or Codex A, a copy of the Greek Gospels with interlinear Latin version, in the Cathedral Library at Liege, was written about A.D. 900. Elzevir's old MSS. are of very simple character; and the frequent use of symbols for a, et, un, et, and so on, which are most common in Irish and English MSS., will be observed. The fine Burney MS. in the British Museum, containing lives of Greek martyrs of the sixth to the eighth century, is of December, affords a good plate of Greek minuscule, dated A.D. 1184. This volume possesses an interest as having once belonged, in the Middle Ages, to the Burney Collection, which was given to the mysterious Countess D'Eon. There is in the plate derived from this manuscript a good instance of a somewhat singular rule in ancient MSS. that whole paragraphs begin in the middle of a line they are distinguished by a capital letter leading the second line, whether the capital letter is the initial letter of a word or not; thus, in this plate, the second a in the word έρωστις is the capital letter of the paragraph. From the tenth century to the sixteenth a long step in the series, which reproduces a page of the 'Lexicon' of Suidas from the British Museum Additional MS., dated A.D. 1402. These characters, minuscule, were, in the church, probably at Naples, and at one time belonged to the Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino. A MS. at Vienna, written in 1709 at Ratisbon, and a number of English heraldic charters of the times of Stephen, Henry I., and Henry II., are now in the British Museum and is frequently part of the library of Dr. Butler, Bishop of Lichfield. In this the common practice will be observed of writing the accents, in combination with the letters, in, e.g., by producing the first stroke and the final stroke. The manuscripts of the celebrated Harley Collection in the British Museum contain a plate from an MS. of Odyssæus, narrated by a Cretan scribe in A.D. 1479. It was brought with others from Italy by Dr. Cöyner Middle- ton, of Cambridge. The contractions and combinations of syllables and letters are very frequent in this example.

Latin MS. commence with a Livy in the British Museum at Vienna, a magnificent example of the small uncial hand which was in use in the fifth century, the date of the MS., and for a considerable period before. A few contractions occur; combined letters, no marks of punctuation, final s represented by a line over the previous vowel, and the production of main strokes of some letters above or below the line are the principal characteristics of this beautiful relic. It is followed by a page from the Old Testament, of the Lex Salisii, in A.D. 794. The text is not proposed; it contains all the so-called Malbargas, which have become exceedingly corrupt in the course of time. The scribes, however, did not understand their meaning. The writing is in Lombardic minuscule of rather rough character, the words are irregularly separated, and frequently marked off with a full point—a peculiarity which sometimes characterizes the effaces of "the unlettered muse" among us even at the present day. The one celebrated library supplies a specimen of modified and rounded Lombardic minuscule from the 'Sacramentarium' of Pope Gelasius, written about A.D. 500, and ornamented in the Irish style with characters, and titles tinted in light and bright colours, and with gilding. From the same tenebris hunting-ground of the Western palaeographer comes the succeeding page of the Canons of the Second Council of Constantinople, written about A.D. 950, in a minuscule, somewhat sloping with clubbed lettering, it is worthy of notice that this is open a and γ, characteristic of the ninth century, are not employed in this manuscript. The 'Theophania' of the tenth century of the British Museum, from the library of Pierre Pitou and the Bibliothèque de Roay, is an excellent example of the handwriting of the period, and a work of literary value.

Shakespeare Notes. June 18, 1841.

The scheme of emendation adopted by Prof. Elie is so purely imaginative as not to call for any serious reply, still it is only civil to notice his efforts.

1. Two months dead. It appears that Hamlet, in I. ii. 138, remarks that his father has been "too much, too much;" but two months had not been said. He extends the sentence and gives us no more. Thus: "A man [i.e., a beggar] may fish with the worm that hath eat of a king, and eat of the fish that hath fed of that worm." There is no occasion to repeat the word "beggar," as in the first quarto, because the idea is sufficiently plain.

Shakespeare students long for that time—probably coincident with the millennium—when "emendation" will come into general use, and will, by the rules of the critics, be able to criticize, and will suggest an emendation where there is a necessity, and also make such a one as is both an emendation and probable. Fancy setting a "Shakespeare emendator" to set right the Bible. He would outhe the present revisers, and "hang all law and prophets" on a pedunculated branch. Elie says that Lucentio's scheme is based on the fiction that he comes from some other place than Padua, and that his birthplace may be found, and the same be said of other things, on fiction or nothing. Lucentio, personally unknown in Padua, would assume the disguise of a Paduan; and Elie would have him "a Genoese;" a Fiesan; thee speech bewrayeth thee. Then to look the change itself: "A meaner man of Pisa" is to become a "Milan man," a change emulating in boldness that of a Jackson or Becket. It is unnecessary to add that one will with difficulty accept that—in the collocation in which it stands—a "Milan man" is Shakespearean English. Capell's change is very doubtful, but that is without our present purpose.

For those who hold the "twice" to be a "twice" of Abingdon, and that Shakespeare so considered it, the differences of date in Hamlet, I. ii., and Hamlet, III. ii., prove nothing to Prof. Elie's purpose. Philology is a very difficult, perhaps impossible, of explanation. It may be that Hamlet, thinking more of his mother's fast marriage, especially now that more important and important doubles are on the point of solution, has here caught up and repeated Ophelia's "two months." It may be that the translator had misread Shakespeare's writer's 4 for 2. It may be that the two words [teny days] have been omitted between "two" and "two." But of all changes that of "within" to "as" is the most unlikely.

In the 'Spanish Tragedy' passage Prof. Elie has wholly left out of consideration, that Hymen, usually clad in saffron, had, by a figure, to trim his robes with mourning sable, as in the marriage of Claudius and Gertrude. It is therefore nothing to the point. Nor, looking to the extravagances of dress in Elizabethan days, or to Shakespeare as a writer of pure English and of what he meant to say, am I at all disposed to accept "a suit of sables" as a synonym for "servant's suit," and I am not surprised that he may say that he will discard his suit of black for a suit of sables; the extravagance exactly sets forth Elizabethan mood and Elizabethan speech.

As to the proposed change in 'Othello,' one word is only necessary. To one accustomed to casual conversational English, meaning as little as "How do you do!" such as Othello is absurdly forcing himself to use that he may gain the unambiguous or unguarded "occasionally," the mere enunciation of the change disorders it. Nor is the supposed parallel passage at all to the purpose.

Corpse inscription Americanarum.

June 18, 1841.

I VENTURE to ask your kind consideration of a public project which has long interested and occupied me. Years ago I wrote upon the subject of the use of certain words, and also upon the condition of the Dulness who presided over the Geographical Society of New York. My letters were to the effect that the time was now come for printing a "Dictionary of American English." It is useless to occupy your space with even the shortest list of these interesting and perhaps valuable peculiarities of American speech. It is useless to occupy your space with even the shortest list of these interesting and perhaps valuable peculiarities of American speech. The fewest of the sets, where they were first observed, to the northern, southern, and the western-most edges of the continent. They abound in South America, which supplied a very small contribut-
tion to a very extensive subject in my 'Highlands of the Brazil.' I also proposed a plan for interpreting these unbelieled legends.

The Corpus Inscriptionum would be a work on a large scale, requiring the co-operation of several experts. An undertaking so costly can hardly be expected from private means; but Cousin Jonathan, unlike John, has never failed in lending enlightened assistance to students of local history.

The due to the American labyrinth would, I think, be found in the moral and social life of the Nile Valley, and in its derivatives and degradations, the cuneiforms and the Chinese syllabary. The latter gives us a new measure for the process of corruption. For instance, in Egyptian a man is a man; the man determinatives of the human shape are artistic, if conventional copies of nature. In Chinese 'man' is reduced to a pair of legs. The eye of Kam-land is human; the Chinese men or men, lengthened like a cat's pupil, becomes an oblong with four crescents. The basis of the cuneiforms is unmitigatedly a species of the system called 'hieroglyphic,' as proved by the Bengali, Burmese (Soc. Amboam., vol. v. part ii.); but here the resemblance to natural objects has waxed even dimmer than among the Celestials.

Almost every American inscription shows the human form either in quiescent or in active attitude, and I venture to assert that a comparison with all known determinatives will afford a key to the wards. Mr. Gerald Massey ('A Book of the Beginnings,' p. 553) has lately applied the tool certam 'hieroglyphics' found in Piacenza's Island.' We may see which nicknames as the line (equator), the globe, and the Pole, while the distinctly modern figures 5 and 7 suggest at least European Antiquity. Still it seems to me that he has struck too shallow a system—and were not in correspondence when he printed his two fine volumes.

Mr. G. Massey's laborious study will do good work as a commentary upon Prof. Legros. "In the oldest times within the memory of man we know of only one advanced culture, of only one media of writing, and only one literary development, viz., those of Egypt." If in working out this suggestive text Mr. Massey has overlooked and failed, I think that his general view appears to be perfectly sound. He has met with rough treatment from that part of the critical world which is lynx-eyed to detect the blot which he has placed in the general scheme. He has charged, lance at rest, the Sanskrit windmill instead of allowing the windy eddy, if it has any own wind, the liberty his leading thought is true: we must begin the history of civilization with Egypt; continue it eastward, from Babylonia and Chaldea, into Persia and India, which was distinctly barbarous in the days of Herodotus and of Alexander the Great; and push it through Indo-China and India to Japan. Only a Corpus Inscriptionum Americanicum can determine whether a west-going current, setting off from the Mediterranean to Atlantis (The Brazil), produced the platforms and pyramids of Mexico, Peru, and Missouri. Briefly, thus alone can we prove or disprove that Egyptian civilization was in early ages co-extensive with the globe.

RICHARD F. BURTON.

THE DIDOT LIBRARY.

The year 1860 was allowed to go by without any part of my theory of the literary careers of Ambrose Firmin-Didot being offered for sale, though portions of it had been sold in the seasons of 1879 and 1878. A third division of it was, however, completed and published at the Salé Drouot, comprising a further selection of the manuscripts and printed books. Though containing many works of great value and rare, it does not, I think, come within the same class. It might have meant—'Et tu, Brute!' or might only have meant—'Are my forebodings at last fulfilled?'

Mrs. Carlyle did not encourage those who might have rendered help. She remarked to Mr. Larkin, "It was mostly mad people who came running after Carlyle." But she made use of them. For instance, she writes after an illness, "I started, however, as early as is consistent with ordinary prudence; for the idea of Mr. Carlyle going about at home, seeking things like a madman, and never finding them, depressed both Charlotte for his diet, leaves me no rest,—partly on Charlotte's account, I confess, as well as his own! So far as I can make out, from his programme, written in the style of The Lamentations of Jeremiah, he will arrive at Chelsea some time on Thursday. He will sail from Antwerp on board "Avondale," a small vessel, and will come in twenty-four hours more, and then—I then he will be at Chelsea, I fancy this to be true. I write to tell you, that you may go and see after him on Friday; and be a Mother to him, poor Babe of Genius, till I come, which will be in the beginning of next week....' I have several times given a beautiful cushion I have, to go home to!"

During the last few years the late Mr. S. A. Hart occupied his leisure in putting on record his literary and artistic recollections of nearly sixty years. The MS. has been left by the deceased artist to be published under the editorial supervision of Mr. A. Brodie, one of his executors.

The new book of that pleasant writer Mr. Phill Robinson, 'Noah's Ark: a Contribution to Study of Natural History,' is him in the printer's hands. It will somewhat resemble in its mode of treatment Tousenu's 'L'Esprit des Bêtes.'

We understand the Dean of Peterborough will contribute to the July number of the Contempory Review a paper on the Revised New Testament. Among the other papers will be: 'A Contribution to some Vexed Questions in Ireland,' by Lieut.-Col. W. F. Butler, C.B.; 'The Two Faustes,' by Charles Grant; 'On a Possible Popular Church,' by Thomas Wright ('the 'Journeyman Engineer'); Mr. R. S. Poole's second paper on Ancient Egypt; 'Mr. Herbert Spencer's Philosophy and the Philosophy of Realism,' by Dr. A. M. Fairbairn; a reply to Mr. Benson Jones's paper, 'Boycotting,' in the June Contemporary, by the Rev. John O'Leary, C.C., Clonakilty; 'On the Scientific Significance of Dreaming,' by Dr. Radcliffe; and 'Deutsches,' by Dr. A. M. Fairbairn.

A new poem on St. Christopher, by the author of 'The Epic of Hades,' will be published in the July number of Fraser's Magazine.

The July number of Blackwood will contain an article on the recently published 'Sonnenschein' of Madame de Janbart, written by one of that lady's friends, and dealing in particular with Alfred de Musset's letters to the author.

To the July number of the Modern Review Dr. W. B. Carpenter will contribute an article on 'The Morality of the Medical Profession,' and Mr. J. A. Peter will contribute a sketch of 'A Rationalist of the Sixteenth Century'; and the Rev. P. Wicksteed will inquire as to 'The Place of the Israelites in History.'