Under the title of "Impressions of a Modern Arcadian," Mrs. Nicholl gives an amusing account of the backwardness of our State of Virginia, to which she appears to have emigrated from England. Perhaps the worn-out Old Dominion will be one of the last of the Southern States to feel the great wave of material prosperity which is rapidly lifting them all out of the depression caused by slavery; but she will feel it sooner or later.

From England there comes the first number of a new periodical, The English Historical Review, and a remarkably handsome specimen of printing it is. Its purpose is explained in an interesting prefatory note. England, it seems, is the only one of the great countries of Europe that has no periodical exclusively devoted to the subject of history. And yet, "besides the thirty-five millions of the United Kingdom, there is in America and the British colonies and dependencies an English-speaking population of nearly seventy millions, who form, for purposes of literature, learning, and science, virtually one people with the inhabitants of the Old Country." Then follows a sketch of the different views as to the scope of history, and an outline of the plan of the journal, which is to be strictly scientific and non-partisan. The first article is a long one on German Schools of History, by Lord Acton, the learned Roman Catholic editor of the excellent old British and Foreign Review, read and respected by all scholars, until that remarkably stupid old Pope Pius IX., at the bidding of his Jesuit governors, put his foot on it as dangerously liberal.

Then follows an article by Prof. Freeman on the dark times which followed the downfall of Rome, and which he is studying and lecturing on at Oxford. The Cambridge History-Prof. Seeley follows, with a paper on the House of Bourbon. There is a department devoted to the notice of publication of historical documents, and another for the review of books, in which may be found an unfavorable comparison between the poor History of the Constitution, recently published by the veteran Bancroft, and the far better one of G. T. Curtis, now so long out of print. The vast extent of historical literature can be estimated by the twenty-three columns of titles of historical books recently published in all parts of the civilized world. The new journal will be indispensable to all serious students of history.

The Century for February has an illustrated account of that remarkable artist, Barye, whose beautiful bronzes are known all over the civilized world. There is another on city dwellings in America, whose illustrations, and especially the picture of the Somerset Club House, are particularly good. In the "Dance in Place Congo," Mr. George W. Cable gives the music of various negro and creole songs. Mr. Howells begins a new novel, "The Minister's Charge," and Mr. James concludes "The Bostons." And let no one who likes a good laugh overlook Mammy Lendy's "scurdgeon" to see "de Smiffsone Inschute," and her adventures there.

In the Nineteenth Century for January, Mr. Andrew Lang has a paper on "Myths and Mythologists," in which he advocates views similar to those in his recently-published interesting volume, "Custom and Myth," as against the extravagances of the solar theory of Max Miller and his disciple, Sir George Cox. Undoubtedly the solar theory has been ridden to death by the latter; but it does not follow that there is not a great deal in it. But Mr. Lang's writings cannot be overlooked by any student of this fascinating subject.

Mr. Frederic Harrison has a lively paper on "A Pedantic Nuisance," the nuisance being the fashion among modern historical writers of attempting to go back to the original form of ancient proper names. Mr. Harrison's temper is sorely tried by Mr. Grote's "Korkyra and Kiwkia," and Mr. Carlyle's "Kurfürst of Köln," and Mr. Freeman's "Cnut and Aelfhryth and Cantwara-byrig." He thinks we shall soon be invited to call Moses, Möscheh, and Jacob, Ya'gōb, and to talk about the Proverbs of Šělōmōn, and Darayavush instead of Darius. He has certainly got more outlandish names together than ever were in article before.

The discussion of plans of federation for the widely-scattered members of the great British Empire has never ceased since the publication, in 1883, of Prof. Seeley's interesting little book, "The Expansion of England." Hon. Sir Edward Thwing writes on the fallacy of "Imperial Federation."

In Lippincott's Magazine for February, Mr. Dorman B. Eaton administers a well-deserved castigation to that pretentious and ill-tempered person, "Gail Hamilton," otherwise Abigail Dodge, for her ridiculous attack on Civil Service Reform.

In the Atlantic for February there is a thoughtful and valuable paper by Mr. Abbott Lawrence Lowell, entitled "Ministerial Responsibility and the Constitution," in which he undertakes to show, as against