

LITERARY NOTES.

Professor Fiske has undeniably earned a right to the title of dean of American historical writers. His large and important contribution to American history is to receive a valuable addition in a history of "The Mississippi Valley in the Civil War." The volume will be brought out in the spring by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. With the exception of a treatment of the civil war, such as was necessary for his school history of the United States, the forthcoming volume marks his first entrance into this important field of historical research and writing.

"Robert Tourney," the novel of the French revolution by William Sage, to be published in April by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., is being dramatized for Daniel Frohman, who will stage the play with one of his several eminently fitted stars in the title role. The story is replete with highly dramatic situations, and abounds with a romantic interest that would quite fit the play to the abilities of E. H. Sothern or James K. Hackett. The book is being dramatized by the author and his mother, Mrs. Abby Sage Richardson, the well-known writer on American history and English literature, and the adapter to the stage of several well-known books. One of these was Mark Twain's "Prince and Pauper," while her most recent work is a dramatization of Egerton Castle's romantic story "The Pride of Jennico," in which J. K. Hackett has just scored another big success in New York. It is hoped "Robert Tourney" will be produced this spring—certainly in the fall.

William Sage, the author of "Robert Tourney," is a son of Mrs. Abby Sage Richardson, the well-known writer on American history and English literature. He was educated in France and Germany, and has always been fond of American and French history. "Robert Tourney" is a romance founded upon the stirring scenes of the French revolution, to most readers the most fascinating period of French history. By reason of his education and familiarity with the scenes he describes, Mr. Sage is peculiarly qualified to handle his subject. The plot is well conceived and artfully developed. Robert Tourney, the hero of the story, is a man of "the people," who falls in love with a young lady of aristocratic birth, the daughter of his master. He throws his fortunes with the French revolution and becomes an important figure in the army of the republic. His career is full of many thrilling experiences, in which deeds of daring mingle with romance. His influence with the government enables him to render important service to the choice of his affections and he finally wins her love. He is saved from being a victim to the cunning of the unscrupulous Robespierre only by her heroic intervention. The story is most charming-

ly told and carries the interest of the reader throughout. It has just been published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., and has been kindly and favorably received by the critics.

A reviewer of "To Have and to Hold," Mary Johnston's latest novel, thinks "the characters are a little too familiar with Shakespeare's plays, which had then been published only in separate quartos." The characters which in "To Have and to Hold" speak of the plays as though they were well acquainted with them were some of them men of the court circle; others men about town; and all of them were men of the class to whom the theatre was almost the only intellectual amusement of the time. It is probable that none or few of them had ever read a play of Shakespeare's, and it is equally probable that each one of them had many times heard the plays referred to, and seen the principal characters of the dramas in question taken by many different impersonators.

GOVERNOR ALLEN. Chas. H. Allen, the newly appointed governor of Porto Rico, is having some difficulty in establishing his constitutional relation to the Porto Ricans. Upon assuming the duties of his office he took oath to support the constitution of the United States. If, as the administration has assumed, the constitution does not apply to Porto Rico, why require this oath? How can

he support the constitution when he has been instructed that he is not bound by the constitution? In his inaugural address the new governor referred to the people as "fellow-citizens of Porto Rico," thereby harmonizing himself to the administration policy.

THE HOPE OF THE SOUTH.

No feature of the southern situation is more hopeful than the growing interest in the cause of education for both races. The customs and traditions of that section, regarding instruction under state authority before the civil war, were very different from those of the North, while the institution of a system of public education after the war was rendered the more difficult by the necessity of separate schools for white and black children in communities where there were not more pupils of both races than would make one school at the North. There was questioning about public schools for their own children among an element of the whites, and grave doubt as to the practicability of an efficient system for the blacks. But such a conference as has been held at Hampton, Va., this week to consider the deficiencies of present methods and to seek a solution of pressing problems shows that intelligent sentiment is becoming pronounced not only in support of the policy of public education, but also in insistence upon its needed improvement.

—New York Evening Post.

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