy of his report, No. 1365, dated the 31st May 1899, in which this Government generally concurs, is herewith enclosed.

3. I am to observe that the quarterly catalogue of books and publications will continue to be made in the existing way and by the existing staff, which will be subordinate to the Oriental Translator, the catalogue being supplemented by the review as ordered by the Government of India. The review will be undertaken by the Director of Public Instruction and will be compiled by him in the manner suggested in his letter, dated the 31st May last. A sum of Rs. 750 will be placed at his disposal to be distributed by him at his discretion among reviewers, and, if the amount is found to be insufficient, the question of increasing it will be considered hereafter. The Oriental Translator has been instructed to send to the Director of Public Instruction any books which may seem to him to merit review. The proofs of the catalogue of books and publications will also be sent to the Director of Public Instruction when ready with remarks as at present, and that officer will revise the remarks, add to them the series of reviews, and send the catalogue and review to the Government Central Press for publication in the *Bombay Government Gazette*.

4. I am to express a hope that the above arrangements will meet the wishes of the Government of India.

From E. GILES, Esq., Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Educational Department, dated Poona, the $\frac{31st\ May}{2nd\ June}$ 1899, No. 1365.

In returning herewith the papers forwarded with your No. 1794 of April 27th, 1899, I have the honour to state that a perusal of the annual report on native publications for the years 1896 and 1897 leads me to think that some change in procedure is expedient as pointed out by the Government of India, and that the deficiencies indicated in Mr. Hill's letter are such as tend to vitiate the utility of the report as a record of literary progress or as a true exposition of the sentiments which the publications under review contain.

2. As an illustration of my meaning, I will notice certain *quasi*-historical works, reviewed in the report for 1897, which are characterised by an attempt to unduly depreciate the British and their rule and to praise extravagantly the Native, but specially the Mahratta character.

Four books may be noticed—

(1) 'The Life of the Queen of Jhansi,' a translation into Gujarati from a Marathi original published about 1895.

(2) The Life of Sir Dinkar Rao.

(3) A translation of Pandita Ramabai's Mahratta work entitled 'The Condition of the People of the United States.'

(4) Mr. C. G. Bhanu's 'Tales from Mahratta History.'

It so happens that these four books have come before me lately, having been submitted by the authors for departmental patronage.* In every case my book committee reported that they were disfigured by the tendency which I have noticed above, and in every case I refused to extend to the book any departmental recognition.† Without going into lengthly explanation, I may state that the books convey the following several impressions:—

* As prize and library books or text-books.

† I have recently struck Pandita Ramabai's Mahratta book off the Curator's list of sanctioned books.

(1) That the Rani of Jhansi was a noble and high souled woman fighting against tyrants.

(2) That Sir Dinkar Rao was, more or less, a traitor to his country. ‡

‡ Note the expression "after all" in Mr. Joshi's review, page 6.

(3) That the treatment § of the Indians by the English is on a par with that of the Red Indians by the Americans.

§ This idea is conveyed in footnotes which disfigure the book.

(4) That the English were cowardly and feeble men whose generals shed * tears as they grovelled at the feet of their Mahratta conquerors, and that it was only the accident of a divided Maharashtra which enabled them to conquer the country.

* This is one of the "anecdotes not found in ordinary books"!

3. It appears to me to be beyond disputation that the duty of a reviewer of the publications of a year is not performed unless he is able to convey in his review a general idea of the tone and sentiments of works which can be classified together. My impression of the four books mentioned is that they have the main characteristic described in the commencement of paragraph 2, but I do not gather that impression from the annual report, but from the accident that the books have passed under my departmental review.

4. But while I admit in the annual review the failure to generalise, I must admit also the exceedingly difficult task which is set before the reviewer. In a year of decreased publications that officer has to deal, in the space of a few pages, with 1,036 works written in 13 different languages. The French reviewer for the "Athenæum" is a literary expert, dealing with the literature of his native country, and unfettered by other than literary obligations. He has a free hand to reject or to accept, to praise or to condemn, subject only to the consideration of the literary value of his article, and the estimation in which that article will be held by cultivated readers.

5. The position of a reviewer of the publications of this Presidency is essentially different; in that he must of necessity deal with a very large number of works which he is unable to peruse, and with respect to which he is dependent upon the reports of others, who have, presumably, neither due literary experience nor cultivation, and who must frequently possess but a slender knowledge of the language in which the work under review is written.

6. Thus, if the present reviewer is replaced by the Director of Public Instruction, and assuming that that officer has sufficient literary capacity, it can hardly be expected that the review of annual publications can be as complete and thorough as is desirable, unless, indeed, the Director has a large subordinate staff placed at his disposal, and the present expenditure is increased.

The cost of the office at present is, I believe, as under—

	Rs.
Reporter, Rs. 350—50—400	= 4,800
Six clerks—1 (Rs. 100), 1 (Rs. 75), 1 (Rs. 35), 2 (Rs. 30), 1 (Rs. 20)	= 3,480
One servant	120
Subscriptions to newspapers	= 745
Miscellaneous	75
Total ..	9,220

From this list the three last clerks may be eliminated as being mere writers. There remain three persons who presumably are more or less competent to pronounce judgment on publications, but of these three, two are probably not men of much literary experience.

The present reporter is a Mahratta Brahman who took his degree in 1875 with Sanskrit as his second language. I do not know the qualifications of his first two clerks, but it is probable that the literary capacity of the combined office is not very considerable or diffused.

7. To deal thoroughly with publications, that is, to obtain a clear conception of the actual contents and spirit of each work which deserves notice, it would, in my opinion, be necessary that it should be carefully read and "gutted"† by an expert in the language in which it was written. My experience has shown me that the general tone of a book may be harmless or even praiseworthy, while there are passages in it which are inserted apparently for the set purpose of removing any favourable impression, and which suggest that the writer honoured with his lips what his heart did not approve. Other books again are disfigured by allusions ‡ and expressions which are, from a cultivated point of view, not only unsuitable, but grossly superstitious or indecent. But unless the examination of the publication is thorough, such passages will escape notice, while, unless the examining officer is capable, they may be disregarded as of little importance, or in accordance with the customs of the country.

† A favourite expression of Professor Sidney Owen, Ch. Ch. Oxford.

‡ *E.g.*, a perfectly harmless account of the travels of the late Maharaja of Bhownagar in India was disfigured by an utterly obscene and unnecessary story.

8. It is obvious that the Director of Public Instruction, whose time is already fully occupied, cannot, if the work of compiling the annual review is entrusted to him, be expected to take any personal share in the examination of publications. The utmost that he can do is to utilise the materials provided for him, and his review will be effective and thorough only if he is supplied with accurate and full details.

9. The present staff of the reporter's office cannot, presumably, do all that is required, even if, as seems essential, the reporter himself is an expert linguist, well acquainted with the principal vernaculars of the Presidency.* But a man with these qualifications could, during the preparation of his quarterly catalogues, mark those publications which appeared to be worthy of especial examination, and could draw the attention of the Director to their importance. The Director could then decide whether the reporter's description of a publication was sufficient, or whether it was expedient to call for a special report on it. In the latter case the suggestion of the Government of India that the Director of Public Instruction could avail himself of the services of his subordinates might be utilised, and the Director could place the publication before an officer selected to review it on account of his special qualifications for the purpose.

* Khan Bahadur S. S. Kadri, B.A., Deputy Collector, Surat, is a man who knows Gujarati, Maratti, Persian and Arabic, and Hindustani is his vernacular.

10. By this procedure I think that a fairly complete supervision over the publications of the year might be secured, and it is possible that very small additional expenditure would be entailed. I should, however, be disposed to recommend strongly a moderate scale of remuneration to those officers of the Educational Department who were called on to review books specially. The labourer is worthy of his hire, and I am confident that work would be better and more thoroughly done if a fitting remuneration was paid for it. Perhaps it would be necessary to add a sum of Rs. 500 to the present expenditure for "Payments to Reviewers," and it is also probable that the increased work thrown on the Director of Public Instruction's office would necessitate the appointment of a special clerk.† But I do not think that the total expenditure would rise beyond Rs. 10,000 as compared with Rs. 9,220 at present.

† Mr. Chatfield asked for two additional clerks four years ago, and work increases annually.

11. This estimate will be verified by experience, and in the meantime there is nothing, so far as I can see, to prevent the transfer of the preparation of the annual review to the Director of Public Instruction. But that officer's review will be valuable to Government only if he is supplied with full and carefully prepared data for its compilation.

From J. De C. ATKINS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Bombay Castle, the 7th February 1900, No. 815.

In continuation of my letter No. 117-M., dated the 23rd October last, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of Government resolution No. 814 of this day's date, modifying the orders regarding the preparation of the quarterly catalogues of books and the annual review and analysis of native publications in the Bombay Presidency.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay, General Department, No. 814, dated Bombay Castle, the 7th February 1900.

Read—

Letter from the Director of Public Instruction, No. 5856, dated the 9th December 1899 :—

"With reference to paragraph 2 of Government Resolution No. 4753-A. of October 23rd, 1899, I have the honour to state that the instructions in that paragraph are that the proofs of the catalogue of books, &c., should be sent to the Director of Public Instruction, with remarks, as at present. 'The Director of Public Instruction should then revise the remarks, add to them the series of reviews, and send the catalogue and review to the Government Central Press.'

"2. I have the honour to ask attention to paragraph 9 of this office No. 1365 of May 31st, 1899, quoted in the preamble to the Government resolution in question. In that paragraph I indicated the method in which, as I thought, the desire of the Government of India for a more complete review of the publications of the year could be fulfilled. What I intended to convey there was that the reporter on the native press (or now the Oriental Translator) should draw my attention to certain books in the quarterly statements as they came out, and that I should, after getting a competent opinion on those books, decide whether the description given of them in the margin of the quarterly statements was sufficient, or whether a special report on the book was necessary. It was not my intention to suggest that I should have any hand in the preparation of the quarterly catalogues, but only in the annual review of the whole publications of the year.

"3. But the orders now issued throw upon me the duty of—

(1) revising the marginal remarks made by the compiler of each quarterly statement;
(2) adding to each quarterly statement a series of reviews;
(3) sending each quarterly statement and series of reviews to the press.

"4. I respectfully point out that these orders cannot be fully complied with and can only partially be complied with at the sacrifice of all punctuality in the issue of each quarterly statement. I submit that the revision of each quarterly statement by me is—

(1) unnecessary, because the Oriental Translator is as capable of revising the marginal remarks as I am;

(2) impossible, because, as I do not see the books * alluded to, I cannot tell whether the remarks are adequate or not.

* I only see the books selected for special review.

"5. The case will be made clearer when I point out that the Oriental Translator has now on December 2nd sent up to me the quarterly statement of books and publications for the quarter ending 30th September. He has likewise forwarded to me 24 books mentioned in the quarterly statement which are, he thinks, worthy of special review. Now, if the issue of this quarterly statement is to be delayed until I have had all these 24 books reviewed, it is obvious that I cannot send the quarterly statement to the Superintendent, Central Press, for a long period, say, two months at least, as I have to add to the quarterly statement the 'series of reviews'. This seems to me to involve a most undesirable delay, and if this procedure is persisted in, the issue of the quarterly statements will fall hopelessly into arrears.

"6. But there is another and an important consideration, which is, whether it is the intention of Government to append to each quarterly statement a '*series of reviews*.' In other words, does Government wish that the special reports which I may receive from selected members of the Educational Department are to be published *in extenso* every quarter? I can conceive circumstances under which it would be neither desirable nor politic to publish such reviews. I apprehend that the purposes of Government will be better served if such reviews remain in my office and are utilized by me in the general review of the publications of the year which is to be prepared by the Director of Public Instruction under the orders of the Government of India.

"7. Finally, I submit that the transmission of each quarterly statement from the Oriental Translator (an officer of far higher position and education than the reporter on the native press) to the Director of Public Instruction for proof correction is a mere waste of time, and I have, I think, shown that quarterly reviews cannot be appended to each quarterly statement. The conclusion I arrive at is that the interests of Government will be best served, if the following procedure is adopted:—

(1) The quarterly statements should issue as usual under the supervision of the Oriental Translator.

(2) That officer should draw the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to any books in each quarterly statement which seem worthy of special enquiry and send a copy of each book to the Director of Public Instruction.

(3) That officer should have them reviewed as soon as possible and keep the reviews in his own office.

(4) The Oriental Translator should, as soon as possible after the close of the year, send up to the Director of Public Instruction the usual statistics and report † which is now submitted to Government.

† The report would be short and mechanical only, as all important books would be reviewed by the Director of Public Instruction.

(5) The Director of Public Instruction should, with the aid of that report, the four quarterly statements and his special reviews, prepare one review for Government of the whole publications of the year.

"8. I request that Government will be so good as to give early attention to this representation, and, in the meanwhile, I have sent the quarterly statement for the quarter ending September 30th to the press for publication to save delay."

Resolution.—As the Director of Public Instruction points out that his reviews of the principal books mentioned in the quarterly catalogue of books and publications cannot be completed before the issue of that catalogue, unless its issue is considerably and unnecessarily delayed, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the proofs of the catalogue need not be forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction for revision with the aid of his reviews as ordered in resolution of the 23rd October 1899. The special reviews prepared under the Director of Public Instruction's supervision will therefore be retained by him for reference at the time of preparing his review for Government of the whole publications of the year. He should bring to the notice of Government any inaccuracy of importance which he may discover in the descriptions contained in the remarks column of the catalogue.

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department, dated Calcutta, the 9th March 1900, No. 484.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 815, dated the 7th February 1900, on the subject of the preparation of the quarterly catalogues of books and publications and the annual review and analysis of native publications in the Bombay Presidency.

2. In your letter No. 117-M., dated 23rd October 1899, it was stated that the Government of Bombay had decided to continue the preparation of the quarterly catalogue of books and publications in the existing way and by the existing staff, which will be subordinate to the Oriental Translator; the catalogue being supplemented by a review drawn up by the Director of Public Instruction in the manner suggested in his letter, dated the 31st May 1899, I am to say that the Government of India approve of this arrangement.

3. The Director in that letter referred to four books: (1) The Life of the Queen of Jhansi, (2) The Life of Sir Dinkar Rao, (3) A translation of Pandita Ramabai's "The condition of the people in the United States", and (4) Tales from Mahratta History, as being "characterised by an attempt to unduly depreciate the British and their rule and to praise extravagantly the native, but especially the Mahratta character"; and he remarked: "The duty of a reviewer of the publications of a year is not performed unless he is able to convey in his review a general idea of the tone and sentiments of works which can be classified together. My impression of the four books mentioned is that they have the main characteristic described . . . . but I do not gather that impression from the annual report but from the accident that the books have passed under my departmental review." From this it appears that Messrs. G. M. Sathe, Registrar, and B. V. Joshi, Acting Registrar, of Native Publications, Bombay (who were responsible for the annual reports in which these books were dealt with), prepared their reviews of the books in question in a perfunctory manner, I am to request that steps may be taken to ensure that this duty is efficiently performed in future.

4. The Governor-General in Council observes that, in his resolution No. 814 of the 7th February 1900, the Governor in Council has requested the Director of Public Instruction to bring to the notice of Government any inaccuracy which he may discover in the descriptions contained in the remarks column of the catalogue. I am to say that the Government of India trust that this order will result in the preparation of a more trustworthy review and analysis of native literature in the future.

Endt. No. 181.

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

(By Order.)

21*st May* 1900. (Signed) R. W. D'E. ASHE,
Ag. Assistant Secretary.

From the Hon'ble Mr. G. H. STUART, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Madras, 6th July 1900, No. 6481.

In returning the papers received with Government endorsement, No. 181, Educational, dated 21st May last, I have the honour to state that I have no objection to an arrangement similar to that detailed in paragraph 7 of the letter of the Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, No. 5856, dated 9th December last. The Registrar of Books will be required, from the beginning of the next quarter, to submit to this office, at the close of every week, such of the books registered during the quarter as he may consider worthy of special inquiry. These books, as they are received, will be forwarded to persons who are competent to review them, the review being used to supplement the remarks of the Registrar in the quarterly catalogues, which will be published under my signature. I am not, however, sure whether, in this case, it will be possible to publish the catalogue and submit copies to Government by the time allowed, viz., two months. The reviews will be filed in this office for use in preparing the annual review.

2. The Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, has proposed that he be held responsible only for the annual review, the preparation and publication of the quarterly catalogues continuing to be the work of the Oriental Translator. The

Government of India resolution, however, requires the Director of Public Instruction to supplement the quarterly catalogue prepared by the Oriental Translator by a short review of his own; but it is not clearly stated by whom the annual review should be prepared. Apparently it is the intention of the Government of India that this should also be done by the Director of Public Instruction. In this case it would be necessary either to strengthen my office establishment by the appointment of two or three special assistants who between them could deal with all the principal vernaculars of the Presidency, or to provide for payments to reviewers in the manner suggested in paragraph 10 of Mr. Giles' letter, No. 1365, dated 31st May 1899. I prefer the latter course.

3. On receipt of the orders of Government, the necessary instructions will be issued to the Registrar of Books.

4. I request that a copy of the papers received with the endorsement of Government quoted above may be furnished to this office for reference.

Order—No. 398, Educational, dated 28th August 1900.

With regard to the Director's remarks on the subject of the quarterly reviews, it is observed that while these are intended to supplement the quarterly catalogues published under the provisions of Act XXV of 1867, the issue of the latter must not be delayed at all. Nor is it desired that any change should be made in the existing arrangements under which the catalogues appear under the signature of the Registrar of Books. The Government, however, purpose to introduce certain alterations, which will be indicated in due course, in the form of the catalogues.

2. The proposal to file the reviews as received, for use in preparing the annual report, is approved, subject to further instructions of the Government of India on this point.

3. Under the system now to be introduced, the Director will be responsible for the annual report. In order to enable him to draw it up, payments to reviewers in the manner suggested by Mr. Giles should be made. After working out the arrangements, the Director should submit definite proposals in regard to the provision which he considers to be necessary for the purpose. He will also, as far as possible, condense the report, which in the opinion of the Government has of late years been allowed to run to too great a length, and which has been rendered bulky by the inclusion of tabular statistics of questionable utility or interest. The following letter will be sent to the Government of India:—

(True Extract.)

M. HAMMICK,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
„ Accountant-General.

Letter—No. 399, Educational, dated Ootacamund, 28th August 1900, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Books).

I am directed to reply to your letter of the 4th May 1900, No. 665, on the subject of the preparation of the annual report on books and publications registered under Act XXV of 1867, and to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council is ready to adopt the suggestion that the arrangements in this Presidency should be the same as those proposed by Mr. Giles in his letters of the 31st May and 9th December 1899, Nos. 1365 and 5856.

2. The procedure will be as follows:—

The quarterly catalogues will issue punctually as hitherto under the signature of the Registrar of Books, but that officer will be charged with the duty of submitting to the Director of Public Instruction, weekly, copies of such books as are considered worthy of special inquiry.

These volumes, as they are received, will be forwarded by the Director to selected persons competent to review them.

The reviews will, after examination, be filed by the Director of Public Instruction for use in preparing the annual report for which in future he, not as hitherto has been the case, the Registrar of Books, will be responsible.

The Director has been desired to condense this report, which in consequence of the inclusion of tabular statements, reproducing statistics of no particular interest or value from the quarterly catalogues, has of recent years been allowed to grow to too large dimensions.

3. I am to add that certain small changes are proposed in the method of entering the titles of books in the catalogues, in order to comply more exactly with the requirements of the law and also to bring these lists of publications more into conformity with the methods now generally adopted by European cataloguers; and with the view of arranging for this modification, the lists will for the present be examined in the Secretariat before publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

4. The procedure, a sketch of which has been given above, appears to be in exact agreement with that to be introduced in Bombay, but there are two points about which doubt is felt.

5. The first relates to the quarterly reviews. In the third paragraph of your letter, you refer to the letter from Mr. Giles, the Director of Public Instruction in Bombay, bearing date 31st May 1899, but in a subsequent communication, which was before the Government of India when you wrote and which bears date 9th December 1899, that officer explained to the Bombay Government how impossible it would be for him to add reviews to the quarterly catalogues except at the sacrifice of all punctuality in the issue of the latter. I am directed to state that there would be the same difficulty in this Presidency, and I am to express the hope that the arrangements in this respect which have been already detailed, and which are identical with those *ultimately* approved by the Bombay Government in their resolution of the 7th February 1900, No. 814, may be accepted by the Government of India. I am here to remark that His Excellency the Governor in Council attaches special importance to the punctual issue of the quarterly catalogues, as otherwise serious difficulties are likely to arise in complying with the provisions of the amending Act X of 1890. Even under the present arrangements, such difficulties are at times experienced, and in several instances, owing to the closing of printing establishments and the disappearance of publishers, the period during which copies of a book may be obtained free of cost for the British Museum and the India Office Library has expired before the claim for them could be made and satisfied. Delay in the publication of the quarterly catalogues would, it is feared, aggravate these difficulties.

6. The second point in which the scheme differs from that apparently contemplated by the Government of India is the scrutiny suggested in the third paragraph of your letter under reply. It is there proposed that the Director of Public Instruction should bring to the notice of the Local Government any inaccuracy which he might discover in the descriptions contained in the column of remarks in the catalogues. As Mr. Giles has pointed out in the fourth paragraph of his letter, dated the 7th February last, the Director will under the Bombay system see only the books selected for special review, and will therefore be unable to check errors on the part of the officer who compiles the catalogues. Even if an arrangement were devised under which all the books of each quarter should be sent to the Director, it would, I am to explain, be impossible for him to give any personal care or attention to this matter. The books are in some fourteen languages, of which, in the ordinary course, the Director of Public Instruction is not likely to have an acquaintance sufficient for the purpose in view. It would therefore be found necessary for the Director to employ

assistants, such as native clerks and others, to read over the books, and as these assistants would be of precisely the same class as those who had aided the Registrar of Books in preparing the catalogue, there would be no security that their descriptions would be more accurate than those already given.

I am, however, to state that while for these reasons the Director will be unable to test the accuracy of the entries in the catalogue made by the Registrar of Books except in the case of the works which may be selected for special review, these last will to some extent serve as an index of the general accuracy of the Registrar's work. The Registrar, who is an officer under the Director of Public Instruction, must, however, in the opinion of this Government, continue to be primarily responsible for the remarks in the catalogue.

7. The Governor in Council trusts that, after this explanation, the present scheme will be considered satisfactory and will be accepted by the Government of India.

M. HAMMICK,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Exd. W. D'Moss.

[Edl. 5]
500—5-99.

RR No 6908/99

Educational (189) Department.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
RECEIVED
22 MAY 1900
R. R. No.
MADRAS.

CURRENT No. 620

427-28 Ed & Fisheries
4-7-99

Desp

From The Secretary to the Govt of India

Endt **Order** No. 187 dt 21-5-00. IGP.

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

No. 665

(By order)

R. Adl.
15-5-00
Ag Asstt Secretary.

PJ 15/5/00
15-5-00

Dated 4th May 1900
Received 11th May 1900
Registered 14th "
Enclosures 3
Spare copies 7 of each encl. & 7 of letter.

SUBJECT.

Acknowledging the receipt of letter No. 428/99 regarding the preparation of the annual report on Books & Publications and enclosing a copy of the correspondence with the Govt of Bombay on the subject of improving the reports so as to serve the purposes of the Student of modern Indian literature or of Govt. who wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
to	114-15	10-3-00	
	427-8	4-7-99	

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Educational (1900 / 189) Department.

CURRENT No. 898

to 114-15 10/7/00

427-8 9/7/00

DESPATCHED 23 OCT. 1900

From The Director of Public Instruction, Madras

Order

No. 6481

Dated 6 July 1900

Received 7 JUL. 1900

Registered DD

Enclosures one file of papers in original.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Re-submitting G.O. endorsement No. 181, dated 25 June 1900 on the letter of the Govt. of India regarding the preparation of annual reports on books and publications

EP 1/1

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[E. / 3 —] 500—7-99.

Papers sent to Revs on the 1st Aug. 00 JB 1-8-00

Educational Department.

C. No. 3 620 & 898. 13

SUBJECT.

Preparation of the annual report on books & publications.

FOR ORDERS.

A

In their letter No. 465 Home Deptt. (Books) dy 31st March 1899, the Govt. of India observed that the descriptions given in the annual reports, submitted by local Govts. and administrations, on books and publications registered under act XXV of 1867 were often of books of no importance and conveyed no information regarding style, purity of language, novelty of ideas, moral, social or religious teaching, the growing influences of the west &c, and that these reports did not, therefore, serve the purpose of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature as literature, nor of Govt. which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the Country and of all advance

advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors. The Govt. of India therefore suggested that these reports should in future be drawn up on the model of the annual review of continental literature published in the Athenæum, and, by a responsible European officer, the Officer best qualified for the duty being the D.P.I. as in the North West Provinces and Oudh.

2. In reply, this Govt. said, in consultation with Dr. Duncan, in their letter No. 428 Edl. dy 4th July 1899, that while they agreed with the Govt. of India, they did not consider that the D.P.I. was the most suitable officer in this Presidency to undertake the work, since, to do what the Govt. of India have in view would require a man not only endowed with wide general information, literary taste and critical training, but also possessing considerable leisure of which the D.P.I. in Madras had little or none. This Govt. however expressed

expressed their readiness to make the experiment of granting an honorarium for the preparation of the reviews to a selected officer who would be placed on special duty for the purpose.

p. 2 of proof

3. With the first of the letters read above, the Govt. of India forwarded a copy of certain correspondence with the Govt. of Bombay and suggested that the arrangement made in Bombay might be followed in Madras. This arrangement is as follows. The quarterly catalogue of books and publications should continue to be prepared by the existing staff - but should be supplemented by a review drawn up by the D.P.I. The Director should also bring to the notice of Govt. any inaccuracy which he may discover in the description contained in the remarks column of the catalogue.

the Director should get such books as appear to be worthy of special enquiry reviewed by Specialists. These Special reviews should be filed in the office and utilized for the preparation of the annual review.

4. The correspondence being forwarded to the Hon'ble Mr. Stuart for remarks, he undertakes to work the following arrangement. The Reg of books should send to the Director at the close of every week, such

of

f the books registered during the
quarter, (week?) as the Registrar may con-
ider worthy of special enquiry.
The Director will then get these
reviewed by Specialists and these
reviews will be used to supple-
ment the remarks of the Registrar
in the quarterly catalogues which
will, in future, be published under
the Director's signature. The reviews
will also be used in preparing the
annual report. The reviewers
will receive special remunera-
tion.

This would be "impossible" in working, as Mr Giles, the Bombay D.P.I. has shown

A.G.

5. There appears, however, to be some misunderstanding in this matter. What the Govt. of India want seems to be that the quarterly catalogue should be published as usual, but that in addition to it, there should be a review by the Director of such books as require special notice, and this review being intended for use only in the preparation of the annual report by the Director and not for publication.

Mr. Stuart seems to think that

The misunderstanding however appears to have been started in Mr. Hewett's letter. The G. of I. do not say that the quarterly catalogues should not be published as usual, but by desiring that the Director should bring to notice any errors in the Registrar's notices abstracts in the Catalogues, they justify Mr Stuart's remarks. As I happen to know that this correspondence arose out of a note written in 1898 on the subject of the annual reviews - not the quarterly catalogues - I think it may be urged as certain that there is no desire to delay the Catalogues & that the proposals in the draft will be accepted.

Yes: & see the Catalogue Res. of the Govt. of Bombay. referred to lower down in this note.

A.G.
28.7.1900

that what the Govt. of India want is that the remarks by the Registrar in the quarterly c logue should be supplemented b the Director with the aid of th reviews by Specialists. This is practically making the Director responsible for the remarks in the quarterly catalogues which does n seem to be intended.

It will be seen from the resolution of the Govt. of Bombay No. 815 of 7th February 1900 that this was the original proposal of that Govt. It was, however since given up and it was dec that the special reviews should be simply filed in the office to be subsequently used in the pre- paration of the annual reports the Govt of India approved this arrangement.

This is all that the Bombay Govt. have undertaken to do and to attempt more in Madras as inadvisable and likely to end in failure. In fact the Director already expresses the fear that under the arrangement propo within the catalogue it will not be ready within prescribed two months after the close of the quart

P.15 of prog

+ As impossible. See Mr Giles's clear ex- planation of the impossibility if the catalogues are to be kept back pending the submitted. A.G.

(28.7.1900)
14.8.1900

PJJ 13/7/00 The catalogues are rightly the important matter.
With the intention of issuing

time Car by an accident I had myself delayed kept the papers for a fortnight) I prepared a draft order for approval, & reply, & sent them to be set up in type urgently at Madras, on the 28th ult. But the printing has taken longer than was expected, & the proof was received only yesterday.

No reminder has been received as yet from the Govt. of India.) W.S. 14.8.1900

Secy.

I understand that Mr Hill already knows of the proposed changes in Quarterly Catalogue from papers he has already seen. They are now in Madras.

14/8/00

⊗ [This requires - in the French reviewer's part - examn; there are several misprints in it (Copies have been hurriedly & carelessly taken) but I cannot for the delay this will be attended to later on, when the letter has been despatched to India passed & can if you. 14.8.1900 WS]

Ltr. to Govt. of India

Sec'y draft

AA 15.8.00

A

Desp? on 30-8-00
WS
31/8/00

Education

NOTE FOR THE A.S. 40

Please see the A.S's marginal no
on page 6 of the office note stitche
with E.D. No 398 dated 28-8-00
I am not sure whether the A.S.
able to look into the proof again.
I have gone through it but before it
printed it may be well to submit it
once more for A.S's perusal.
The signature of the Secretary may
obtained to the letter to the Governme
of India and the letter despatched
Dolacamund. A Sig copy is submitte
for the purpose. Spare copies will
sent from here. The orders also wil
be struck off and despatched from he
on the return of the proof from Dolaca

PH
28/8/00

See note on the proof.

31.8.1900

Secy
PH 31/8/00

L.O.
Draw up reply in terms of
A.S's note
PH
31/8/00

Submitted
WS 31/8

Government {1900} of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL.

Proof

Press

Struck off as corrected

Pt 1

3/8/00

Recd. } 1900. Enclosures

Regd. } 1900. Spare copies

G.O., No. 398, 28th August 1900.

AUGUST. SA.

This will do as corrected but the type (or some thing) is showing by hard : hundreds of letters are only 22 part printed. I don't know M. Delaure Mirbeau or Mirabeau. Of his name (see p. 4 of proof) it is hard to say which (Cahill or Cahill) should be put up) spelt in both ways. I print it Mirabeau but if it twice spelt Mirbeau by the S. I. O. Although kept O that - MSP

Annual reports on books & publications

Addressing the Govt of India on the subject of the preparation of — registered under act XXV of 1867. in the Madras Presidency.

Neither spelt throughout as Mirbeau - but as corrected at one place into that spelt

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following paper :—

G.O., Nos. 427, 428, Educational, dated 4th July 1900.

Read—the following papers :—

From S. C. HILL, Esq., Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Books), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 31st March 1899, No. 465.

It has been brought to the notice of the Government of India that the Report on Books and Publications registered under Act XXV of 1867, which is now annually submitted by Local Governments and Administrations, is capable of considerable improvement.

2. It has been observed that these reports consist almost entirely of descriptions of books taken from the quarterly lists published in the local gazettes, of short summaries dealing chiefly with figures, and of a number of tables showing the languages in which the various books are written. The descriptions are often of books of no importance whatever, and, as they give very little but the plot of the work, convey no information regarding style, purity of language, novelty of ideas, moral, social or religious teaching, the growing influence of the West, etc. The summaries and tables, being of the nature above described, are of equally little use. In fact, the reports as at present written do not serve the purposes of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature as literature, nor of Government which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country and of all advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors. It has therefore been proposed that, whilst the quarterly lists in the gazettes should be continued so as to provide material for the Annual Reports, these latter should be composed, not as mere compilations from the quarterly lists but on the model of the Annual Review * of Continental Literature published in the Athenæum, with such modifications as may be necessary for this country.

* This review contains reviews of the literature of all European languages; those of Russia and France are appended.

3. It appears to the Government of India that the defects of the reports as now published are due mostly to the fact that they are generally drawn up by men who, on the one hand, from their want of general information (especially as regards foreign literature), have little or no sense of the proportionate value of the books they have to deal with, and who, on the other hand, owing to a want of critical training, do not know what is most worth noticing in books. The result is that useless books are described at length, whilst valuable information as to the spread and growth of ideas is neglected. It has been suggested that, in order to make these reports really useful, they should in future be drawn up by a responsible European officer, and it seems that, from the nature of his work, the officer best qualified for this purpose will be the Director of Public Instruction as at present in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. This officer might of course avail himself of the services of his subordinates, but would be directly responsible for the report.

4. I am to add that the Governor-General in Council will be glad to receive any further suggestions on any matter connected with this subject.

Enclosures.

FRANCE.

In France for some years past we have got into an annoying habit of only considering as relevant to "literature" collections of verse, novels, dramatic pieces, and occasionally studies in criticism or literary history. Many reasons might be given for this; the principal is that all the world considers itself fit to decide the value of a *vaudeville* or a novel; and, in fact, a novel or a *vaudeville* is addressed to all the world. In the second place their only aim is to "please." The engrossing claims of art are more obvious, more constantly in evidence here than in a book of history or philosophy for instance, and here no effort is made to teach the reader or improve his morals. "Historia quoquo modo scripta semper placet," said an old writer: which comes to this, that the *raison d'être* of history is not solely to divert. But a novel must be interesting, and a theatrical piece must not be tedious. For all these reasons no petty piece is played at the Alcazar or the Eldorado without finding the immediate support of twenty writers of *feuilletons* to criticize it. No novel by, say, M. Zola or M. Paul Bourget is published without being fully chronicled on the very day of its appearance. And in some journals at least, or in some reviews, if the poets are infinitely less befriended than the novelists, yet they are spoken of and discussed. But the historians, the scholars, the philosophers, the scholars, are left in the cold. It seems as if criticism was afraid to meddle with them. They do not interest the readers to whom our journals address themselves. So it is that for the last half century a foreigner whose knowledge of French literature depended on our press would run the risk of thinking us a great deal more frivolous than we are. It is true that our great *savants* and philosophers, ancient and modern, and even our historians, have too often on their own part affected to disdain the art of writing. And in French there is an art of writing. It is not enough to say true things, just things, profound things; they must be said in a way which hides their profoundity, which imparts to justice an air of paradox, and something piquant and ingenious to truth itself. They must be said, too, in a way which does not seem factitious, which can be understood by everybody, and does not astonish, or even attract attention, or strike the reader as original until he reflects about it afterwards. Such are the qualities most of our historians and philosophers appear sometimes to have despised, thus doing harm both to their own reputations and all the world, by preventing or diminishing the circulation of their ideas.

No such charge can be brought against M. Auguste Sabatier's book, 'Esquisse d'une Philosophie de la Religion d'après la Psychologie et l'Histoire'; on the contrary, all must agree that some parts of it are remarkably written. It is the conclusions which are not very clear, and we French find it hard to understand what a religion is which is entirely individual and internal. In a Catholic country like France the very notion of religion cannot be separated from the idea of common discipline, rites and external observances, and dogma. It is not that we do not recognize readily this "état d'âme," but it seems to us no longer a "religious," but a purely "philosophic" state, and we ought to have the courage to account for it. This is a courage which M. Victor Charbonnel does not show in his book on 'Le Congrès des Religions'. It is one of the most curious and interesting to be read anywhere, because M. Charbonnel seldom takes upon himself to speak; he leaves that to numerous correspondents consulted by him all over the world on the advisability of a Congress of Religions; and they have extremely divergent views on the question. But what he has not seen is that if it is easy to make a Buddhist, a Muhammadan, a Christian, and a Freethinker agree in certain common principles, it is done by ranking them as "philosophers" or "rationalists," and not at all as faithful adherents to a communion. He is like those Socialists who would establish "internationalism" on the basis of a "respect for nationalities." How much franker is the attitude of M. Pierre Laffitte in his big book on 'Le Catholicisme'! A disciple of Comte and a thoroughgoing Positivist, he thinks that a day may, or rather will certainly, come when Positivism will triumph over all rival systems, and morality will be founded on the basis of solidarity. This was George Eliot's idea too. But while waiting for this day to dawn M. Laffitte, in view of the organized moral force which Catholicism represents, declares that he is ready to treat with it on a basis of common action, and here he finds the advantage of being able to speak of it in the past, as well as of Christianity in general, with a remarkable and lofty impartiality. If with these books we connect a certain number of others, such as that of M. G. Goyau on 'L'Allemagne Religieuse,' or of M. G. Fonsegrive on 'Le Catholicisme et la Démocratie,' or of M. Maignen with its strange title 'Le P. Hecker est-il un "Saint"?' if we consider the success of the translations of such books as Mr. Balfour's 'Foundations of Belief,' 'The life of P. Hecker,' or Cardinal Gibbons's 'The Ambassador of Christ'; lastly, if we remember the book of M. Francis de Pressensé on 'Le Cardinal Manning,' the existence of a review like *La Quinzaine*, and the polemics of many recent *brochures* like mine on 'Science et Religion' and 'La Renaissance de l'Idéalisme'—all point to the undoubted conclusion that, for some time past, in France, as well as Europe, more attention is being paid than ever to religious questions, above all in their connexion with social questions.

Preoccupations of the same sort appear among the most notable plays of the year, such as the 'Repas du Lion,' by M. François de Curel; the 'Mauvais Bergers' of M. Octave Mirbeau; the 'Vassale' of M. Jules Case; and the 'Ainée,' of M. Jules Lemaitre. They are not all of the same value; and, without doubt, the 'Repas du Lion' ranks before the others, thanks to the fresh, intrepid, and ingenious, if slightly incoherent manner in which the author has stated

the question of the "rapports du capital et du capital et du travail," and also to the tragic fashion in which he has represented, in the feudal soul of his hero, the conflict of the future with the past in an aristocrat's son. M. J. Lemaître's comedy raises questions less lofty, but more delicate, perhaps, and of a nature to pique the curiosity of English readers. How can a Protestant pastor who has some daughters to marry settle them without compromising in some slight degree his character? How can he reconcile his "spiritual" and "temporal" views? And are the means a layman might adopt, such as speculations in Transvaal mines, permissible in the case of a Churchman? There is much else besides this in M. Lemaître's comedy, in especial two or three characters of young maidens which are felicitous creations. There is also a rare mastery of style, and a singular skilfulness exhibited in daring and saying everything. This feature is wanting somewhat in M. Octave Mirbeau, whose frequently declamatory talent, like his other fine gifts, shows in its very declamations a beautiful strain of pity. His 'Mauvais Bergers' is the history of a strike dramatized. Here, again, we find the struggle between capital and labour. The piece is not ill constructed, and its effects, although somewhat broad, were thrilling on the stage. Madame Sarah Bernhardt here wore the "livery of misery" with as much facility as, on twenty other occasions, she has adopted the mantle of queen or empress. But M. Mirbeau lays too much stress, insists too much, and his impetuosity carries him beyond his mark. He is deficient in moderation and self-possession. It is a pity, for nothing he does is indifferent; and in the 'Mauvais Bergers' notably, there is a continual vibration of generous feeling which does as much honour to his inspiration as his habitual eloquence does to his talents. The 'Vassale' of M. Jules Case endeavours to deal with a problem often attacked, notably by M. Paul Hervieu—the question of marriage; but it is only half realized. Are such questions suitable for the theatre? In France, at least, general opinion says No. Of course, as the dramatist chooses his special case, he can make one party responsible for all the wrong and the recipient of all the indignation of the audience. On the other hand, illustrious examples going back as far as the 'École des Femmes,' down to the author of 'L'Étrangère' and 'La Princesse Georges,' show that the preoccupation of a thesis to be proved detracts nothing from the merit, as mere drama, of a theatrical piece. There will be always enough *vaudevilles* for those who only go to the Palais Royal or the Variétés for distraction and an agreeable opportunity to digest. This year they had M. Sardou's 'Paméla,' an historic *vaudeville* in the style of Scribe or Dumas the elder, with the 'Trois Filles de M. Dupont' of M. Eugène Brieux, and the 'Marriage Bourgeois' of M. Alfred Capus. I fear it may be somewhat unfair to style these last two *vaudevilles* and, everything considered, they are not very far from being what we call real comedies of manners. So much cannot be said for the 'Jalouse' of MM. Leclercq and Bisson, or the 'Transatlantiques' of M. Abel Hermant, or the 'Nouveau Jeu' of M. Henry Lavedan. A foreigner would be sadly misled if he saw in them a picture of French society, or even of the life of Paris. The manners of a few *fêtards* or a few *boulevardiers* are not all Paris, and all Paris is not all France.

A great number of verse dramas have appeared this year: the 'Frédégonde' of M. Dubout, the 'Cyrano de Bergerac' of M. E. Rostand, the 'Don Juan de Manara' of M. Haraucourt, the 'Martyre' of M. Jean Richepin; and why should not I add the 'Ville Mortie' of M. G. d'Annunzio? The 'Ville Morte' is a poem in prose, in which observations of a very subtle psychology, realistic and symbolic by turns, are expressed in a language both romantic and precise. On the contrary, the 'Frédégonde' of M. Dubout and the 'Martyre' of M. Richepin are respectively pseudo-classic tragedy, and drama or melodrama of the false romantic sort, and the more artificial for the bios of realism exhibited by their authors. The first is taken from the 'Récits Mérovingiens' of Augustin Thierry, the second from some nondescript confusion of the essence of Christianity with the profanest element in the passions of love. A similar combination is readily discernible in the 'Don Juan' of M. Haraucourt; the atmosphere is that of an ardent sensuality, also studied in the 'Passé' of M. G. de Porto Riche. The latter piece, which does not come under any of the previous heads, is a psychological—or rather physio-psychological—drama in prose, distinguished by bold and penetrating, but decidedly unpleasant observation. Given at the Odéon, 'Le Passé' is one of the least successful pieces of the year, yet one of the strongest, if not the best constructed, and perhaps, with the 'Repas du Lion,' in quite another kind, the most worthy of notice. The success of the twelve months, 'Cyrano de Bergerac,' is, I have no doubt, known to most of my readers, and Heaven forbid that I should deny its singular merit! It has life, youth, and gaiety, but for a five-act piece in verse it lacks depth and originality somewhat. This is not an essential point, and does not raise any question of art or groundwork. M. Rostand is an admirable artist, and his present play marks a decided advance on his previous efforts. He must, however, mould his verse to a more precious metal of more homogeneity and strength.

May I recommend our poets to do the same? We have many very clever ones, both old and young, and two or three who are more than distinguished. Whence comes it that we find them too clever? Is it not because they lack not exactly originality, but personality? But this is also due to their being trained in the teaching of what we call the "Parnassian" school, as the declared intention of the school has been to react against the abuse of finery on the part of the romantics. In conformity with this principle, 'Les Siècles Morts' of M. le Vte. de Guerne was nothing but a development—often, it is true, magnificent—of the 'Poèmes Antiques' of Leconte de Lisle; but there is more liberty, in some sort, and more ease in his 'Bois Sacré.'

There is still more of the kind in the 'Jeux Rustiques et Divins' of M. Henri de Régnier, one of the masters of the young school, and one of the most indubitable poets and artists of recent years. His poems are distinguished by the sharp outlines with which his precise and coloured visions stand out slowly and insensibly against a background of shade and obscurity, and by the effect of fidelity secured by a poet who reproduces sensations in combination with an artist who finds the means, words, and rhythms to make his images real. If the verses of M. de Régnier are those of an artist—by which I mean a sculptor or painter—M. Samain's poems are those of a musician in his collection entitled 'Au Jardin de l'Infante.' There are many pieces whose insinuating and winning charm is precisely of the sort which defies analysis. I must not omit in this hasty account two other collections—one by M. Francis Vielé-Griffin, 'La Clarté de Vie,' and another by M. Henri Ronger, entitled 'Poèmes Fabuleux.' If rhetoric was not so prominent in the latter, and the former indulged in fewer liberties with prosody, they would serve well to limit the actual term of this evolution of lyrics in the direction of music—an evolution not so long since predicted, or rather prepared, by Paul Verlaine in France, and canonized all over the world by the success of Wagner.

I now turn to the novel. At starting I must regret that I have no room here to speak in detail of the 'Jacquine Vanesse' of M. Victor Cherbuliez, of the 'Boisfleury' of M. André Theuriet, of the last novel of Daudet, 'Soutien de Famille,' of the collection of M. Paul Bourget under the title of 'Complications Sentimentales,' which contains three of his most interesting stories, or the 'Paris' of M. Zola. 'Paris' appears to me much more interesting, better "documented," and more significant than 'Rome' or 'Lourdes.' M. Bourget's work displays his extraordinary powers of analysis to perfection. Daudet's deserves an entire study to itself. As for 'Boisfleury' and 'Jacquine Vanesse,' it is enough to say to English readers that they are worthy of their authors' reputations. For many years M. Theuriet has been the recognized exponent of provincial life and woodland nature; and no one could draw with more wit, malice, and art than M. Cherbuliez portraits more like very various originals, or more "unique" of their kind, and yet more human. I say nothing either of M. de Vogüé (to whom I shall return later) or of Pierre Loti, M. Paul Hervieu, M. René Bazin, or M. Marcel Prévost, who have unfortunately done nothing or almost nothing this year. In the same expression of regret I may include M. d'Annunzio, the Italian poet, who, thanks to his translator, M. Hérelle, may really be called a French novelist.

But five other novels are awaiting notice, which all mark what we call a "date" in the career of their authors. First I place 'Le Mannequin d'Osier' of M. Anatole France, following his 'Orme du Mail.' The notable thing in these two volumes is the talent of their author, which has never been more original—so original as to be disconcerting—and above all the way in which he has succeeded with a minimum of intrigue in producing a most lively and ironical impression of the life of to-day. The book exhibits no determined purpose, except that of looking on as a philosophic spectator at the eternal comedy of humanity—no "hero," no "catastrophes," hardly a few events of the ordinary sort, but meré talks and talkers in the streets, under "les ormes du mail," or in the back shop of the bookseller in the little town. A world of prefects, generals, wives, daughters, bishops, priests, engage in commonplace conversation with an air of paradox, or, to put it the other way round, paradoxes in all their mouths assume the appearance of truisms. The wit of the author, without indulgence or compassion, circulates amongst them without their knowing it, spurs them on, and drags from them the avowal of their follies, their small ambitions, the secret of their true character. The whole amounts to a novel of a new sort, the desultory charactor of which resembles life itself, while its cruel and dissolving irony makes a more realistic work than any of Balzac's or Flaubert's, more amusing and more disquieting. 'La Cathédrale,' by Huysmans, is equally devoid of intrigue and even of characters, but the perusal of it is, on the contrary, infinitely more laborious, and, in fine, less diverting. "Multæ sunt mansiones in domo patris." There are many mansions, and many ways to reach them. M. Huysmans has chosen the way of art, and if ever he is converted to Christianity, it will be the work of Gothic architecture, the plain chant, and Christian symbolism. Nothing could be more natural or more legitimate. The charactor of a religion is impressed on all its works, and Gothic architecture is no less a revelation of the grandeur of Christianity than the Acropolis and the Parthenon are of the Greek genius. But the ordinary reader, and even the reader who finds himself most in sympathy with the ideas of M. Huysmans, will find too much archæology in 'La Cathédrale,' too much history, too much of the singular and *bizarre*, and too many childish comparisons. There are also too many unseemly, if not profane expressions, calculated to degrade the feelings which the book should inspire. M. Huysmans's manner of writing exaggerates the annoyance of these comparisons. One does not like to see confession, for instance, compared in all seriousness to the cleaning of plates and dishes, and the pricks of the conscience to hiccoughs. The style of the book is very personal, and, so to speak, "invented," never commonplace, always unexpected, picturesque and humorous, but still too deeply rooted in the depths of the old naturalism. 'Les Déracinés,' the novel of M. Maurice Barrès, is of quite another sort, and may be styled political or sociological. This explains the length of the dissertations to be found in it on a number of subjects not usually dealt with by novelists, but M. Barrès has always nursed political ambitions, a fact which explains the assurance with which he remodels French society. The "uprooted ones" are a group of young men who leave Nancy to complete their education and win fame and fortune at Paris. The result of such procedure, the author

desires to show, is not happy. For one success there are ten failures; some aspirants end in poverty, crime, and need, like two of the heroes of 'Les Déracinés,' others in a mediocrity more painful to their pride than poverty itself; and while Paris is warmed, or rather thrown into a fever, by the ardour of these acquisitions from the country, solitude, silence, and a dull calm form the lot of the rest of France. There is some truth doubtless in this, but also much exaggeration. Marseilles or Lyons, Bordeaux or Toulouse, Nancy even, or smaller towns still, are not yet so mummified as the author would have us believe. And what remedy is there? M. Barrès will explain no doubt, as 'Les Déracinés' is only a beginning. Meanwhile, why does he not set the example and move to his favourite Nancy instead of living at Paris? I do not grudge MM. Paul and Victor Margueritte the success of 'Le Désastre.' This is the unforgettable capitulation of Metz in 1870. No more tragic and exact picture could have been painted than that of the two sons of General Margueritte, one of those who found death and glory at Sedan. Those who speak of military actions possess a great advantage if they can boast a soldier's blood in their veins, and this makes the difference—a whole abyss of difference—between 'Le Désastre' and 'La Debâcle.' The brothers have not hidden or disguised anything, but differ from M. Zola in touching a bleeding wound with pious hands, in showing that this awful calamity did not discredit any of the qualities of the race of French soldiers. I like as well, though for different reasons, the last novel of M. E. Rod, 'Le Ménage du Pasteur Naudié,' and I readily recognize in it his masterpiece. One cannot serve two masters at once, and the heart of man is not sufficiently large to hold at the same time all that is most passionate in the love of the creature, and all that is most noble, but necessarily impersonal, in the love of God. Such is the theme of M. Rod's book, developed with a freedom and simplicity of means, a sure tact, and a nobility which I can only characterize as admirable. M. Rod has also made an excellent choice of environment for his story in the old and melancholy city of La Rochelle; and Protestant as he is, I need scarcely say that his book reveals no intention of satire, still less of proselytism.

Other novels worth notice are 'Temple d'Amour,' by M. Rémy Saint-Maurice; 'Golo' by M. Pol Neveux; 'Devant le Bonheur,' by M. Jean Thorel; La Confession d'un Enfant du Siège,' by M. M. Corday; and the 'Saint Cendre' of M. Maindron. This last author, I warn the reader, is not for bread-and-butter misses. To write a history of the sixteenth century and to get thoroughly at home, M. Maindron has re-read Brantôme, one can see, and not forgotten him sufficiently. But in spite of the undue license of some scenes, one cannot help praising the erudition, the sense of the picturesque, and the local colour in this reconstruction of an epoch; it would be equal to 'La Chronique de Charles IX,' by Prosper Mérimée, if Mérimée had not had the luck to come first, and had not shown a sobriety the later man lacks.

Some dozen new letters of Mérimée have been lately published. I will not repeat Beuchot's comment on Voltaire, and say that letters of Mérimée will be rediscovered "till the Judgment Day"; but I know that there are still some unpublished, and hope that they may appear and make his correspondence complete. *La Revue de Paris* has gone on publishing the letters of Balzac. We have seen two new volumes of the correspondence of Lamennais under the title 'Lettres Inédites de Lamennais à Montalembert' and 'Un Lamennais Inconnu,' containing his letters to Benoit d'Azy. Other letters, addressed to Emmanuel d'Alzon, have been published in the *Revue Bleue*, but not yet collected into a volume. People have been busy with Lamennais for some time, and have every reason to be so if his influence is responsible for what is variously called "Christianisme Social" and "Socialisme Chrétien" in proportion as the Christianity or Socialism is predominant. The second volume of Victor Hugo's correspondence is less interesting. Not so the 'Correspondence de Renan avec M. Berthelot,' which contains many fine passages. I may also note here that Madame Darmesteter's 'Life of Renan,' which throws much light on the personality of the master, has lately appeared in a French translation.

One is sometimes inclined to protest against posthumous indiscretions, and to defend authors against themselves, if their letters compromise them; but documents of the sort afford such precise information that one ends by excusing and even thanking the indiscreet. Look at Madame A. Barine's book 'Névrosés,' and admire in this study of literary pathology the part played by the letters of Gérard de Nerval, and the indiscretion of Edgar Poe's biographers. There is much else in the book on the effects of wine, alchohol, opium—and pure "folie" in Gérard de Nerval's case—on eccentric men of genius. English readers will best be able to judge if the author has spoken rightly of De Quincey and Poe. They ought also to pronounce on the merits of 'Ruskin et la Religion de la Beauté,' by M. Robert de la Sizeranne. We can only say that in France no one has spoken of art and æsthetics with greater charm and eloquence for some years. A thesis so recently supported as the 1st of June at the Sorbonne, 'Walter Scott et son Influence sur le Mouvement Romantique,' by M. L. Maigron, I do not know myself, but it has been recommended to me as capital by such good judges as M. Emile Faguet and M. Alexandre Beljame, who translated 'Macbeth' so well. I have, on the contrary, personal knowledge of the 'Écrivains Étrangers' of M. T. de Wyzewa; the 'Henri Heine' of M. J. Legras; the 'Ferdinand Lassalle' of M. Ernest Seillière; the 'Richard Wagner, Poète et Penseur,' of M. Henri Lichtenberger, and his monograph on 'La Philosophie de Nietzsche'; a big, learned book by M. Ch. Andeler on 'Les Origines du Socialisme d'Etat en Allemagne'; the book of M. Jean Dornis, who is, I believe, a lady, on 'La Poésie Italienne Contemporaine'; and the book by Madame Th. Bentzon, 'Choses et Gens d'Amérique.' Her profound knowledge of English and

her talent for observation have enabled her to see further into her subject than anybody else has done. To the collection of "Grands Écrivains Français" have been added two new volumes—'Marivaux,' by M. Gaston Deschamps, and 'Racine,' by M. Gustave Larroumet. M. Charles Livet, before he died, had time to see the appearance of the third and last volume of his 'Lexique Comparé de la Langue de Molière.' This is a great help to the vexed question of Molière's style. From La Bruyère, who reproached Molière with not having known how to avoid "le jargon et le barbarisme," down to Edmond Scherer, nearly all the purists have quarrelled more or less bitterly with some parts of his style. It is somewhat surprising that no aspirant has chosen this as a thesis for his doctorate; the present book would supply the necessary material. M. Louis Bertrand in his work on 'La Fin du Classicisme dans les Dernières Années du XVIII^e siècle,' and M. Henri Potez in his book on 'L'Élégie en France depuis Parny jusqu'à Lamartine,' both agree that André Chénier is the last of the classics—an opinion in which I entirely concur. He is as classic as Ronsard, and more classic even than Boileau. This idea I have developed in a 'Manuel de l'Histoire de la Littérature Française,' which I published last November. M. Joseph Vianey's monograph on 'Mathurin Regnier,' M. des Granges's on 'Geffroy et la Critique Dramatique sous le Consulat et l'Empire,' and M. Paul Stapfer's somewhat curiously entitled 'Bossuet—Adolphe Monod,' have all been crowned by the French Academy. M. Zyromski in a book on 'Lamartine, Poète Lyrique,' and M. Strowski in another on 'Saint François de Sales,' have also made interesting contributions to the history of French literature. M. Émile Faguet has published 'Drame Ancien, Drame Moderne,' which is full of piquant comparisons of the Greek, French and English theatres; and M. René Doumic, before leaving for America to discourse on romanticism to the students of Harvard, a new series of his 'Études sur l'Histoire de la Littérature Française.'

Two volumes may well form the transition to history: 'Voltaire avant et pendant la Guerre de Sept Ans,' by the Duc de Broglie, and the 'Historie et Poésie' of the Vicomte E. M. de Vogüée. In the latter a natural nobility of thought and a talent for writing equal to that of Chateaubriand are notable, but M. de Vogüée differs from the great romanticist in being familiar with all the latest discoveries of the day in science. The volume of the Duc de Broglie is a study of Voltaire's relations with Louis XV, and Frederick the Great. It would be a mistake to say that the work increases our respect or admiration for Voltaire, unless, indeed, he wins some applause for the beauty of his impudence. It is, at any rate, amusing. In the two volumes which M. Lecestre has published under the title of "Lettres Inédites de Napoléon I^er," many people have seen a new side of Napoleon. They are composed of certain letters which the editors of the 'Correspondence' thought it necessary to keep back, as they did not do much credit to his character. They thus create a one-sided and exaggerated impression, and exhibit a very unfair amount of egotism, violence, passion, and despotism. They will be read, however, by those who wish to form a true idea of Napoleon, together with the two volumes of M. Frédéric Masson on 'Napoléon et sa Famille,' and the two of M. Arthur Chuquet on 'La Jeunesse de Napoléon,' the first of which is entitled "Brienne" and the second 'La Revolution.' Both authors are well known, and both works are full of unedited documents. Sallust says, "Arduum res gestas scribere," and the difficulty of knowing all the necessary facts is suggested by the amount of things we did not know revealed quite lately in the 'Lettres adressées d'Algérie au Général de Castellane,' published by one of his daughters, Madame la Comtesse de Beaulaincourt.

Under history and biography I must also notice the volume of M. de Heidenstamm, a Swede who writes most agreeable French, on the subject of 'Ulrique Éleonore, Reine de Suède,' sister of Frederick the Great and mother of Gustavus III. We only know her through Voltaire's correspondence and a madrigal, a masterpiece of the sort, which he addressed to her. We did not know much either of that Marie, who became Queen of Poland, and the wife of the Great Sobieski, whose history M. Waliszewski has told in his 'Marysienka.' We were better acquainted with the lively lady who figures in M. le Comte d'Haussonville's recent book 'L'Alliance Savoyarde et la Duchesse de Bourgogne,' in which biographical history may be said to pass into diplomatic or general history. Here may be classed the somewhat heavy volume of M. Alfred Baragnon on 'La Maison de Savoie et la Triple Alliance au XVII^e Siècle,' and 'L'Alliance Autrichienne,' at the period of the opening of the seven years' war, by the Duc de Broglie. This fine volume terminates that diplomatic, political, and military history of the war of the Austrian succession which has taken years to write, and which cannot be too highly praised. It is a model of the art of the historian in clearness of composition and unequalled ease of style.

I must not terminate this rapid and summary survey without referring to the book of M. Reuss on 'L'Alsace au XVII^e Siècle,' and the first two volumes of the 'Histoire de Bretagne' of Comte A. de la Borderie. M. Albert Sorel, M. le Comte Vandal, M. Henry Houssaye, and M. G. Hanotaux have published nothing in the way of history this year, or only fragments of volumes to be published in the near future. Their efforts are awaited with impatience. Finally, in this place, though they are more philosophic than historical, must be mentioned four large volumes by M. Renouvier, 'Philosophie Analytique de l'Histoire.' Why, indeed, do we write history if not to philosophize? We go to history in order to know ourselves better, and by means of this increasingly accurate, extended, and various knowledge we flatter

ourselves that we can gather some information about our destiny. This is the object of the philosophy of history, which has sometimes been met with an affectation of disdain; yet we return to it as the very end and aim of history, its *raison d'être*, and the justification of the interest we should not otherwise take in the queen Ulrique Éléonore or Marysienka. I may say also that history is the gate by which ideas enter into literature. And, as I indicated at the beginning of this article, it is not sufficient for a book to be full of ideas to be qualified as "literature": it must have some qualities of form and style which raise it above its fellows. But it is not enough for its form to be original or exquisite: it must contain ideas, too! Nothing is more generally admitted—in theory, at least, and discussion—and nothing is more forgotten by historians of literature, or less put into practice, than this two-sided truism.

(Signed) F. BRUNETIÈRE.

RUSSIA.

Contemporary Russian literature—like, indeed, nearly all contemporary European literatures—is in a condition of decay and stagnation. Having produced some great names which have gained a world-wide celebrity, Russian genius has for a time as it were exhausted itself. The heroic period of artistic production is ended, and the literary activity of contemporary Russia produces on the observer the same impression as is produced by dull, every-day life after a brilliant and noisy festival. It is certainly impossible to deny that special talent does exist in Russia even now, and that it is interesting from various points of view; but such talent as does exist is not vigorous enough to make an impression when isolated, nor when united to create an actual literary school. The productions of men of ability are lost in the mass of mediocre efforts of persons without literary gifts. Here it must be remarked that in this respect criticism plays an undesirable part and exercises a pernicious influence on literary development in the country. From 1860 to our own day it has been unceasingly guided by principles in reality completely foreign to literature. In the estimation of this or that writer there is generally taken into consideration not the æsthetic value of his productions, but their relation to social questions. If a man is occupied exclusively with questions of art and is apathetic to social questions he is never pardoned, and, owing to this strange point of view, many ephemeral scribes have been raised to the first rank, while, on the other hand, considerable writers—as, for instance, the pantheistic poets Tiutchev and Fet—till their last days were the subjects of bitter attacks or were passed over in silence. Out of the number of books which have appeared during the past twelve months only two or three are worthy of attention, to wit, the 'Tales' ('Razskasi') of Anton Chekhov; 'The Mirrors' ('Zerkala'), a collection of stories and poems by Zenaida Gippius; 'Shadows' ('Tieni'). a collection of tales and poems by Th. Sologub; and the second volume of the peoms of M. Lokhvitskaya.

In the collection by A. Chekhov are included two tales: 'The Peasants' ('Muzhiki') and 'My Life' ('Moya Zhizm'). The first of these made considerable stir, and has reached the distinction of a translation into French, unfortunately a very inaccurate one. It paints in dark colours a contemporary Russian village, with all its unsightliness and coarseness. The other, which touches village life only indirectly, delineates in a skilful manner Russian provincial life, constrained, gloomy, and merciless to gentle natures which are incapable of showing a strong will. Chekhov has already written a whole series of important works, in which Russian life in all classes, from the highly educated to the convicts of Sakhalin, is depicted. He possesses an attractive and altogether original gift. He has unusual powers of observation, and vigorously seizes the situation before him and the psychological details; without visibly aiming at effects, he succeeds in producing a deep impression on the reader by the straightforward and clear presentment of actuality, with all its heartlessness, cruelty, and tragic colour. In the tales of the young poetess Zenaida Gippius there prevails quite a different tone. We see in them a great effort at elegance and orginality; but the results are not altogether successful. The first work she wrote, which appeared two years ago, was 'New People' ('Novie Liudi'), a collection of symbolical stories and poems which were of great promise. Her creations were fresh; there was originality in the subjects she chose, and that sincerity of intonation which is always heard in the voice of a man who has just understood a truth which is agitating him. If in this book there were many imperfect and crude performances, the reader might ascribe these deficiencies to the youth of the author, and might hope that in subsequent productions she would rid herself of her feeble characteristics, and develop as completely as possible the really valuable element in her work. She would thus achieve a high literary position. Her second book, 'The Mirrors,' has disappointed these expectations. Those stories in which she wishes to appear as a poetical symbolist are, in reality, much weaker. Symbolical poetry—as the best lovers of symbolism have understood it, men like Calderon, Blake, Shelley, and Edgar Poe—is the most delicate of all styles. Understood in this way, it recalls to our minds the truly beautiful lines in 'Epipsychidion':

> In her mild lights the starry spirits dance,
> The sunbeams of those wells which ever leap
> Under the lightnings of the soul—too deep
> For the brief fathom line of thought or sense.

But to be able to create such delicate, rich beauty it is necessary to have "the deep and labyrinthine soul," and Madame Z. Gippius, like all the young Russian poets who wish to be symbolists, has not the requisite spiritual depth nor the requisite training. By far the best are those tales in which she gives herself up to the immediate impulses of her heart, and describes in a natural manner the lives of simple, insignificant people, as, for example, the governess overpowered by circumstances and persecuted in 'The Witch' ('Viedma'), or the old porter thinking, in the midst of the stifling city, of the pinewood and the freshness of the lake of his birth-place (the story 'Home,' 'Rodina'). Among the highest merits of Madame Gippius may be reckoned her power of individualization of style, her skill in making each hero speak in his own language. Of the poems contained in the collection 'New People' (mentioned above), some are really fine, as, for instance, the beautiful poem 'Love only' ('Liubov odna') ending with the words:—

> Love takes our very life as guerdon,
> The true soul knows its goal is won;
> One love is given to soothe life's burden;
> Yea, love is one—as death is one.

Th. Sologub possesses gifts akin to the talent of Madame Gippius. In his volume entitled 'Shadows' ('Tieni') are contained three excellent stories of child life: 'The Worm' ('Cherviak'), 'Shadows' ('Tieni'), and 'To the Stars' ('K' 'Zviezdam'). Here the poet depicts the spiritual development of a child's soul. The language employed is somewhat thin, but on the other hand there are no false airs, and in the soul of the poet there is an inner chord which wins over the reader to him. Among the poems collected in the volume which bears the title 'Shadows,' our attention is most drawn to the short light sketches full of elegance and music; sometimes they recall the little sketches of some artistic Impressionist and leave in the reader the sense of something delicate and aërial, which, as it were, accidently brings to us a harmony from some broken, unfinished, but musical piece.

But if any contemporary Russian poet can boast of really melodious verse and conspicuous musical feeling, it must be Myrrha Lokhvitskaya, who has written quite a series of beautiful poems. Madame Lokhvitskaya is young, yet she has already published two volumes of pretty verse, which have attracted public attention, and have earned her a reputation for lyrical talent. Her verses are always harmonious and devoted almost exclusively to the two eternal subjects, love and death. In them we feel the inexhaustible efflorescence of youth, the splendid luxury of a spring morning with its abundance of sound, colour, and fragance. The reader seems to be wandering in an umbrageous park, where the trees are laden with fragrant blossoms; and even if some of the trees lack blossoms, they are shapely and graceful in their melancholy, like cypresses. If Madame Gippius has a Northern soul, in that of Madame Lokhvitskaya the Eastern element is predominant. If in the garden of the former there are growing half-withered and half-closed lilies, in the garden of the latter are young roses and poppies, only just bursting forth, but already disclosed. Especially good are those poems of Madame Lokhvitskaya in which she uses as a canvas for her creations Eastern fancies and legends—'The Queen of Sheba' ('Tsaritsa Savskaya') in the first volume of her poems, and 'The Broken Wine-jar' ('Razbitaya Amphora') in the second—or those in which, with delicate feeling and true artistic perception, she describes Russian nature: 'In the Rye' ('Vorzhi'), 'So Low over the Ripening Cornfield' ('Tak nizko nad zreioustchei nivoi'), and 'Among the Field-Flowers' ('V' 'polevikh tsvietakh,' volume II). The little love poems also are beautiful where the outbursts of a woman's passionate heart are expressed in nervous, rhythmic strophes as bold as the fragments of Sappho.

While speaking of books which have appeared durin the past year, I cannot pass over in silence the interesting novel of a young writer, L. Gurevitch, 'The Table-Land' ('Ploskogorie'), which first appeared in one of the best Russian literary journals, the *Northern Messenger* (*Scvierni Viestnik*), which she edits. In this organ also was published the interesting tale by a new writer, M. Gorski, entitled 'Malva.' The author came from the midst of the people, and has been able to make himself acquainted with the characters and types of the working-men. H. Zlatovratski is a *littérateur* sprung also from the people, who has gained a considerable reputation by his numerous tables and sketches from national life, and is known not only to cultured readers, but to many educated men of the working class. He has issued his works in a third edition in three volumes (Moscow, 1897). The able, although but little-known poet S. Andreevski has published a second edition of his poems, full of a melancholy tenderness which is purely Russian ('Poems of the Years 1878–87,' St. Petersburg, 1898). Among metrical translations which appeared in this volume are those of some of the poems of Edgar Poe, who can boast in Russia many more admirers and friends that he can claim in America. Generally speaking, foreign poets—especially English, German, and Scandinavian—enjoy much popularity in contemporary Russia. During the past year in St. Petersburg there appeared a collection of the works of Henrik Ibsen in a Russian translation. The works of Byron, Shelley, Tennyson, and Burns have been translated afresh, and again find readers. It is by familiarizing itself with the great models of European poetry, and the careful study of them, that Russian literature will escape its contemporary barrenness, and take to itself original forms. The Russian reading public is well aware of this fact, and thus meets with sympathy every attempt to bring treasures into the domain of Russian literature which have been created by the elder sisters of the Russian muse, who is still young and inexperienced.

During the last year Russian literature has been enriched by the publication of the works of two conspicuous Russian *savants* now dead. I mean those of the Moscow professor I. S. Tikhonravov, published in Moscow by M. and S. Sabashnikov, and the works, published in St. Petersburg, of K. D. Kavelin, who busied himself a great deal with the settlement of the serf question. Tikhonravov, together with the lately deceased Th. Buslaev, appears as one of the most profoundly learned men in Russian antiquities, popular traditions, legends, and the evolution of Russian thought and language. Kavelin, author of the work 'The Serf Question,' and various monographs on Russian history, did much for the spread of liberal ideas, and was one of the first to throw light on the true character of the reforms of Peter the Great.

The well-known critic S. Vengerov continues his important work, 'A Critico-Biographical Dictionary of Russian Writers and Scholars' ('Kritiko-biographicheski Slover Russkikh Pisatelei i Uchenikh'), which promises to be of gigantic dimensions. Five volumes, which furnish only the beginning of the encyclopædic work undertaken by Vengerov, contain rich materials, but make us fear that the esteemed critic will never be able to bring his work to completion unless a life like that of the partriarchs in the Bible is allotted him. The same author has undertaken simultaneously an important new work, entitled 'Russian Poetry' ('Russkaya Poezia'). Here he has collected the productions of the Russian poets partly in a complete form and partly in extracts, to which are added highly important critico-biographical notes and portraits. In the first volume of this work Vengerov has printed already specimens of a hundred and sixteen poets of the eighteenth century. Unfortunately, the quality of Russian poetry of the eighteenth century is in inverse proportion to its quantity.

Among other historical works I may mention that of E. Karnovich, 'Russian Officials in Past and Present Times' ('Russkie Chinovniki v' Biloye i Nastoyastchee Vremya,' St. Petersburg, 1897), an incomplete but interesting study of the history of Russian administration, brought down to the very latest times; the book by Venevitinov, 'The Russians in Holland: the Great Embassy, 1697—8' ('Russkie v' Gollandii: Velikoe Posolstvo'), a study of the time of Peter the Great, compiled from Russian and Dutch sources; the book of Prof. V. Aleksandrenko, 'Russian Diplomatic Agents in London in the Eighteenth Centuary' ('Russkie Diplomaticheskie Agente v' Londonie v' XVIII. Viekie," Warsaw, 1897); and the essays of the well-known critic A. Voliuski on the history of the Italian Renaissance (Leonardo da Vinci), which he has published in the *Northern Messenger* during the past and present year, and which form a large work compiled from original authorities.

CONSTANTINE BALMONT.

No. 1047, Financial.

Transferred to the Educational Department.

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

19*th April* 1899.

No. 234, Educational.

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

By Order.

(Signed) A. EDGINGTON,
Ag. Asst. Secretary.

5*th May* 1899.

From the Honourable Mr. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.SC., LL. D., Director of Public Instruction, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Ootacamund, 20th May 1899, No. 5657.

In returning endorsement No. 234, dated 5th May 1899, I have the honour to state that it is quite true, as remarked in letter No. 465 of the Government of India, that the annual reports "do not serve the purposes of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature as literature, nor of Government which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country and of all advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors".

2. To do what the Government of India has in view would require a man not only endowed with wide general information, literary tastes, and critical training, but also possessing considerable leisure, so that he could not merely read the productions of the year but enter into the spirit of them. Even if he possessed the intellectual

qualifications which the Government of India contemplates, it would be quite impossible, as things are at present, for the Director of Public Instruction to undertake this additional duty. His office work leaves him hardly any time to read, much less to read critically, anything not bearing on the work of his office. The multiplicity of languages in the Southern Presidency would also be a difficulty in the way of the Director of Public Instruction or any one man doing the work satisfactorily; for he would have to depend on summaries written by such of his subordinates as are acquainted with the languages in which the books are written. And such summaries would be apt to partake largely of the useles character of the descriptions now given in the annual reports.

3. The difficulty arising from the multiplicity of languages is one which is felt by the Registrar of Books, who at present writes the annual reports under reference. For a knowledge of the contents of books written in languages other than Tamil, Telugu and English he has to depend on the summaries prepared by others. This is a difficulty which will have to be met under any arrangement that may be made.

4. I do not know whether the Government of India contemplates attaching the Registrarship of Books to the Director's office. When Act XXV of 1867 was brought into force, Mr. Powell, who was then Director of Public Instruction, was appointed the first Registrar of Books. But at his own request he was soon relieved of the duty and M.R.Ry. Krishnamachariyar, the present Registrar, was appointed.

5. While I admit that, from the nature of his work, the Director of Public Instruction would seem to be the officer best qualified for the work the Government of India has in view, I have to add that unless his establishment were strengthened so as to relieve him of a large amount of the routine work of his office which now devolves on him, it would be impossible for him to undertake the work.

Order—Mis No. 427, Educational, dated 4th July 1899.

The Government of India will be addressed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. J. WEIR,
Ag. Secretary to Govt.

Letter—to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, No. 428, dated 4th July 1899.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Hill's letter No. 465, dated 31st March last, observing that the reports on books and publications registered under Act XXV of 1867, which are now annually submitted by local Governments and administrations are capable of considerable improvement and suggesting that, in order to remedy the defects pointed out, they should in future be drawn up by a responsible European officer and that the Director of Public Instruction would seem to be the officer best qualified for the work.

2. In reply I am to state that this Government agrees with the Government of India that the reports, as at present written, do not serve the purposes of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature, nor of Government which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country and of all advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors, and that if it were practicable it would be advisable that they should in future be drawn up by a European officer. This Government however does not consider that the Director of Public Instruction is the most suitable officer in this Presidency to undertake the work. As the Director of Public Instruction has pointed out, to do what the Government of India has in view would require a man not only endowed with wide general information, literary tastes and critical training, but also possessing considerable leisure, of which the Director of Public Instruction in Madras has little or none. For this reason alone

His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that it is impossible to entrust the preparation of the annual report to the Director of Public Instruction in this Presidency.

3. I am further to state that the amount of the present allotment, viz., Rs. 150 a month, made to the Registrar of Books, who draws up the annual reports, precludes any important steps being taken to improve the report in the direction suggested, but that if it is thought desirable by the Government of India this Government is ready to make the experiment of granting an honorarium for the preparation of the review to a selected officer, who would be placed on special duty for the purpose.

4. I am finally to observe that the vernacular literature of this Presidency differs widely from the continental literature reviewed in the *Athenæum* being, by comparison uninteresting and wanting in originality, and that the multiplicity of languages, no less than fourteen in number in which it is written, causes the officer who prepares the report to be dependent on men who are mere clerks, capable of translating and nothing more, and would render the task of reviewing in this Presidency especially difficult—if not beyond the efforts of one officer—to accomplish in the way that is desired.

Read—also the following papers:—

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Books), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational Department, dated Simla, the 4th May 1900, No. 665.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 428, dated the 4th July 1899, regarding the preparation of the annual reports on books and publications registered under Act XXV of 1867, and of your endorsement No. 115, dated the 10th March 1900, forwarding the review and analysis of such works for the year 1899.

2. The Government of Madras agree with the view of the Government of India expressed in Home Department letter No. 465, dated the 31st March 1899, to the effect that the reports as at present written do not serve the purposes of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature, or of Government which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country and of all advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors, and that, if it is practicable, it is advisable that the reports should in future be drawn up by a European officer. The Governor in Council is, however, of opinion that it is impossible, as suggested by the Government of India, to entrust the work to the Director of Public Instruction since he has little or no leisure for it.

3. I am to enclose, for the information of His Excellency in Council, a copy of the correspondence marginally noted with the Government of Bombay on this subject. In that Presidency the quarterly catalogue of books and publications will continue to be prepared by the existing staff subordinate to the Oriental Translator, but it will be supplemented by a review drawn up by the Director of Public Instruction in the manner suggested by Mr. Giles in his letter, dated the 31st May 1899. The Director will also bring to the notice of the Local Government any inaccuracy which he may discover in the descriptions contained in the "Remarks" column of the catalogue.

1. Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 117-M., dated the 23rd October 1899, and enclosure.
2. Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 815, dated the 7th February 1900, and enclosure.
3. Letter to the Government of Bombay, No. 484, dated the 9th March 1900.

4. I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Governor in Council, that a similar arrangement should be followed in the Madras Presidency. I am to add that the other Local Governments have adopted the suggestions which were made by the Government of India in the letter of the 31st March 1899.

Enclosures.

From J. DeC. ATKINS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, No. 117 M., dated Bombay Castle, the 23rd October 1899.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Home Department letter No. 466, dated the 31st March last, in which it is suggested that, as the review of Native publication in this Presidency, as at present prepared, is defective in several respects, it should be entrusted to a responsible European officer, and that from the nature of his work the officer best qualified for the purpose will be the Director of Public Instruction.

2. In reply I am to state that the Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, was consulted on the subject, and a copy of his report, No. 1365, dated the 31st May 1899, in which this Government generally concurs, is herewith enclosed.

3. I am to observe that the quarterly catalogue of books and publications will continue to be made in the existing way and by the existing staff, which will be subordinate to the Oriental Translator, the catalogue being supplemented by the review as ordered by the Government of India. The review will be undertaken by the Director of Public Instruction and will be compiled by him in the manner suggested in his letter, dated the 31st May last. A sum of Rs. 750 will be placed at his disposal to be distributed by him at his discretion among reviewers, and, if the amount is found to be insufficient, the question of increasing it will be considered hereafter. The Oriental Translator has been instructed to send to the Director of Public Instruction any books which may seem to him to merit review. The proofs of the catalogue of books and publications will also be sent to the Director of Public Instruction when ready with remarks as at present, and that officer will revise the remarks, add to them the series of reviews, and send the catalogue and review to the Government Central Press for publication in the *Bombay Government Gazette*.

4. I am to express a hope that the above arrangements will meet the wishes of the Government of India.

From E. GILES, Esq., Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Educational Department, dated Poona, the $\frac{31\text{st May}}{2\text{nd June}}$ 1899, No. 1365.

In returning herewith the papers forwarded with your No. 1794 of April 27th, 1899, I have the honour to state that a perusal of the annual report on native publications for the years 1896 and 1897 leads me to think that some change in procedure is expedient as pointed out by the Government of India, and that the deficiencies indicated in Mr. Hill's letter are such as tend to vitiate the utility of the report as a record of literary progress or as a true exposition of the sentiments which the publications under review contain.

2. As an illustration of my meaning, I will notice certain *quasi*-historical works, reviewed in the report for 1897, which are characterised by an attempt to unduly depreciate the British and their rule and to praise extravagantly the Native, but specially the Mahratta character.

Four books may be noticed—

(1) 'The Life of the Queen of Jhansi,' a translation into Gujarati from a Marathi original published about 1895.

(2) The Life of Sir Dinkar Rao.

(3) A translation of Pandita Ramabai's Mahratta work entitled 'The Condition of the People of the United States.'

(4) Mr. C. G. Bhanu's 'Tales from Mahratta History.'

It so happens that these four books have come before me lately, having been submitted by the authors for departmental patronage.* In every case my book committee reported that they were disfigured by the tendency which I have noticed above, and in every case I refused to extend to the book any departmental recognition.† Without going into lengthly explanation, I may state that the books convey the following several impressions:—

* As prize and library books or text-books.

† I have recently struck Pandita Ramabai's Mahratta book off the Curator's list of sanctioned books.

(1) That the Rani of Jhansi was a noble and high souled woman fighting against tyrants.

(2) That Sir Dinkar Rao was, more or less, a traitor to his country. ‡

‡ Note the expression "after all" in Mr. Joshi's review, page 6.

(3) That the treatment § of the Indians by the English is on a par with that of the Red Indians by the Americans.

§ This idea is conveyed in footnotes which disfigure the book.

(4) That the English were cowardly and feeble men whose generals shed * tears as they grovelled at the feet of their Mahratta conquerors, and that it was only the accident of a divided Maharashtra which enabled them to conquer the country.

* This is one of the "anecdotes not found in ordinary books"!

3. It appears to me to be beyond disputation that the duty of a reviewer of the publications of a year is not performed unless he is able to convey in his review a general idea of the tone and sentiments of works which can be classified together. My impression of the four books mentioned is that they have the main characteristic described in the commencement of paragraph 2, but I do not gather that impression from the annual report, but from the accident that the books have passed under my departmental review.

4. But while I admit in the annual review the failure to generalise, I must admit also the exceedingly difficult task which is set before the reviewer. In a year of decreased publications that officer has to deal, in the space of a few pages, with 1,036 works written in 13 different languages. The French reviewer for the "Athenæum" is a literary expert, dealing with the literature of his native country, and unfettered by other than literary obligations. He has a free hand to reject or to accept, to praise or to condemn, subject only to the consideration of the literary value of his article, and the estimation in which that article will be held by cultivated readers.

5. The position of a reviewer of the publications of this Presidency is essentially different; in that he must of necessity deal with a very large number of works which he is unable to peruse, and with respect to which he is dependent upon the reports of others, who have, presumably, neither due literary experience nor cultivation, and who must frequently possess but a slender knowledge of the language in which the work under review is written.

6. Thus, if the present reviewer is replaced by the Director of Public Instruction, and assuming that that officer has sufficient literary capacity, it can hardly be expected that the review of annual publications can be as complete and thorough as is desirable, unless, indeed, the Director has a large subordinate staff placed at his disposal, and the present expenditure is increased.

The cost of the office at present is, I believe, as under—

	Rs.
Reporter, Rs. 350—50—400	= 4,800
Six clerks—1 (Rs. 100), 1 (Rs. 75), 1 (Rs. 35), 2 (Rs. 30), 1 (Rs. 20)	= 3,480
One servant	120
Subscriptions to newspapers	= 745
Miscellaneous	75
Total ..	9,220

From this list the three last clerks may be eliminated as being mere writers. There remain three persons who presumably are more or less competent to pronounce judgment on publications, but of these three, two are probably not men of much literary experience.

The present reporter is a Mahratta Brahman who took his degree in 1875 with Sanskrit as his second language. I do not know the qualifications of his first two clerks, but it is probable that the literary capacity of the combined office is not very considerable or diffused.

7. To deal thoroughly with publications, that is, to obtain a clear conception of the actual contents and spirit of each work which deserves notice, it would, in my opinion, be necessary that it should be carefully read and "gutted"† by an expert in the language in which it was written. My experience has shown me that the general tone of a book may be harmless or even praiseworthy, while there are passages in it which are inserted apparently for the set purpose of removing any favourable impression, and which suggest that the writer honoured with his lips what his heart did not approve. Other books again are disfigured by allusions‡ and expressions which are, from a cultivated point of view, not only unsuitable, but grossly superstitious or indecent. But unless the examination of the publication is thorough, such passages will escape notice, while, unless the examining officer is capable, they may be disregarded as of little importance, or in accordance with the customs of the country.

† A favourite expression of Professor Sidney Owen, Ch. Ch. Oxford.

‡ *E.g.*, a perfectly harmless account of the travels of the late Maharaja of Bhownagar in India was disfigured by an utterly obscene and unnecessary story.

8. It is obvious that the Director of Public Instruction, whose time is already fully occupied, cannot, if the work of compiling the annual review is entrusted to him, be expected to take any personal share in the examination of publications. The utmost that he can do is to utilise the materials provided for him, and his review will be effective and thorough only if he is supplied with accurate and full details.

9. The present staff of the reporter's office cannot, presumably, do all that is required, even if, as seems essential, the reporter himself is an expert linguist, well acquainted with the principal vernaculars of the Presidency.* But a man with these qualifications could, during the preparation of his quarterly catalogues, mark those publications which appeared to be worthy of especial examination, and could draw the attention of the Director to their importance. The Director could then decide whether the reporter's description of a publication was sufficient, or whether it was expedient to call for a special report on it. In the latter case the suggestion of the Government of India that the Director of Public Instruction could avail himself of the services of his subordinates might be utilised, and the Director could place the publication before an officer selected to review it on account of his special qualifications for the purpose.

* Khan Bahadur S. S. Kadri, B.A., Deputy Collector, Surat, is a man who knows Gujarati, Maratti, Persian and Arabic, and Hindustani is his vernacular.

10. By this procedure I think that a fairly complete supervision over the publications of the year might be secured, and it is possible that very small additional expenditure would be entailed. I should, however, be disposed to recommend strongly a moderate scale of remuneration to those officers of the Educational Department who were called on to review books specially. The labourer is worthy of his hire, and I am confident that work would be better and more thoroughly done if a fitting remuneration was paid for it. Perhaps it would be necessary to add a sum of Rs. 500 to the present expenditure for "Payments to Reviewers," and it is also probable that the increased work thrown on the Director of Public Instruction's office would necessitate the appointment of a special clerk.† But I do not think that the total expenditure would rise beyond Rs. 10,000 as compared with Rs. 9,220 at present.

† Mr. Chatfield asked for two additional clerks four years ago, and work increases annually.

11. This estimate will be verified by experience, and in the meantime there is nothing, so far as I can see, to prevent the transfer of the preparation of the annual review to the Director of Public Instruction. But that officer's review will be valuable to Government only if he is supplied with full and carefully prepared data for its compilation.

From J. De C. ATKINS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Bombay Castle, the 7th February 1900, No. 815.

In continuation of my letter No. 117-M., dated the 23rd October last, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of Government resolution No. 814 of this day's date, modifying the orders regarding the preparation of the quarterly catalogues of books and the annual review and analysis of native publications in the Bombay Presidency.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay, General Department, No. 814, dated Bombay Castle, the 7th February 1900.

Read—

Letter from the Director of Public Instruction, No. 5856, dated the 9th December 1899:—

"With reference to paragraph 2 of Government Resolution No. 4753-A. of October 23rd, 1899, I have the honour to state that the instructions in that paragraph are that the proofs of the catalogue of books, &c., should be sent to the Director of Public Instruction, with remarks, as at present. 'The Director of Public Instruction should then revise the remarks, add to them the series of reviews, and send the catalogue and review to the Government Central Press.'

"2. I have the honour to ask attention to paragraph 9 of this office No. 1365 of May 31st, 1899, quoted in the preamble to the Government resolution in question. In that paragraph I indicated the method in which, as I thought, the desire of the Government of India for a more complete review of the publications of the year could be fulfilled. What I intended to convey there was that the reporter on the native press (or now the Oriental Translator) should draw my attention to certain books in the quarterly statements as they came out, and that I should, after getting a competent opinion on those books, decide whether the description given of them in the margin of the quarterly statements was sufficient, or whether a special report on the book was necessary. It was not my intention to suggest that I should have any hand in the preparation of the quarterly catalogues, but only in the annual review of the whole publications of the year.

"3. But the orders now issued throw upon me the duty of—

(1) revising the marginal remarks made by the compiler of each quarterly statement;
(2) adding to each quarterly statement a series of reviews;
(3) sending each quarterly statement and series of reviews to the press.

"4. I respectfully point out that these orders cannot be fully complied with and can only partially be complied with at the sacrifice of all punctuality in the issue of each quarterly statement. I submit that the revision of each quarterly statement by me is—

(1) unnecessary, because the Oriental Translator is as capable of revising the marginal remarks as I am;

(2) impossible, because, as I do not see the books * alluded to, I cannot tell whether the remarks are adequate or not.

* I only see the books selected for special review.

"5. The case will be made clearer when I point out that the Oriental Translator has now on December 2nd sent up to me the quarterly statement of books and publications for the quarter ending 30th September. He has likewise forwarded to me 24 books mentioned in the quarterly statement which are, he thinks, worthy of special review. Now, if the issue of this quarterly statement is to be delayed until I have had all these 24 books reviewed, it is obvious that I cannot send the quarterly statement to the Superintendent, Central Press, for a long period, say, two months at least, as I have to add to the quarterly statement the 'series of reviews'. This seems to me to involve a most undesirable delay, and if this procedure is persisted in, the issue of the quarterly statements will fall hopelessly into arrears.

"6. But there is another and an important consideration, which is, whether it is the intention of Government to append to each quarterly statement a '*series of reviews*.' In other words, does Government wish that the special reports which I may receive from selected members of the Educational Department are to be published *in extenso* every quarter? I can conceive circumstances under which it would be neither desirable nor politic to publish such reviews. I apprehend that the purposes of Government will be better served if such reviews remain in my office and are utilized by me in the general review of the publications of the year which is to be prepared by the Director of Public Instruction under the orders of the Government of India.

"7. Finally, I submit that the transmission of each quarterly statement from the Oriental Translator (an officer of far higher position and education than the reporter on the native press) to the Director of Public Instruction for proof correction is a mere waste of time, and I have, I think, shown that quarterly reviews cannot be appended to each quarterly statement. The conclusion I arrive at is that the interests of Government will be best served, if the following procedure is adopted:—

(1) The quarterly statements should issue as usual under the supervision of the Oriental Translator.

(2) That officer should draw the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to any books in each quarterly statement which seem worthy of special enquiry and send a copy of each book to the Director of Public Instruction.

(3) That officer should have them reviewed as soon as possible and keep the reviews in his own office.

(4) The Oriental Translator should, as soon as possible after the close of the year, send up to the Director of Public Instruction the usual statistics and report † which is now submitted to Government.

† The report would be short and mechanical only, as all important books would be reviewed by the Director of Public Instruction.

(5) The Director of Public Instruction should, with the aid of that report, the four quarterly statements and his special reviews, prepare one review for Government of the whole publications of the year.

"8. I request that Government will be so good as to give early attention to this representation, and, in the meanwhile, I have sent the quarterly statement for the quarter ending September 30th to the press for publication to save delay."

Resolution.—As the Director of Public Instruction points out that his reviews of the principal books mentioned in the quarterly catalogue of books and publications cannot be completed before the issue of that catalogue, unless its issue is considerably and unnecessarily delayed, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the proofs of the catalogue need not be forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction for revision with the aid of his reviews as ordered in resolution of the 23rd October 1899. The special reviews prepared under the Director of Public Instruction's supervision will therefore be retained by him for reference at the time of preparing his review for Government of the whole publications of the year. He should bring to the notice of Government any inaccuracy of importance which he may discover in the descriptions contained in the remarks column of the catalogue.

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department, dated Calcutta, the 9th March 1900, No. 484.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 815, dated the 7th February 1900, on the subject of the preparation of the quarterly catalogues of books and publications and the annual review and analysis of native publications in the Bombay Presidency.

2. In your letter No. 117-M., dated 23rd October 1899, it was stated that the Government of Bombay had decided to continue the preparation of the quarterly catalogue of books and publications in the existing way and by the existing staff, which will be subordinate to the Oriental Translator; the catalogue being supplemented by a review drawn up by the Director of Public Instruction in the manner suggested in his letter, dated the 31st May 1899, I am to say that the Government of India approve of this arrangement.

3. The Director in that letter referred to four books: (1) The Life of the Queen of Jhansi, (2) The Life of Sir Dinkar Rao, (3) A translation of Pandita Ramabai's "The condition of the people in the United States", and (4) Tales from Mahratta History, as being "characterised by an attempt to unduly depreciate the British and their rule and to praise extravagantly the native, but especially the Mahratta character"; and he remarked: "The duty of a reviewer of the publications of a year is not performed unless he is able to convey in his review a general idea of the tone and sentiments of works which can be classified together. My impression of the four books mentioned is that they have the main characteristic described . . . . but I do not gather that impression from the annual report but from the accident that the books have passed under my departmental review." From this it appears that Messrs. G. M. Sathe, Registrar, and B. V. Joshi, Acting Registrar, of Native Publications, Bombay (who were responsible for the annual reports in which these books were dealt with), prepared their reviews of the books in question in a perfunctory manner, I am to request that steps may be taken to ensure that this duty is efficiently performed in future.

4. The Governor-General in Council observes that, in his resolution No. 814 of the 7th February 1900, the Governor in Council has requested the Director of Public Instruction to bring to the notice of Government any inaccuracy which he may discover in the descriptions contained in the remarks column of the catalogue. I am to say that the Government of India trust that this order will result in the preparation of a more trustworthy review and analysis of native literature in the future.

Endt. No. 181.

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

(By Order.)

(Signed) R. W. D'E. ASHE,
Ag. Assistant Secretary.

21*st May* 1900.

From the Hon'ble Mr. G. H. STUART, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Madras, 6th July 1900, No. 6481.

In returning the papers received with Government endorsement, No. 181, Educational, dated 21st May last, I have the honour to state that I have no objection to an arrangement similar to that detailed in paragraph 7 of the letter of the Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, No. 5856, dated 9th December last. The Registrar of Books will be required, from the beginning of the next quarter, to submit to this office, at the close of every week, such of the books registered during the quarter as he may consider worthy of special inquiry. These books, as they are received, will be forwarded to persons who are competent to review them, the review being used to supplement the remarks of the Registrar in the quarterly catalogues, which will be published under my signature. I am not, however, sure whether, in this case, it will be possible to publish the catalogue and submit copies to Government by the time allowed, viz., two months. The reviews will be filed in this office for use in preparing the annual review.

2. The Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, has proposed that he be held responsible only for the annual review, the preparation and publication of the quarterly catalogues continuing to be the work of the Oriental Translator. The

Government of India resolution, however, requires the Director of Public Instruction to supplement the quarterly catalogue prepared by the Oriental Translator by a short review of his own; but it is not clearly stated by whom the annual review should be prepared. Apparently it is the intention of the Government of India that this should also be done by the Director of Public Instruction. In this case it would be necessary either to strengthen my office establishment by the appointment of two or three special assistants who between them could deal with all the principal vernaculars of the Presidency, or to provide for payments to reviewers in the manner suggested in paragraph 10 of Mr. Giles' letter, No. 1365, dated 31st May 1899. I prefer the latter course.

3. On receipt of the orders of Government, the necessary instructions will be issued to the Registrar of Books.

4. I request that a copy of the papers received with the endorsement of Government quoted above may be furnished to this office for reference.

Order—No. 398, Educational, dated 28th August 1900.

With regard to the Director's remarks on the subject of the quarterly reviews, it is observed that while these are intended to supplement the quarterly catalogues published under the provisions of Act XXV of 1867, the issue of the latter must not be delayed at all. Nor is it desired that any change should be made in the existing arrangements under which the catalogues appear under the signature of the Registrar of Books. The Government, however, purpose to introduce certain alterations, which will be indicated in due course, in the form of the catalogues.

2. The proposal to file the reviews as received, for use in preparing the annual report, is approved, subject to further instructions of the Government of India on this point.

3. Under the system now to be introduced, the Director will be responsible for the annual report. In order to enable him to draw it up, payments to reviewers in the manner suggested by Mr. Giles should be made. After working out the arrangements, the Director should submit definite proposals in regard to the provision which he considers to be necessary for the purpose. He will also, as far as possible, condense the report, which in the opinion of the Government has of late years been allowed to run to too great a length, and which has been rendered bulky by the inclusion of tabular statistics of questionable utility or interest. The following letter will be sent to the Government of India:—

[Here enter letter No. 399, Educational, dated 28th August 1900.]

(True Extract.)

To the Director of Public Instruction.
" Accountant-General.

Exd. W. D'Mos

Government {1900} of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL.

20

Proof

Recd. } 1900. *Enclosures*
Regd. } *Spare copies*

Letter, No. 399, 28th August 1900.

AUGUST.

cc

Same as for 20.

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EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Letter—from

M. HAMMICK, Esq., I.C.S.,

Ag. Secretary to the Government of Madras,

To

The SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA,

Home Department (Books).

Sir,

I am directed to reply to your letter of the 4th May 1900, No. 665, on the subject of the preparation of the annual report on books and publications registered under Act XXV of 1867, and to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council is ready to adopt the suggestion that the arrangements in this Presidency should be the same as those proposed by Mr. Giles in his letters of the 31st May and 9th December 1899, Nos. 1365 and 5856.

2. The procedure will be as follows:—

The quarterly catalogues will issue punctually as hitherto under the signature of the Registrar of Books, but that officer will be charged with the duty of submitting to the Director of Public Instruction, weekly, copies of such books as are considered worthy of special inquiry.

These volumes, as they are received, will be forwarded by the Director to selected persons competent to review them.

The reviews will, after examination, be filed by the Director of Public Instruction for use in preparing the annual report for which in future he, not as hitherto has been the case, the Registrar of Books, will be responsible.

The Director has been desired to condense this report, which in consequence of the inclusion of tabular statements, reproducing statistics of no particular interest or value from the quarterly catalogues, has of recent years been allowed to grow to too large dimensions.

3. I am to add that certain small changes are proposed in the method of entering the titles of books in the catalogues, in order to comply more exactly with the requirements of the law and also to bring these lists of publications more into conformity with the methods now generally adopted by European cataloguers; and with the view of arranging for this modification, the lists will for the present be examined in the Secretariat before publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette.*

4. The procedure, a sketch of which has been given above, appears to be in exact agreement with that to be introduced in Bombay, but there are two points about which doubt is felt.

5. The first relates to the quarterly reviews. In the third paragraph of your letter, you refer to the letter from Mr. Giles, the Director of Public Instruction in Bombay, bearing date 31st May 1899, but in a subsequent communication, which was before the Government of India when you wrote and which bears date 9th December 1899, that officer explained to the Bombay Government how impossible it would be for him to add reviews to the quarterly catalogues except at the sacrifice of all punctuality in the issue of the latter. I am directed to state that there would be

the same difficulty in this Presidency, and I am to express the hope that the arrangements in this respect which have been already detailed, and which are identical with those *ultimately* approved by the Bombay Government in their resolution of the 7th February 1900, No. 814, may be accepted by the Government of India. I am here to remark that His Excellency the Governor in Council attaches special importance to the punctual issue of the quarterly catalogues, as otherwise serious difficulties are likely to arise in complying with the provisions of the amending Act X of 1890. Even under the present arrangements, such difficulties are at times experienced, and in several instances, owing to the closing of printing establishments and the disappearance of publishers, the period during which copies of a book may be obtained free of cost for the British Museum and the India Office Library has expired before the claim for them could be made and satisfied. Delay in the publication of the quarterly catalogues would, it is feared, aggravate these difficulties.

6. The second point in which the scheme differs from that apparently contemplated by the Government of India is the scrutiny suggested in the third paragraph of your letter under reply. It is there proposed that the Director of Public Instruction should bring to the notice of the Local Government any inaccuracy which he might discover in the descriptions contained in the column of remarks in the catalogues. As Mr. Giles has pointed out in the fourth paragraph of his letter, dated the 7th February last, the Director will under the Bombay system see only the books selected for special review, and will therefore be unable to check errors on the part of the officer who compiles the catalogues. Even if an arrangement were devised under which all the books of each quarter should be sent to the Director, it would, I am to explain, be impossible for him to give any personal care or attention to this matter. The books are in some fourteen languages, of which, in the ordinary course, the Director of Public Instruction is not likely to have an acquaintance sufficient for the purpose in view. It would therefore be found necessary for the Director to employ assistants, such as native clerks and others, to read over the books, and as these assistants would be of precisely the same class as those who had aided the Registrar of Books in preparing the catalogue, there would be no security that their descriptions would be more accurate than those already given.

I am, however, to state that while for these reasons the Director will be unable to test the accuracy of the entries in the catalogue made by the Registrar of Books except in the case of the works which may be selected for special review, these last will to some extent serve as an index of the general accuracy of the Registrar's work. The Registrar, who is an officer under the Director of Public Instruction, must, however, in the opinion of this Government, continue to be primarily responsible for the remarks in the catalogue.

7. The Governor in Council trusts that, after this explanation, the present scheme will be considered satisfactory and will be accepted by the Government of India.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Ootacamund,
August 1900

Ag. Secretary to Government.

Ed. W. D'Moss.

Government {1900} of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL.

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G.O., No. , August 1900.

AUGUST.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following paper :—

G.O., Nos. 427, 428, Educational, dated 4th July 1900.

Read—the following papers :—

From S. C. HILL, Esq., Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Books), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 31st March 1899, No. 465.

It has been brought to the notice of the Government of India that the Report on Books and Publications registered under Act XXV of 1867, which is now annually submitted by Local Governments and Administrations, is capable of considerable improvement.

2. It has been observed that these reports consist almost entirely of descriptions of books taken from the quarterly lists published in the local gazettes, of short summaries dealing chiefly with figures, and of a number of tables showing the languages in which the various books are written. The descriptions are often of books of no importance whatever, and, as they give very little but the plot of the work, convey no information regarding style, purity of language, novelty of ideas, moral, social or religious teaching, the growing influence of the West, etc. The summaries and tables, being of the nature above described, are of equally little use. In fact, the reports as at present written do not serve the purposes of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature as literature, nor of Government which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country and of all advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors. It has therefore been proposed that, whilst the quarterly lists in the gazettes should be continued so as to provide material for the Annual Reports, these latter should be composed, not as mere compilations from the quarterly lists but on the model of the Annual Review * of Continental Literature published in the Athenæum, with such modifications as may be necessary for this country.

* This review contains reviews of the literature of all European languages ; those of Russia and France are appended.

3. It appears to the Government of India that the defects of the reports as now published are due mostly to the fact that they are generally drawn up by men who, on the one hand, from their want of general information (especially as regards foreign literature), have little or no sense of the proportionate value of the books they have to deal with, and who, on the other hand, owing to a want of critical training, do not know what is most worth noticing in books. The result is that useless books are described at length, whilst valuable information as to the spread and growth of ideas is neglected. It has been suggested that, in order to make these reports really useful, they should in future be drawn up by a responsible European officer, and it seems that, from the nature of his work, the officer best qualified for this purpose will be the Director of Public Instruction as at present in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. This officer might of course avail himself of the services of his subordinates, but would be directly responsible for the report.

4. I am to add that the Governor-General in Council will be glad to receive any further suggestions on any matter connected with this subject.

Enclosures.

FRANCE.

In France for some years past we have got into an annoying habit of only considering as relevant to "literature" collections of verse, novels, dramatic pieces, and occasionally studies in criticism or literary history. Many reasons might be given for this; the principal is that all the world considers itself fit to decide the value of a *vaudeville* or a novel; and, in fact, a novel or a *vaudeville* is addressed to all the world. In the second place their only aim is to "please." The engrossing claims of art are more obvious, more constantly in evidence here than in a book of history or philosophy for instance, and here no effort is made to teach the reader or improve his morals. "Historia quoquo modo scripta semper placet," said an old writer : which comes to this, that the *raison d'être* of history is not solely to divert. But a novel must be interesting, and a theatrical piece must not be tedious. For all these reasons no petty piece is played at the Alcazar or the Eldorado without finding the immediate support of twenty writers of *feuilletons* to criticize it. No novel by, say, M. Zola or M. Paul Bourget is published without being fully chronicled on the very day of its appearance. And in some journals at least, or in some reviews, if the poets are infinitely less befriended than the novelists, yet they are spoken of and discussed. But the historians, the scholars, the philosophers, the scholars, are left in the cold. It seems as if criticism was afraid to meddle with them. They do not interest the readers to whom our journals address themselves. So it is that for the last half century a foreigner whose knowledge of French literature depended on our press would run the risk of thinking us a great deal more frivolous than we are. It is true that our great *savants* and philosophers, ancient and modern, and even our historians, have too often on their own part affected to disdain the art of writing. And in French there is an art of writing. It is not enough to say true things, just things, profound things; they must be said in a way which hides their profoundity, which imparts to justice an air of paradox, and something piquant and ingenious to truth itself. They must be said, too, in a way which does not seem factitious, which can be understood by everybody, and does not astonish, or even attract attention, or strike the reader as original until he reflects about it afterwards. Such are the qualities most of our historians and philosophers appear sometimes to have despised, thus doing harm both to their own reputations and all the world, by preventing or diminishing the circulation of their ideas.

No such charge can be brought against M. Auguste Sabatier's book, 'Esquisse d'une Philosophie de la Religion d'après la Psychologie et l'Histoire'; on the contrary, all must agree that some parts of it are remarkably written. It is the conclusions which are not very clear, and we French find it hard to understand what a religion is which is entirely individual and internal. In a Catholic country like France the very notion of religion cannot be separated from the idea of common discipline, rites and external observances and dogma. It is not that we do not recognize readily this "état d'âme," but it seems to us no longer a "religious," but a purely "philosophic" state, and we ought to have the courage to account for it. This is a courage which M. Victor Charbonnel does not show in his book on 'Le Congrès des Religions'. It is one of the most curious and interesting to be read anywhere, because M. Charbonnel seldom takes upon himself to speak; he leaves that to numerous correspondents consulted by him all over the world on the advisability of a Congress of Religions; and they have extremely divergent views on the question. But what he has not seen is that if it is easy to make a Buddhist, a Muhammadan, a Christian, and a Freethinker agree in certain common principles, it is done by ranking them as "philosophers" or "rationalists," and not at all as faithful adherents to a communion. He is like those Socialists who would establish "internationalism" on the basis of a "respect for nationalities." How much franker is the attitude of M. Pierre Laffitte in his big book on 'Le Catholicisme'! A disciple of Comte and a thoroughgoing Positivist, he thinks that a day may, or rather will certainly, come when Positivism will triumph over all rival systems, and morality will be founded on the basis of solidarity. This was George Eliot's idea too. But while waiting for this day to dawn M. Laffitte, in view of the organized moral force which Catholicism represents, declares that he is ready to treat with it on a basis of common action, and here he finds the advantage of being able to speak of it in the past, as well as of Christianity in general, with a remarkable and lofty impartiality. If with these books we connect a certain number of others, such as that of M. G Goyau on 'L'Allemagne Religieuse,' or of M. G. Fonsegrive on 'Le Catholicisme et la Démocratie,' or of M. Maignen with its strange title 'Le P. Hecker est-il un 'Saint?' if we consider the success of the translations of such books as Mr. Balfour's 'Foundations of Belief,' 'The life of P. Hecker,' or Cardinal Gibbons's 'The Ambassador of Christ'; lastly, if we remember the book of M. Francis de Pressensé on 'Le Cardinal Manning,' the existence of a review like *La Quinzaine*, and the polemics of many recent *brochures* like mine on 'Science et Religion' and 'La Renaissance de l'Idéalisme'—all point to the undoubted conclusion that, for some time past, in France, as well as Europe, more attention is being paid than ever to religious questions, above all in their connexion with social questions.

Preoccupations of the same sort appear among the most notable plays of the year, such as the 'Repas du Lion,' by M. François de Curel; the 'Mauvais Bergers' of M. Octave Mirbeau; the 'Vassale' of M. Jules Case; and the 'Aînée,' of M. Jules Lemaitre. They are not all of the same value; and, without doubt, the 'Repas du Lion' ranks before the others, thanks to the fresh, intrepid, and ingenious, if slightly incoherent manner in which the author has stated

the question of the "rapports du capital et du capital et du travail," and also to the tragic fashion in which he has represented, in the feudal soul of his hero, the conflict of the future with the past in an aristocrat's son. M. J. Lemaître's comedy raises questions less lofty, but more delicate, perhaps, and of a nature to pique the curiosity of English readers. How can a Protestant pastor who has some daughters to marry settle them without compromising in some slight degree his character? How can he reconcile his "spiritual" and "temporal" views? And are the means a layman might adopt, such as speculations in Transvaal mines, permissible in the case of a Churchman? There is much else besides this in M. Lemaître's comedy, in especial two or three characters of young maidens which are felicitous creations. There is also a rare mastery of style, and a singular skilfulness exhibited in daring and saying everything. This feature is wanting somewhat in M. Octave Mirbeau, whose frequently declamatory talent, like his other fine gifts, shows in its very declamations a beautiful strain of pity. His 'Mauvais Bergers' is the history of a strike dramatized. Here, again, we find the struggle between capital and labour. The piece is not ill constructed, and its effects, although somewhat broad, were thrilling on the stage. Madame Sarah Bernhardt here wore the "livery of misery" with as much facility as, on twenty other occasions, she has adopted the mantle of queen or empress. But M. Mirbeau lays too much stress, insists too much, and his impetuosity carries him beyond his mark. He is deficient in moderation and self-possession. It is a pity, for nothing he does is indifferent; and in the 'Mauvais Bergers' notably, there is a continual vibration of generous feeling which does as much honour to his inspiration as his habitual eloquence does to his talents. The 'Vassale' of M. Jules Case endeavours to deal with a problem often attacked, notably by M. Paul Hervieu—the question of marriage; but it is only half realized. Are such questions suitable for the theatre? In France, at least, general opinion says No. Of course, as the dramatist chooses his special case, he can make one party responsible for all the wrong and the recipient of all the indignation of the audience. On the other hand, illustrious examples going back as far as the 'École des Femmes,' down to the author of 'L'Étrangère' and 'La Princesse Georges,' show that the preoccupation of a thesis to be proved detracts nothing from the merit, as mere drama, of a theatrical piece. There will be always enough *vaudevilles* for those who only go to the Palais Royal or the Variétés for distraction and an agreeable opportunity to digest. This year they had M. Sardou's 'Paméla,' an historic *vaudeville* in the style of Scribe or Dumas the elder, with the 'Trois Filles de M. Dupont' of M. Eugène Brieux, and the 'Marriage Bourgeois' of M. Alfred Capus. I fear it may be somewhat unfair to style these last two *vaudevilles* and, everything considered, they are not very far from being what we call real comedies of manners. So much cannot be said for the 'Jalouse' of MM. Leclercq and Bisson, or the 'Transatlantiques' of M. Abel Hermant, or the 'Nouveau Jeu' of M. Henry Lavedan. A foreigner would be sadly misled if he saw in them a picture of French society, or even of the life of Paris. The manners of a few *fêtards* or a few *boulevardiers* are not all Paris, and all Paris is not all France.

A great number of verse dramas have appeared this year: the 'Frédégonde' of M. Dubout, the 'Cyrano de Bergerac' of M. E. Rostand, the 'Don Juan de Manara' of M. Haraucourt, the 'Martyre' of M. Jean Richepin; and why should not I add the 'Ville Mortie' of M. G. d'Annunzio? The 'Ville Morte' is a poem in prose, in which observations of a very subtle psychology, realistic and symbolic by turns, are expressed in a language both romantic and precise. On the contrary, the 'Frédégonde' of M. Dubout and the 'Martyre' of M. Richepin are respectively pseudo-classic tragedy, and drama or melodrama of the false romantic sort, and the more artificial for the bios of realism exhibited by their authors. The first is taken from the 'Récits Mérovingiens' of Augustin Thierry, the second from some nondescript confusion of the essence of Christianity with the profanest element in the passions of love. A similar combination is readily discernible in the 'Don Juan' of M. Haraucourt; the atmosphere is that of an ardent sensuality, also studied in the 'Passé' of M. G. de Porto Riche. The latter piece, which does not come under any of the previous heads, is a psychological—or rather physio-psychological—drama in prose, distinguished by bold and penetrating, but decidedly unpleasant observation. Given at the Odéon, 'Le Passé' is one of the least successful pieces of the year, yet one of the strongest if not the best constructed, and perhaps, with the 'Repas du Lion,' in quite another kind, the most worthy of notice. The success of the twelve months, 'Cyrano de Bergerac,' is, I have no doubt, known to most of my readers, and Heaven forbid that I should deny its singular merit! It has life, youth, and gaiety, but for a five-act piece in verse it lacks depth and originality somewhat. This is not an essential point, and does not raise any question of art or groundwork. M. Rostand is an admirable artist, and his present play marks a decided advance on his previous efforts. He must, however, mould his verse to a more precious metal of more homogeneity and strength.

May I recommend our poets to do the same? We have many very clever ones, both old and young, and two or three who are more than distinguished. Whence comes it that we find them too clever? Is it not because they lack not exactly originality, but personality? But this is also due to their being trained in the teaching of what we call the "Parnassian" school, as the declared intention of the school has been to react against the abuse of finery on the part of the romantics. In conformity with this principle, 'Les Siècles Morts' of M. le Vte. de Guerne was nothing but a development—often, it is true, magnificent—of the 'Poèmes Antiques' of Leconte de Lisle; but there is more liberty, in some sort, and more ease in his 'Bois Sacré.'

There is still more of the kind in the 'Jeux Rustiques et Divins' of M. Henri de Régnier, one of the masters of the young school, and one of the most indubitable poets and artists of recent years. His poems are distinguished by the sharp outlines with which his precise and coloured visions stand out slowly and insensibly against a background of shade and obscurity, and by the effect of fidelity secured by a poet who reproduces sensations in combination with an artist who finds the means, words, and rhythms to make his images real. If the verses of M. de Régnier are those of an artist—by which I mean a sculptor or painter—M. Samain's poems are those of a musician in his collection entitled 'Au Jardin de l'Infante.' There are many pieces whose insinuating and winning charm is precisely of the sort which defies analysis. I must not omit in this hasty account two other collections—one by M. Francis Vielé-Griffin, 'La Clarté de Vie,' and another by M. Henri Ronger, entitled 'Poèmes Fabuleux.' If rhetoric was not so prominent in the latter, and the former indulged in fewer liberties with prosody, they would serve well to limit the actual term of this evolution of lyrics in the direction of music—an evolution not so long since predicted, or rather prepared, by Paul Verlaine in France, and canonized all over the world by the success of Wagner.

I now turn to the novel. At starting I must regret that I have no room here to speak in detail of the 'Jacquine Vanesse' of M. Victor Cherbuliez, of the 'Boisfleury' of M. André Theuriet, of the last novel of Daudet, 'Soutien de Famille,' of the collection of M. Paul Bourget under the title of 'Complications Sentimentales,' which contains three of his most interesting stories, or the 'Paris' of M. Zola. 'Paris' appears to me much more interesting, better "documented," and more significant than 'Rome' or 'Lourdes.' M. Bourget's work displays his extraordinary powers of analysis to perfection. Daudet's deserves an entire study to itself. As for 'Boisfleury' and 'Jacquine Vanesse,' it is enough to say to English readers that they are worthy of their authors' reputations. For many years M. Theuriet has been the recognized exponent of provincial life and woodland nature; and no one could draw with more wit, malice, and art than M. Cherbuliez portraits more like very various originals, or more "unique" of their kind, and yet more human. I say nothing either of M. de Vogüé (to whom I shall return later) or of Pierre Loti, M. Paul Hervieu, M. René Bazin, or M. Marcel Prévost, who have unfortunately done nothing or almost nothing this year. In the same expression of regret I may include M. d'Annunzio, the Italian poet, who, thanks to his translator, M. Hérolle, may really be called a French novelist.

But five other novels are awaiting notice, which all mark what we call a "date" in the career of their authors. First I place 'Le Mannequin d'Osier' of M. Anatole France, following his 'Orme du Mail.' The notable thing in these two volumes is the talent of their author, which has never been more original—so original as to be disconcerting—and above all the way in which he has succeeded with a minimum of intrigue in producing a most lively and ironical impression of the life of to-day. The book exhibits no dertermined purpose, except that of looking on as a philosophic spectator at the eternal comedy of humanity—no "hero," no "catastrophes," hardly a few events of the ordinary sort, but mere talks and talkers in the streets, under "les ormes du mail," or in the back shop of the bookseller in the little town. A world of prefects, generals, wives, daughters, bishops, priests, engage in commonplace conversation with an air of paradox, or, to put it the other way round, paradoxes in all their mouths assume the appearence or truisms. The wit of the author, without indulgence or compassion, circulates amongst them without their knowing it, spurs them on, and drags from them the avowal of their follies, their small ambitions, the secret of their true character. The whole amounts to a novel of a new sort, the desultory character of which resembles life itself, while its cruel and dissolving irony makes a more realistic work than any of Balzac's or Flaubert's, more amusing and more disquieting. 'La Cathédrale,' by Huysmans, is equally devoid of intrigue and even of characters, but the perusal of it is, on the contrary, infinitely more laborious, and, in fine, less diverting. "Multæ sunt mansiones in domo patris." There are many mansions, and many ways to reach them. M. Huysmans has chosen the way of art, and if ever he is converted to Christianity, it will be the work of Gothic architecture, the plain chant, and Christian symbolism. Nothing could be more natural or more legitimate. The character of a religion is impressed on all its works, and Gothic architecture is no less a revelation of the grandeur of Christianity than the Acropolis and the Parthenon are of the Greek genius. But the ordinary reader, and even the reader who finds himself most in sympathy with the ideas of M. Huysmans, will find too much archæology in 'La Cáthédrale,' too much history, too much of the singular and *bizarre*, and too many childish comparisons. There are also too many unseemly, if not profane expressions, calculated to degrade the feelings which the book should inspire. M. Huysmans's manner of writing exaggerates the annoyance of these comparisons. One does not like to see confession, for instance, compared in all seriousness to the cleaning of plates and dishes, and the pricks of the conscience to hiccoughs. The style of the book is very personal, and, so to speak, "invented," never commonplace, always unexpected, picturesque and humorous, but still too deeply rooted in the depths of the old naturalism. 'Les Déracinés,' the novel of M. Maurice Barrès, is of quite another sort, and may be styled political or sociological. This explains the length of the dissertations to be found in it on a number of subjects not usually dealt with by novelists, but M. Barrès has always nursed political ambitions, a fact which explains the assurance with which he remodels French society. The "uprooted ones" are a group of young men who leave Nancy to complete their education and win fame and fortune at Paris. The result of such procedure, the author

desires to show, is not happy. For one success there are ten failures; some aspirants end in poverty, crime, and need, like two of the heroes of 'Les Déracinés,' others in a mediocrity more painful to their pride than poverty itself; and while Paris is warmed, or rather thrown into a fever, by the ardour of these acquisitions from the country, solitude, silence, and a dull calm form the lot of the rest of France. There is some truth doubtless in this, but also much exaggeration. Marseilles or Lyons, Bordeaux or Toulouse, Nancy even, or smaller towns still, are not yet so mummified as the author would have us believe. And what remedy is there? M. Barrès will explain no doubt, as 'Les Déracinés' is only a beginning. Meanwhile, why does he not set the example and move to his favourite Nancy instead of living at Paris? I do not grudge MM. Paul and Victor Margueritte the success of 'Le Désastre.' This is the unforgettable capitulation of Metz in 1870. No more tragic and exact picture could have been painted than that of the two sons of General Marguerite, one of those who found death and glory at Sedan. Those who speak of military actions possess a great advantage if they can boast a soldier's blood in their veins, and this makes the difference—a whole abyss of difference—between 'Le Désastre' and 'La Debâcle.' The brothers have not hidden or disguised anything, but differ from M. Zola in touching a bleeding wound with pious hands, in showing that this awful calamity did not discredit any of the qualities of the race of French soldiers. I like as well, though for different reasons, the last novel of M. E. Rod, 'Le Ménage du Pasteur Naudié,' and I readily recognize in it his masterpiece. One cannot serve two masters at once, and the heart of man is not sufficiently large to hold at the same time all that is most passionate in the love of the creature, and all that is most noble, but necessarily impersonal, in the love of God. Such is the theme of M. Rod's book, developed with a freedom and simplicity of means, a sure tact, and a nobility which I can only characterize as admirable. M. Rod has also made an excellent choice of environment for his story in the old and melancholy city of La Rochelle; and Protestant as he is, I need scarcely say that his book reveals no intention of satire, still less of proselytism.

Other novels worth notice are 'Temple d'Amour,' by M. Rémy Saint-Maurice; 'Golo' by M. Pol Neveux; 'Devant le Bonheur,' by M. Jean Thorel; La Confession d'un Enfant du Siège,' by M. M. Corday; and the 'Saint Cendre' of M. Maindron. This last author, I warn the reader, is not for bread-and-butter misses. To write a history of the sixteenth century and to get thoroughly at home, M. Maindron has re-read Brantôme, one can see, and not forgotten him sufficiently. But in spite of the undue license of some scenes, one cannot help praising the erudition, the sense of the picturesque, and the local colour in this reconstruction of an epoch; it would be equal to 'La Chronique de Charles IX,' by Prosper Mérimée, if Mérimée had not had the luck to come first, and had not shown a sobriety the later man lacks.

Some dozen new letters of Mérimée have been lately published. I will not repeat Beuchot's comment on Voltaire, and say that letters of Mérimée will be rediscovered "till the Judgment Day"; but I know that there are still some unpublished, and hope that they may appear and make his correspondence complete. *La Revue de Paris* has gone on publishing the letters of Balzac. We have seen two new volumes of the correspondence of Lamennais under the title 'Lettres Inédites de Lamennais à Montalembert' and 'Un Lamennais Inconnu,' containing his letters to Benoit d'Azy. Other letters, addressed to Emmanuel d'Alzon, have been published in the *Revue Bleue*, but not yet collected into a volume. People have been busy with Lamennais for some time, and have every reason to be so if his influence is responsible for what is variously called "Christianisme Social" and "Socialisme Chrétien" in proportion as the Christianity or Socialism is predominant. The second volume of Victor Hugo's correspondence is less interesting. Not so the 'Correspondence de Renan avec M. Berthelot,' which contains many fine passages. I may also note here that Madame Darmesteter's 'Life of Renan,' which throws much light on the personality of the master, has lately appeared in a French translation.

One is sometimes inclined to protest against posthumous indiscretions, and to defend authors against themselves, if their letters compromise them; but documents of the sort afford such precise information that one ends by excusing and even thanking the indiscreet. Look at Madame A. Barine's book 'Névrosés,' and admire in this study of literary pathology the part played by the letters of Gérard de Nerval, and the indiscretion of Edgar Poe's biographers. There is much else in the book on the effects of wine, alchohol, opium—and pure "folie" in Gérard de Nerval's case—on eccentric men of genius. English readers will best be able to judge if the author has spoken rightly of De Quincey and Poe. They ought also to pronounce on the merits of 'Ruskin et la Religion de la Beauté,' by M. Robert de la Sizeranne. We can only say that in France no one has spoken of art and æsthetics with greater charm and eloquence for some years. A thesis so recently supported as the 1st of June at the Sorbonne, 'Walter Scott et son Influence sur le Mouvement Romantique,' by M. L Maigron, I do not know myself, but it has been recommended to me as capital by such good judges as M. Emile Faguet and M. Alexandre Beljame, who translated 'Macbeth' so well. I have, on the contrary, personal knowledge of the 'Écrivains Étrangers' of M. T. de Wyzewa; the 'Henri Heine' of M. J. Legras; the 'Ferdinand Lassalle' of M. Ernest Seillière; the 'Richard Wagner, Poète et Penseur,' of M. Henri Lichtenberger, and his monograph on 'La Philosophie de Nietzsche'; a big, learned book by M. Ch. Andeler on 'Les Origines du Socialisme d'Etat en Allemagne'; the book of M. Jean Dornis, who is, I believe, a lady, on 'La Poésie Italienne Contemporaine'; and the book by Madame Th. Bentzon, 'Choses et Gens d'Amérique.' Her profound knowledge of English and

her talent for observation have enabled her to see further into her subject than anybody else has done. To the collection of "Grands Écrivains Français" have been added two new volumes—'Marivaux,' by M. Gaston Deschamps, and 'Racine,' by M. Gustave Larroumet. M. Charles Livet, before he died, had time to see the appearance of the third and last volume of his 'Lexique Comparé de la Langue de Molière.' This is a great help to the vexed question of Molière's style. From La Bruyère, who reproached Molière with not having known how to avoid "le jargon et le barbarisme," down to Edmond Scherer, nearly all the purists have quarrelled more or less bitterly with some parts of his style. It is somewhat surprising that no aspirant has chosen this as a thesis for his doctorate; the present book would supply the necessary material. M. Louis Bertrand in his work on 'La Fin du Classicisme dans les Dernières Années du XVIII^e siècle,' and M. Henri Potez in his book on 'L'Élégie en France depuis Parny jusqu'à Lamartine,' both agree that André Chénier is the last of the classics—an opinion in which I entirely concur. He is as classic as Ronsard, and more classic even than Boileau. This idea I have developed in a 'Manuel de l'Histoire de la Littérature Française,' which I published last November. M. Joseph Vianey's monograph on 'Mathurin Regnier,' M. des Granges's on 'Geffroy et la Critique Dramatique sous le Consulat et l'Empire,' and M. Paul Stapfer's somewhat curiously entitled 'Bossuet—Adolphe Monod,' have all been crowned by the French Academy. M. Zyromski in a book on 'Lamartine, Poète Lyrique,' and M. Strowski in another on 'Saint François de Sales,' have also made interesting contributions to the history of French literature. M. Émile Faguet has published 'Drame Ancien, Drame Moderne,' which is full of piquant comparisons of the Greek, French, and English theatres; and M. René Doumic, before leaving for America to discourse on romanticism to the students of Harvard, a new series of his 'Études sur l'Histoire de la Littérature Française.'

Two volumes may well form the transition to history: 'Voltaire avant et pendant la Guerre de Sept Ans,' by the Duc de Broglie, and the 'Historie et Poésie' of the Vicomte E. M. de Vogüée. In the latter a natural nobility of thought and a talent for writing equal to that of Chateaubriand are notable, but M. de Vogüée differs from the great romanticist in being familiar with all the latest discoveries of the day in science. The volume of the Duc de Broglie is a study of Voltaire's relations with Louis XV, and Frederick the Great. It would be a mistake to say that the work increases our respect or admiration for Voltaire, unless, indeed, he wins some applause for the beauty of his impudence. It is, at any rate, amusing. In the two volumes which M. Lecestre has published under the title of "Lettres Inédites de Napoléon I^er," many people have seen a new side of Napoleon. They are composed of certain letters which the editors of the 'Correspondence' thought it necessary to keep back, as they did not do much credit to his character. They thus create a one-sided and exaggerated impression, and exhibit a very unfair amount of egotism, violence, passion, and despotism. They will be read, however, by those who wish to form a true idea of Napoleon, together with the two volumes of M. Frédéric Masson on 'Napoléon et sa Famille,' and the two of M. Arthur Chuquet on 'La Jeunesse de Napoléon,' the first of which is entitled "Brienne" and the second 'La Revolution.' Both authors are well known, and both works are full of unedited documents. Sallust says, "Arduum res gestas scribere," and the difficulty of knowing all the necessary facts is suggested by the amount of things we did not know revealed quite lately in the 'Lettres adressées d'Algérie au Général de Castellane,' published by one of his daughters, Madame la Comtesse de Beaulaincourt.

Under history and biography I must also notice the volume of M. de Heidenstamm, a Swede who writes most agreeable French, on the subject of 'Ulrique Éleonore, Reine de Suède,' sister of Frederick the Great and mother of Gustavus III. We only know her through Voltaire's correspondence and a madrigal, a masterpiece of the sort, which he addressed to her. We did not know much either of that Marie, who became Queen of Poland, and the wife of the Great Sobieski, whose history M. Waliszewski has told in his 'Marysienka.' We were better acquainted with the lively lady who figures in M. le Comte d'Haussonville's recent book 'L'Alliance Savoyarde et la Duchesse de Bourgogne,' in which biographical history may be said to pass into diplomatic or general history. Here may be classed the somewhat heavy volume of M. Alfred Baragnon on 'La Maison de Savoie et la Triple Alliance au XVII^e Siècle,' and 'L'Alliance Autrichienne,' at the period of the opening of the seven years' war, by the Duc de Broglie. This fine volume terminates that diplomatic, political, and military history of the war of the Austrian succession which has taken years to write, and which cannot be too highly praised. It is a model of the art of the historian in clearness of composition and unequalled ease of style.

I must not terminate this rapid and summary survey without referring to the book of M. Reuss on 'L'Alsace au XVII^e Siècle,' and the first two volumes of the 'Histoire de Bretagne' of Comte A. de la Borderie. M. Albert Sorel, M. le Comte Vandal, M. Henry Houssaye, and M. G. Hanotaux have published nothing in the way of history this year, or only fragments of volumes to be published in the near future. Their efforts are awaited with impatience. Finally, in this place, though they are more philosophic than historical, must be mentioned four large volumes by M. Renouvier, 'Philosophic Analytique de l'Histoire.' Why, indeed, do we write history if not to philosophize? We go to history in order to know ourselves better, and by means of this increasingly accurate, extended, and various knowledge we flatter

ourselves that we can gather some information about our destiny. This is the object of the philosophy of history, which has sometimes been met with an affectation of disdain; yet we return to it as the very end and aim of history, its *raison d'être*, and the justification of the interest we should not otherwise take in the queen Ulrique Éléonore or Marysienka. I may say also that history is the gate by which ideas enter into literature. And, as I indicated at the beginning of this article, it is not sufficient for a book to be full of ideas to be qualified as "literature": it must have some qualities of form and style which raise it above its fellows. But it is not enough for its form to be original or exquisite: it must contain ideas, too! Nothing is more generally admitted—in theory, at least, and discussion—and nothing is more forgotten by historians of literature, or less put into practice, than this two-sided truism.

(Signed) F. BRUNETIÈRE.

RUSSIA.

Contemporary Russian literature—like, indeed, nearly all contemporary European literatures—is in a condition of decay and stagnation. Having produced some great names which have gained a world-wide celebrity, Russian genius has for a time as it were exhausted itself. The heroic period of artistic production is ended, and the literary activity of contemporary Russia produces on the observer the same impression as is produced by dull, every-day life after a brilliant and noisy festival. It is certainly impossible to deny that special talent does exist in Russia even now, and that it is interesting from various points of view; but such talent as does exist is not vigorous enough to make an impression when isolated, nor when united to create an actual literary school. The productions of men of ability are lost in the mass of mediocre efforts of persons without literary gifts. Here it must be remarked that in this respect criticism plays an undesirable part and exercises a pernicious influence on literary development in the country. From 1860 to our own day it has been unceasingly guided by principles in reality completely foreign to literature. In the estimation of this or that writer there is generally taken into consideration not the æsthetic value of his productions, but their relation to social questions. If a man is occupied exclusively with questions of art and is apathetic to social questions he is never pardoned, and, owing to this strange point of view, many ephemeral scribes have been raised to the first rank, while, on the other hand, considerable writers – as, for instance, the pantheistic poets Tiutchev and Fet—till their last days were the subjects of bitter attacks or were passed over in silence. Out of the number of books which have appeared during the past twelve months only two or three are worthy of attention, to wit, the 'Tales' ('Razskasi') of Anton Chekhov; 'The Mirrors' ('Zerkala'), a collection of stories and poems by Zenaida Gippius; 'Shadows' ('Tieni'), a collection of tales and poems by Th. Sologub; and the second volume of the peoms of M. Lokhvitskaya.

In the collection by A. Chekhov are included two tales: 'The Peasants' ('Muzhiki') and 'My Life' ('Moya Zhizm'). The first of these made considerable stir, and has reached the distinction of a translation into French, unfortunately a very inaccurate one. It paints in dark colours a contemporary Russian village, with all its unsightliness and coarseness. The other, which touches village life only indirectly, delineates in a skilful manner Russian provincial life, constrained, gloomy, and merciless to gentle natures which are incapable of showing a strong will. Chekhov has already written a whole series of important works, in which Russian life in all classes, from the highly educated to the convicts of Sakhalin, is depicted. He possesses an attractive and altogether original gift. He has unusual powers of observation, and vigorously seizes the situation before him and the psychological details; without visibly aiming at effects, he succeeds in producing a deep impression on the reader by the straightforward and clear presentment of actuality, with all its heartlessness, cruelty, and tragic colour. In the tales of the young poetess Zenaida Gippius there prevails quite a different tone. We see in them a great effort at elegance and orginality; but the results are not altogether successful. The first work she wrote, which appeared two years ago, was 'New People' ('Novie Liudi'), a collection of symbolical stories and poems which were of great promise. Her creations were fresh; there was originality in the subjects she chose, and that sincerity of intonation which is always heard in the voice of a man who has just understood a truth which is agitating him. If in this book there were many imperfect and crude performances, the reader might ascribe these deficiencies to the youth of the author, and might hope that in subsequent productions she would rid herself of her feeble characteristics, and develope as completely as possible the really valuable element in her work. She would thus achieve a high literary position. Her second book, 'The Mirrors,' has disappointed these expectations. Those stories in which she wishes to appear as a poetical symbolist are, in reality, much weaker. Symbolical poetry—as the best lovers of symbolism have understood it, men like Calderon, Blake, Shelly, and Edgar Poe—is the most delicate of all styles. Understood in this way, it recalls to our minds the truly beautiful lines in 'Epipsychidion':

In her mild lights the starry spirits dance,
The sunbeams of those wells which ever leap
Under the lightnings of the soul—too deep
For the brief fathom line of thought or sense.

But to be able to create such delicate, rich beauty it is necessary to have "the deep and labyrinthine soul," and Madame Z. Gippius, like all the young Russian poets who wish to be symbolists, has not the requisite spiritual depth nor the requisite training. By far the best are those tales in which she gives herself up to the immediate impulses of her heart, and describes in a natural manner the lives of simple, insignificant people, as, for example, the governess overpowered by circumstances and persecuted in 'The Witch' ('Viedma'), or the old porter thinking, in the midst of the stifling city, of the pinewood and the freshness of the lake of his birth-place (the story 'Home,' 'Rodina'). Among the highest merits of Madame Gippius may be reckoned her power of individualization of style, her skill in making each hero speak in his own language. Of the poems contained in the collection 'New People' (mentioned above), some are really fine, as, for instance, the beautiful poem 'Love only' ('Liubov odna') ending with the words:—

Love takes our very life as guerdon,
The true soul knows its goal is won;
One love is given to soothe life's burden;
Yea, love is one—as death is one.

Th. Sologub possesses gifts akin to the talent of Madame Gippius. In his volume entitled 'Shadows' ('Tieni') are contained three excellent stories of child life: 'The Worm' ('Cherviak'), 'Shadows' ('Tieni'), and 'To the Stars' ('K' 'Zviezdam'). Here the poet depicts the spiritual development of a child's soul. The language employed is somewhat thin, but on the other hand there are no false airs, and in the soul of the poet there is an inner chord which wins over the reader to him. Among the poems collected in the volume which bears the title 'Shadows,' our attention is most drawn to the short light sketches full of elegance and music; sometimes they recall the little sketches of some artistic Impressionist and leave in the reader the sense of something delicate and aërial, which, as it were, accidently brings to us a harmony from some broken, unfinished, but musical piece.

But if any contemporary Russian poet can boast of really melodious verse and conspicuous musical feeling, it must be Myrrha Lokhvitskaya, who has written quite a series of beautiful poems. Madame Lokhvitskaya is young, yet she has already published two volumes of pretty verse, which have attracted public attention, and have earned her a reputation for lyrical talent. Her verses are always harmonious and devoted almost exclusively to the two eternal subjects, love and death. In them we feel the inexhaustible effloresceence of youth, the splendid luxury of a spring morning with its abundance of sound, colour, and fragance. The reader seems to be wandering in an umbrageous park, where the trees are laden with fragrant blossoms; and even if some of the trees lack blossoms, they are shapely and graceful in their melancholy, like cypresses. If Madame Gippius has a Northern soul, in that of Madame Lokhvitskaya the Eastern element is predominant. If in the garden of the former there are growing half-withered and half-closed lilies, in the garden of the latter are young roses and poppies, only just bursting forth, but already disclosed. Especially good are those poems of Madame Lokhvitskaya in which she uses as a canvas for her creations Eastern fancies and legends—'The Queen of Sheba' ('Tsaritsa Savskaya') in the first volume of her poems, and 'The Broken Wine-jar' ('Razbitaya Amphora') in the second—or those in which, with delicate feeling and true artistic perception, she describes Russian nature: 'In the Rye' ('Vorzhi'), 'So Low over the Ripening Cornfield' ('Tak nizko nad zreioustchei nivoi'), and 'Among the Field-Flowers' ('V' 'polevikh tsvietakh,' volume II). The little love poems also are beautiful where the outbursts of a woman's passionate heart are expressed in nervous, rhythmic strophes as bold as the fragments of Sappho.

While speaking of books which have appeared during the past year, I cannot pass over in silence the interesting novel of a young writer, L. Gurevitch, 'The Table-Land' ('Ploskogorie'), which first appeared in one of the best Russian literary journals, the *Northern Messenger* (*Scvierni Viestnik*), which she edits. In this organ also was published the interesting tale by a new writer, M. Gorski, entitled 'Malva.' The author came from the midst of the people, and has been able to make himself acquainted with the characters and types of the working-men. H. Zlatovratski is a *littérateur* sprung also from the people, who has gained a considerable reputation by his numerous tables and sketches from national life, and is known not only to cultured readers, but to many educated men of the working class. He has issued his works in a third edition in three volumes (Moscow, 1897). The able, although but little-known poet S. Andreevski has published a second edition of his poems, full of a melancholy tenderness which is purely Russian ('Poems of the Years 1878–87,' St. Petersburg, 1898). Among metrical translations which appeared in this volume are those of some of the poems of Edgar Poe, who can boast in Russia many more admirers and friends that he can claim in America. Generally speaking, foreign poets—especially English, German, and Scandinavian—enjoy much popularity in contemporary Russia. During the past year in St. Petersburg there appeared a collection of the works of Henrik Ibsen in a Russian translation. The works of Byron, Shelley, Tennyson, and Burns have been translated afresh, and again find readers. It is by familiarizing itself with the great models of European poetry, and the careful study of them, that Russian literature will escape its contemporary barrenness, and take to itself original forms. The Russian reading public is well aware of this fact, and thus meets with sympathy every attempt to bring treasures into the domain of Russian literature which have been created by the elder sisters of the Russian muse, who is still young and inexperienced.

During the last year Russian literature has been enriched by the publication of the works of two conspicuous Russian *savants* now dead. I mean those of the Moscow professor I. S. Tikhonravov, published in Moscow by M. and S. Sabashnikov, and the works, published in St. Petersburg, of K. D. Kavelin, who busied himself a great deal with the settlement of the serf question. Tikhonravov, together with the lately deceased Th. Buslaev, appears as one of the most profoundly learned men in Russian antiquities, popular traditions, legends, and the evolution of Russian thought and language. Kavelin, author of the work 'The Serf Question,' and various monographs on Russian history, did much for the spread of liberal ideas, and was one of the first to through light on the true character of the reforms of Peter the Great.

The well-known critic S. Vengerov continues his important work, 'A Critico-Biographical Dictionary of Russian Writers and Scholars' ('Kritiko-biographicheski Slover Russkikh Pisatelei i Uchenikh'), which promises to be of gigantic dimensions. Five volumes, which furnish only the beginning of the encyclopædic work undertaken by Vengerov, contain rich materials, but make us fear that the esteemed critic will never be able to bring his work to completion unless a life like that of the partriarchs in the Bible is allotted him. The same author has undertaken simultaneously an important new work, entitled 'Russian Poetry' ('Russkaya Poezia'). Here he has collected the productions of the Russian poets partly in a complete form and partly in extracts, to which are added highly important critico-biographical notes and portraits. In the first volume of this work Vengerov has printed already specimens of a hundred and sixteen poets of the eighteenth century. Unfortunately, the quality of Russian poetry of the eighteenth century is in inverse proportion to its quantity.

Among other historical works I may mention that of E. Karnovich, 'Russian Officials in Past and Present Times' ('Russkie Chinovniki v' Biloye i Nastoyastchee Vremya,' St. Petersburg, 1897), an incomplete but interesting study of the history of Russian administration, brought down to the very latest times; the book by Venevitinov, 'The Russians in Holland: the Great Embassy, 1697—8" ('Russkie v' Gollandii: Velikoe Posolstvo'), a study of the time of Peter the Great, compiled from Russian and Dutch sources; the book of Prof. V. Aleksandrenko, 'Russian Diplomatic Agents in London in the Eighteenth Centuary' ('Russkie Diplomaticheskie Agente v' Londonie v' XVIII. Viekie," Warsaw, 1897); and the essays of the well-known critic A. Volinski on the history of the Italian Renaissance (Leonardo da Vinci), which he has published in the *Northern Messenger* during the past and present year, and which form a large work compiled from original authorities.

CONSTANTINE BALMONT.

No. 1047, Financial.

Transferred to the Educational Department.

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

19*th April* 1899.

No. 234, Educational.'

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

By Order.

(Signed) A. EDGINGTON,
Ag. Asst. Secretary.

5*th May* 1899.

From the Honourable Mr. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.SC., LL. D., Director of Public Instruction, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Ootacamund, 20th May 1899, No. 5657.

In returning endorsement No. 234, dated 5th May 1899, I have the honour to state that it is quite true, as remarked in letter No. 465 of the Government of India, that the annual reports "do not serve the purposes of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature as literature, nor of Government which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country and of all advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors".

2. To do what the Government of India has in view would require a man not only endowed with wide general information, literary tastes, and critical training, but also possessing considerable leisure, so that he could not merely read the productions of the year but enter into the spirit of them. Even if he possessed the intellectual

qualifications which the Government of India contemplates, it would be quite impossible, as things are at present, for the Director of Public Instruction to undertake this additional duty. His office work leaves him hardly any time to read, much less to read critically, anything not bearing on the work of his office. The multiplicity of languages in the Southern Presidency would also be a difficulty in the way of the Director of Public Instruction or any one man doing the work satisfactorily; for he would have to depend on summaries written by such of his subordinates as are acquainted with the languages in which the books are written. And such summaries would be apt to partake largely of the useles character of the descriptions now given in the annual reports.

3. The difficulty arising from the multiplicity of languages is one which is felt by the Registrar of Books, who at present writes the annual reports under reference. For a knowledge of the contents of books written in languages other than Tamil, Telugu and English he has to depend on the summaries prepared by others. This is a difficulty which will have to be met under any arrangement that may be made.

4. I do not know whether the Government of India contemplates attaching the Registrarship of Books to the Director's office. When Act XXV of 1867 was brought into force, Mr. Powell, who was then Director of Public Instruction, was appointed the first Registrar of Books. But at his own request he was soon relieved of the duty and M.R.Ry. Krishnamachariyar, the present Registrar, was appointed.

5. While I admit that, from the nature of his work, the Director of Public Instruction would seem to be the officer best qualified for the work the Government of India has in view, I have to add that unless his establishment were strengthened so as to relieve him of a large amount of the routine work of his office which now devolves on him, it would be impossible for him to undertake the work.

Order—Mis No. 427, Educational, dated 4th July 1899.

The Government of India will be addressed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. J. WEIR,
Ag. Secretary to Govt.

Letter—to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, No. 428, dated 4th July 1899.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Hill's letter No. 465, dated 31st March last, observing that the reports on books and publications registered under Act XXV of 1867, which are now annually submitted by local Governments and administrations are capable of considerable improvement and suggesting that, in order to remedy the defects pointed out, they should in future be drawn up by a responsible European officer and that the Director of Public Instruction would seem to be the officer best qualified for the work.

2. In reply I am to state that this Government agrees with the Government of India that the reports, as at present written, do not serve the purposes of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature, nor of Government which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country and of all advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors, and that if it were practicable it would be advisable that they should in future be drawn up by a European officer. This Government however does not consider that the Director of Public Instruction is the most suitable officer in this Presidency to undertake the work. As the Director of Public Instruction has pointed out, to do what the Government of India has in view would require a man not only endowed with wide general information, literary tastes and critical training, but also possessing considerable leisure, of which the Director of Public Instruction in Madras has little or none. For this reason alone

His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that it is impossible to entrust the preparation of the annual report to the Director of public Instruction in this Presidency.

3. I am further to state that the amount of the present allotment, viz., Rs. 150 a month, made to the Registrar of Books, who draws up the annual reports, precludes any important steps being taken to improve the report in the direction suggested, but that if it is thought desirable by the Government of India this Government is ready to make the experiment of granting an honorarium for the preparation of the review to a selected officer, who would be placed on special duty for the purpose.

4. I am finally to observe that the vernacular literature of this Presidency differs widely from the continental literature reviewed in the *Athenæum* being, by comparison uninteresting and wanting in originality, and that the multiplicity of languages, no less than fourteen in number in which it is written, causes the officer who prepares the report to be dependent on men who are mere clerks, capable of translating and nothing more, and would render the task of reviewing in this Presidency especially difficult—if not beyond the efforts of one officer—to accomplish in the way that is desired.

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Read—also the following papers:—

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Books), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational Department, dated Simla, the 4th May 1900, No. 665.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 428, dated the 4th July 1899, regarding the preparation of the annual reports on books and publications registered under Act XXV of 1867, and of your endorsement No. 115, dated the 10th March 1900, forwarding the review and analysis of such works for the year 1899.

2. The Government of Madras agree with the view of the Government of India expressed in Home Department letter No. 465, dated the 31st March 1899, to the effect that the reports as at present written do not serve the purposes of the student who wishes to form an idea of modern Indian literature, or of Government which wishes to have a report of the intellectual progress of the country and of all advance or change in public opinion as evidenced by the writings of native authors, and that, if it is practicable, it is advisable that the reports should in future be drawn up by a European officer. The Governor in Council is, however, of opinion that it is impossible, as suggested by the Government of India, to entrust the work to the Director of Public Instruction since he has little or no leisure for it.

3. I am to enclose, for the information of His Excellency in Council, a copy of the correspondence marginally noted with the Government of Bombay on this subject. In that Presidency the quarterly catalogue of books and publications will continue to be prepared by the existing staff subordinate to the Oriental Translator, but it will be supplemented by a review drawn up by the Director of Public Instruction in the manner suggested by Mr. Giles in his letter, dated the 31st May 1899. The Director will also bring to the notice of the Local Government any inaccuracy which he may discover in the descriptions contained in the "Remarks" column of the catalogue.

1. Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 117-M., dated the 23rd October 1899, and enclosure.
2. Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 815, dated the 7th February 1900, and enclosure.
3. Letter to the Government of Bombay, No. 484, dated the 9th March 1900.

4. I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Governor in Council, that a similar arrangement should be followed in the Madras Presidency. I am to add that the other Local Governments have adopted the suggestions which were made by the Government of India in the letter of the 31st March 1899.

Enclosures.

From J. DeC. ATKINS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, No. 117 M., dated Bombay Castle, the 23rd October 1899.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Home Department letter No. 466, dated the 31st March last, in which it is suggested that, as the review of Native publication in this Presidency, as at present prepared, is defective in several respects, it should be entrusted to a responsible European officer, and that from the nature of his work the officer best qualified for the purpose will be the Director of Public Instruction.

2. In reply I am to state that the Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, was consulted on the subject, and a copy of his report, No. 1365, dated the 31st May 1899, in which this Government generally concurs, is herewith enclosed.

3. I am to observe that the quarterly catalogue of books and publications will continue to be made in the existing way and by the existing staff, which will be subordinate to the Oriental Translator, the catalogue being supplemented by the review as ordered by the Government of India. The review will be undertaken by the Director of Public Instruction and will be compiled by him in the manner suggested in his letter, dated the 31st May last. A sum of Rs. 750 will be placed at his disposal to be distributed by him at his discretion among reviewers, and, if the amount is found to be insufficient, the question of increasing it will be considered hereafter. The Oriental Translator has been instructed to send to the Director of Public Instruction any books which may seem to him to merit review. The proofs of the catalogue of books and publications will also be sent to the Director of Public Instruction when ready with remarks as at present, and that officer will revise the remarks, add to them the series of reviews, and send the catalogue and review to the Government Central Press for publication in the *Bombay Government Gazette*.

4. I am to express a hope that the above arrangements will meet the wishes of the Government of India.

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From E. GILES, Esq., Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Educational Department, dated Poona, the $\frac{31\text{st May}}{2\text{nd June}}$ 1899, No. 1365.

In returning herewith the papers forwarded with your No. 1794 of April 27th, 1899, I have the honour to state that a perusal of the annual report on native publications for the years 1896 and 1897 leads me to think that some change in procedure is expedient as pointed out by the Government of India, and that the deficiencies indicated in Mr. Hill's letter are such as tend to vitiate the utility of the report as a record of literary progress or as a true exposition of the sentiments which the publications under review contain.

2. As an illustration of my meaning, I will notice certain *quasi*-historical works, reviewed in the report for 1897, which are characterised by an attempt to unduly depreciate the British and their rule and to praise extravagantly the Native, but specially the Mahratta character.

Four books may be noticed—

(1) 'The Life of the Queen of Jhansi,' a translation into Gujarati from a Marathi original published about 1895.

(2) The Life of Sir Dinkar Rao.

(3) A translation of Pandita Ramabai's Mahratta work entitled 'The Condition of the People of the United States.'

(4) Mr. C. G. Bhanu's 'Tales from Mahratta History.'

It so happens that these four books have come before me lately, having been submitted by the authors for departmental patronage.* In every case my book committee reported that they were disfigured by the tendency which I have noticed above, and in every case I refused to extend to the book any departmental recognition.† Without going into lengthly explanation, I may state that the books convey the following several impressions:—

(1) That the Rani of Jhansi was a noble and high souled woman fighting against tyrants.

(2) That Sir Dinkar Rao was, more or less, a traitor to his country. ‡

(3) That the treatment § of the Indians by the English is on a par with that of the Red Indians by the Americans.

* As prize and library books or text-books.

† I have recently struck Pandita Ramabai's Mahratta book off the Curator's list of sanctioned books.

‡ Note the expression "after all" in Mr. Joshi's review, page 6.

§ This idea is conveyed in footnotes which disfigure the book.

(4) That the English were cowardly and feeble men whose generals shed * tears as they grovelled at the feet of their Mahratta conquerors, and that it was only the accident of a divided Maharashtra which enabled them to conquer the country.

* This is one of the "anecdotes not found in ordinary books"!

3. It appears to me to be beyond disputation that the duty of a reviewer of the publications of a year is not performed unless he is able to convey in his review a general idea of the tone and sentiments of works which can be classified together. My impression of the four books mentioned is that they have the main characteristic described in the commencement of paragraph 2, but I do not gather that impression from the annual report, but from the accident that the books have passed under my departmental review.

4. But while I admit in the annual review the failure to generalise, I must admit also the exceedingly difficult task which is set before the reviewer. In a year of decreased publications that officer has to deal, in the space of a few pages, with 1,036 works written in 13 different languages. The French reviewer for the "Athenæum" is a literary expert, dealing with the literature of his native country, and unfettered by other than literary obligations. He has a free hand to reject or to accept, to praise or to condemn, subject only to the consideration of the literary value of his article, and the estimation in which that article will be held by cultivated readers.

5. The position of a reviewer of the publications of this Presidency is essentially different; in that he must of necessity deal with a very large number of works which he is unable to peruse, and with respect to which he is dependent upon the reports of others, who have, presumably, neither due literary experience nor cultivation, and who must frequently possess but a slender knowledge of the language in which the work under review is written.

6. Thus, if the present reviewer is replaced by the Director of Public Instruction, and assuming that that officer has sufficient literary capacity, it can hardly be expected that the review of annual publications can be as complete and thorough as is desirable, unless, indeed, the Director has a large subordinate staff placed at his disposal, and the present expenditure is increased.

The cost of the office at present is, I believe, as under—

	Rs.
Reporter, Rs. 350—50—400	= 4,800
Six clerks—1 (Rs. 100), 1 (Rs. 75), 1 (Rs. 35), 2 (Rs. 30), 1 (Rs. 20)	= 3,480
One servant	120
Subscriptions to newspapers	= 745
Miscellaneous	75
Total ..	9,220

From this list the three last clerks may be eliminated as being mere writers. There remain three persons who presumably are more or less competent to pronounce judgment on publications, but of these three, two are probably not men of much literary experience.

The present reporter is a Mahratta Brahman who took his degree in 1875 with Sanskrit as his second language. I do not know the qualifications of his first two clerks, but it is probable that the literary capacity of the combined office is not very considerable or diffused.

7. To deal thoroughly with publications, that is, to obtain a clear conception of the actual contents and spirit of each work which deserves notice, it would, in my opinion, be necessary that it should be carefully read and "gutted"† by an expert in the language in which it was written. My experience has shown me that the general tone of a book may be harmless or even praiseworthy, while there are passages in it which are inserted apparently for the set purpose of removing any favourable impression, and which suggest that the writer honoured with his lips what his heart did not approve. Other books again are disfigured by allusions‡ and expressions which are, from a cultivated point of view, not only unsuitable, but grossly superstitious or indecent. But unless the examination of the publication is thorough, such passages will escape notice, while, unless the examining officer is capable, they may be disregarded as of little importance, or in accordance with the customs of the country.

† A favourite expression of Professor Sidney Owen, ch. ch. Oxford.

‡ *E.g.*, a perfectly harmless account of the travels of the late Maharaja of Bhownagar in India was disfigured by an utterly obscene and unnecessary story.

8. It is obvious that the Director of Public Instruction, whose time is already fully occupied, cannot, if the work of compiling the annual review is entrusted to him, be expected to take any personal share in the examination of publications. The utmost that he can do is to utilise the materials provided for him, and his review will be effective and thorough only if he is supplied with accurate and full details.

9. The present staff of the reporter's office cannot, presumably, do all that is required, even if, as seems essential, the reporter himself is an expert linguist, well acquainted with the principal vernaculars of the Presidency.* But a man with these qualifications could, during the preparation of his quarterly catalogues, mark those publications which appeared to be worthy of especial examination, and could draw the attention of the Director to their importance. The Director could then decide whether the reporter's description of a publication was sufficient, or whether it was expedient to call for a special report on it. In the latter case the suggestion of the Government of India that the Director of Public Instruction could avail himself of the services of his subordinates might be utilised, and the Director could place the publication before an officer selected to review it on account of his special qualifications for the purpose.

* Khan Bahadur S. S. Kadri, B.A., Deputy Collector, Surat, is a man who knows Gujarati, Maratti, Persian and Arabic, and Hindustani is his vernacular.

10. By this procedure I think that a fairly complete supervision over the publications of the year might be secured, and it is possible that very small additional expenditure would be entailed. I should, however, be disposed to recommend strongly a moderate scale of remuneration to those officers of the Educational Department who were called on to review books specially. The labourer is worthy of his hire, and I am confident that work would be better and more thoroughly done if a fitting remuneration was paid for it. Perhaps it would be necessary to add a sum of Rs. 500 to the present expenditure for "Payments to Reviewers," and it is also probable that the increased work thrown on the Director of Public Instruction's office would necessitate the appointment of a special clerk.† But I do not think that the total expenditure would rise beyond Rs. 10,000 as compared with Rs. 9,220 at present.

† Mr. Chatfield asked for two additional clerks four years ago, and work increases annually.

11. This estimate will be verified by experience, and in the meantime there is nothing, so far as I can see, to prevent the transfer of the preparation of the annual review to the Director of Public Instruction. But that officer's review will be valuable to Government only if he is supplied with full and carefully prepared data for its compilation.

From J. De C. ATKINS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Bombay Castle, the 7th February 1900, No. 815.

In continuation of my letter No. 117-M., dated the 23rd October last, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of Government resolution No. 814 of this day's date, modifying the orders regarding the preparation of the quarterly catalogues of books and the annual review and analysis of native publications in the Bombay Presidency.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay, General Department, No. 814, dated Bombay Castle, the 7th February 1900.

Read—

Letter from the Director of Public Instruction, No. 5856, dated the 9th December 1899:—

"With reference to paragraph 2 of Government Resolution No. 4753-A. of October 23rd, 1899, I have the honour to state that the instructions in that paragraph are that the proofs of the catalogue of books, &c., should be sent to the Director of Public Instruction, with remarks, as at present. 'The Director of Public Instruction should then revise the remarks, add to them the series of reviews, and send the catalogue and review to the Government Central Press.'

"2. I have the honour to ask attention to paragraph 9 of this office No. 1365 of May 31st, 1899, quoted in the preamble to the Government resolution in question. In that paragraph I indicated the method in which, as I thought, the desire of the Government of India for a more complete review of the publications of the year could be fulfilled. What I intended to convey there was that the reporter on the native press (or now the Oriental Translator) should draw my attention to certain books in the quarterly statements as they came out, and that I should, after getting a competent opinion on those books, decide whether the description given of them in the margin of the quarterly statements was sufficient, or whether a special report on the book was necessary. It was not my intention to suggest that I should have any hand in the preparation of the quarterly catalogues, but only in the annual review of the whole publications of the year.

"3. But the orders now issued throw upon me the duty of—

(1) revising the marginal remarks made by the compiler of each quarterly statement;
(2) adding to each quarterly statement a series of reviews;
(3) sending each quarterly statement and series of reviews to the press.

"4. I respectfully point out that these orders cannot be fully complied with and can only partially be complied with at the sacrifice of all punctuality in the issue of each quarterly statement. I submit that the revision of each quarterly statement by me is—

(1) unnecessary, because the Oriental Translator is as capable of revising the marginal remarks as I am;

(2) impossible, because, as I do not see the books * alluded to, I cannot tell whether the remarks are adequate or not.

* I only see the books selected for special review.

"5. The case will be made clearer when I point out that the Oriental Translator has now on December 2nd sent up to me the quarterly statement of books and publications for the quarter ending 30th September. He has likewise forwarded to me 24 books mentioned in the quarterly statement which are, he thinks, worthy of special review. Now, if the issue of this quarterly statement is to be delayed until I have had all these 24 books reviewed, it is obvious that I cannot send the quarterly statement to the Superintendent, Central Press, for a long period, say, two months at least, as I have to add to the quarterly statement the 'series of reviews'. This seems to me to involve a most undesirable delay, and if this procedure is persisted in, the issue of the quarterly statements will fall hopelessly into arrears.

"6. But there is another and an important consideration, which is, whether it is the intention of Government to append to each quarterly statement a '*series of reviews*.' In other words, does Government wish that the special reports which I may receive from selected members of the Educational Department are to be published *in extenso* every quarter? I can conceive circumstances under which it would be neither desirable nor politic to publish such reviews. I apprehend that the purposes of Government will be better served if such reviews remain in my office and are utilized by me in the general review of the publications of the year which is to be prepared by the Director of Public Instruction under the orders of the Government of India.

"7. Finally, I submit that the transmission of each quarterly statement from the Oriental Translator (an officer of far higher position and education than the reporter on the native press) to the Director of Public Instruction for proof correction is a mere waste of time, and I have, I think, shown that quarterly reviews cannot be appended to each quarterly statement. The conclusion I arrive at is that the interests of Government will be best served, if the following procedure is adopted:—

(1) The quarterly statements should issue as usual under the supervision of the Oriental Translator.

(2) That officer should draw the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to any books in each quarterly statement which seem worthy of special enquiry and send a copy of each book to the Director of Public Instruction.

(3) That officer should have them reviewed as soon as possible and keep the reviews in his own office.

(4) The Oriental Translator should, as soon as possible after the close of the year, send up to the Director of Public Instruction the usual statistics and report † which is now submitted to Government.

† The report would be short and mechanical only, as all important books would be reviewed by the Director of Public Instruction.

(5) The Director of Public Instruction should, with the aid of that report, the four quarterly statements and his special reviews, prepare one review for Government of the whole publications of the year.

"8. I request that Government will be so good as to give early attention to this representation, and, in the meanwhile, I have sent the quarterly statement for the quarter ending September 30th to the press for publication to save delay."

Resolution.—As the Director of Public Instruction points out that his reviews of the principal books mentioned in the quarterly catalogue of books and publications cannot be completed before the issue of that catalogue, unless its issue is considerably and unnecessarily delayed, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the proofs of the catalogue need not be forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction for revision with the aid of his reviews as ordered in resolution of the 23rd October 1899. The special reviews prepared under the Director of Public Instruction's supervision will therefore be retained by him for reference at the time of preparing his review for Government of the whole publications of the year. He should bring to the notice of Government any inaccuracy of importance which he may discover in the descriptions contained in the remarks column of the catalogue.

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department, dated Calcutta, the 9th March 1900, No. 484.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 815, dated the 7th February 1900, on the subject of the preparation of the quarterly catalogues of books and publications and the annual review and analysis of native publications in the Bombay Presidency.

2. In your letter No. 117-M., dated 23rd October 1899, it was stated that the Government of Bombay had decided to continue the preparation of the quarterly catalogue of books and publications in the existing way and by the existing staff, which will be subordinate to the Oriental Translator; the catalogue being supplemented by a review drawn up by the Director of Public Instruction in the manner suggested in his letter, dated the 31st May 1899, I am to say that the Government of India approve of this arrangement.

3. The Director in that letter referred to four books: (1) The Life of the Queen of Jhansi, (2) The Life of Sir Dinkar Rao, (3) A translation of Pandita Ramabai's "The condition of the people in the United States", and (4) Tales from Mahratta History, as being "characterised by an attempt to unduly depreciate the British and their rule and to praise extravagantly the native, but especially the Mahratta character"; and he remarked: "The duty of a reviewer of the publications of a year is not performed unless he is able to convey in his review a general idea of the tone and sentiments of works which can be classified together. My impression of the four books mentioned is that they have the main characteristic described . . . . but I do not gather that impression from the annual report but from the accident that the books have passed under my departmental review." From this it appears that Messrs. G. M. Sathe, Registrar, and B. V. Joshi, Acting Registrar, of Native Publications, Bombay (who were responsible for the annual reports in which these books were dealt with), prepared their reviews of the books in question in a perfunctory manner, I am to request that steps may be taken to ensure that this duty is efficiently performed in future.

4. The Governor-General in Council observes that, in his resolution No. 814 of the 7th February 1900, the Governor-General in Council has requested the Director of Public Instruction to bring to the notice of Government any inaccuracy which he may discover in the descriptions contained in the remarks column of the catalogue. I am to say that the Government of India trust that this order will result in the preparation of a more trustworthy review and analysis of native literature in the future.

Endt. No. 181.

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

(By Order.)

(Signed) R. W. D'E. ASHE,
Ag. Assistant Secretary.

21*st May* 1900.

From the Hon'ble Mr. G. H. STUART, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Madras, 6th July 1900, No. 6481.

In returning the papers received with Government endorsement, No. 181, Educational, dated 21st May last, I have the honour to state that I have no objection to an arrangement similar to that detailed in paragraph 7 of the letter of the Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, No. 5856, dated 9th December last. The Registrar of Books will be required, from the beginning of the next quarter, to submit to this office, at the close of every week, such of the books registered during the quarter as he may consider worthy of special inquiry. These books, as they are received, will be forwarded to persons who are competent to review them, the review being used to supplement the remarks of the Registrar in the quarterly catalogues, which will be published under my signature. I am not, however, sure whether, in this case, it will be possible to publish the catalogue and submit copies to Government by the time allowed, viz., two months. The reviews will be filed in this office for use in preparing the annual review.

2. The Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, has proposed that he be held responsible only for the annual review, the preparation and publication of the quarterly catalogues continuing to be the work of the Oriental Translator. The

Government of India resolution, however, requires the Director of Public Instruction to supplement the quarterly catalogue prepared by the Oriental Translator by a short review of his own; but it is not clearly stated by whom the annual review should be prepared. Apparently it is the intention of the Government of India that this should also be done by the Director of Public Instruction. In this case it would be necessary either to strengthen my office establishment by the appointment of two or three special assistants who between them could deal with all the principal vernaculars of the Presidency, or to provide for payments to reviewers in the manner suggested in paragraph 10 of Mr. Giles' letter, No. 1365, dated 31st May 1899. I prefer the latter course.

3. On receipt of the orders of Government, the necessary instructions will be issued to the Registrar of Books.

4. I request that a copy of the papers received with the endorsement of Government quoted above may be furnished to this office for reference.

Order—No. 398, Educational, dated 28th August 1900.

With regard to the Director's remarks on the subject of the quarterly reviews, it is observed that while these are intended to supplement the quarterly catalogues published under the provisions of Act XXV of 1867, the issue of the latter must not be delayed at all. Nor is it desired that any change should be made in the existing arrangements under which the catalogues appear under the signature of the Registrar of Books. The Government, however, purpose to introduce certain alterations, which will be indicated in due course, in the form of the catalogues.

2. The proposal to file the reviews as received, for use in preparing the annual report, is approved, subject to further instructions of the Government of India on this point.

3. Under the system now to be introduced, the Director will be responsible for the annual report. In order to enable him to draw it up, payments to reviewers in the manner suggested by Mr. Giles should be made. After working out the arrangements, the Director should submit definite proposals in regard to the provision which he considers to be necessary for the purpose. He will also, as far as possible, condense the report, which in the opinion of the Government has of late years been allowed to run to too great a length, and which has been rendered bulky by the inclusion of tabular statistics of questionable utility or interest. The following letter will be sent to the Government of India:—

[Here enter letter No. , Educational, dated August 1900.]

(True Extract.)

~~Ag. Secretary to Government.~~

14-8-1900

To the Director of Public Instruction.
" Accountant-General.

Exd. W. D'Moss

am to express the hope that the arrange-
dy detailed and which are identical with
overnment in their resolution of the 7th
y the Government of India. I am here to
n Council attaches special importance to
ues, as otherwise serious difficulties are
visions of the amending Act X of 1890.
difficulties ~~as those just mentioned~~ are at
owing to the closing of printing establish-
the period during which copies of a book
Museum and the India Office Library has
nade and satisfied. Delay in the publica-
feared, aggravate these difficulties.

me differs from that apparently contem-
crutiny suggested in the third paragraph
posed that the Director of Public Instruc-
l Government any inaccuracy which he
ed in the column of remarks in the cata-
the fourth paragraph of his letter, dated
ler the Bombay system see only the books
re be unable to check errors on the part of
ven if an arrangement were devised under
be sent to the Director, it would, I am to
personal care or attention to this matter.
f which, in the ordinary course, an officer
uction may have an intimate acquaintance
efore be found necessary for the Director
and others, to read over the books, and as
same class as those who had aided the
gue, there would be no security that their
already given,

hese reasons the Director will be unable to
talogue made by the Registrar of Books
be selected for special review, these last
e general accuracy of the Registrar's work.
he Director of Public Instruction, must,
t, continue to be primarily responsible for

, after this explanation, the present scheme
ccepted by the Government of India.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

14-8-1900

~~Ag. Secretary to Government.~~

is not likely to have an acquaintance sufficient for the purpose in view. MA.

(Note. There has been no D.P.I. in my time who knew any vernacular sufficiently well to peruse any work in it.) MA.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

LETTER—from

M. HAMMICK, ESQ., I.C.S.,
Ag. Secretary to the Government of Madras,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT (BOOKS).

SIR,

I am directed to reply to your letter of the 4th May 1900, No. 665, on the subject of the preparation of the annual report on books and publications registered under Act XXV of 1867, and to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council is ready to adopt the suggestion that the arrangements in this Presidency should be the same as those proposed by Mr. Giles in his letters of the 31st* May and †9th December 1899, Nos. 1365 and 5856.

2. The procedure will be as follows:—

The quarterly catalogues will issue punctually as hitherto under the signature of the Registrar of Books, but that officer will be charged with the duty of submitting to the Director of public instruction, weekly, copies of such books as are considered worthy of special inquiry.

These volumes, as they are received, will be forwarded by the Director to selected persons competent to review them.

The reviews will, after examination, be filed by the Director of Public Instruction for use in preparing the annual report for which in future he, not as hitherto has been the case, the Registrar of Books, will be responsible.

The Director has been desired to condense this report, which in consequence of the inclusion of tabular statements, reproducing statistics of no particular interest or value from the quarterly catalogues, has of recent years been allowed to grow to too large dimensions.

3. I am to add that certain small changes are proposed in the ~~mode in which~~ method of entering the titles of books ~~are now entered~~ in the catalogues, in order to comply more exactly with the requirements of the law and also to bring these lists of publications more into conformity with the methods now generally adopted by European catalogues; and with the view of arranging for this modification, the lists will for the present be examined in the Secretariat before publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette.*

4. The procedure, a sketch of which has been given above, appears to be in exact agreement ~~it will be seen,~~ with that to be introduced in Bombay, but there are two points about which doubt is felt.

5. The first relates to the quarterly reviews. In the third paragraph of your letter, you refer* to the letter from Mr. Giles, the Director of Public Instruction in Bombay, bearing date 31st May 1899, which was before the Government of India in a subsequent communication, which was before the Government of India when you wrote and which bears date 9th December 1899, that officer explained to the Bombay Government how impossible it would be for him to add reviews to the quarterly catalogues except at the sacrifice of all punctuality in the issue of the latter. I am directed to state that there would be

* p. 13 of proof
† p. 15 of proof

the same difficulty in this Presidency, and I
ments in this respect, which have been alre
those *ultimately* approved by the Bombay G
February 1900, No. 814, may be accepted h
remark that His Excellency the Governor
the punctual issue of the quarterly catalo
likely to arise in complying with the pro
Even under the present arrangements, such
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may be obtained free of cost for the British
expired before the claim for them could be
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6. The second point in which the sche
plated by the Government of India is the s
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might discover in the descriptions contai
logues. As Mr. Giles has pointed out in
the 7th February last, the Director will un
selected for special review, and will therefo
the officer who compiles the catalogues.
which all the books of each quarter should
explain, be impossible for him to give any
The books are in some fourteen languages.
~~in the position of a~~ Director of public ins
~~with two or three at most~~. It would ther
to employ assistants, such as native clerks
these assistants would be of precisely the
Registrar of Books in preparing the
descriptions ~~were~~ more accurate than t

I am, however, to state that while
test the accuracy of the entries in th
except in the case of the works which
will to some extent serve as an index of
The Registrar, who is an officer under
however, in the opinion of this Governme
the remarks in the catalogue.

7. The Governor in Council trusts that
will be considered satisfactory and will be

OOTACAMUND,
August 1900.

Ed. W. D'Moss.

Copy sent to Press. 28/8 v

urned for signature. 31/8/87

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Order complete with Letter. 35

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