Each time this happened the sail-boat was temporarily put beyond control, while as the wave passed under us, the tender would be drawn back with such force that the boat we were in could scarcely ride the succeeding wave. Our only chance of escaping this danger depended on the breaking of the rope which connected the two boats, for neither my friend nor I could leave our positions to cut it. Fortunately the rope did break, and very probably that saved us from swamping. Moreover, had the boat continued in tow, we should not have been able to stem the tide. Half an hour after the loss of our tender, we had reached smooth water, and in another hour were safely anchored off Newburyport City.

The next morning in conversation with several men who had watched us in our critical situation of the day before, they said that we had done a very hazardous thing in attempting to cross the bar, and were fortunate in losing nothing more valuable than a skiff.

I do not believe that either my friend or myself will ever forget this experience, both because of its danger, which neither of us thoroughly realized at the time, and because of the enjoyment which the entire cruise gave us.

W. T. H.

Noticeable Articles.

Macmillan’s for March contains a very pleasant paper about Tom Moore, whose fame, like that of all the other second-rate poets of that generation has of late begun somewhat to fade out of memory. Oddly enough it is a Frenchman, Gustave Vallat, who now attempts to revive our interest in him. M. Vallat’s book, “Etude sur la Vie et les Œuvres de Thomas Moore,” Mr. Saintsbury pronounces “quite the soberest and most trustworthy sketch of Moore’s life and of his books, as books merely, that I know,” though he thinks it exalts him too high as a poet. Quite the same commendation may be given to Mr. Saintsbury’s own pleasant sketch, which neither makes too much of him, nor, like a good deal of modern criticism, unduly depreciates him. There was a vein of true poetry, if only a slender one, and a good deal of real manliness, in the little man, and a great deal of real fun in his comic and satiric verse, though this last has faded out with the circumstances that gave rise to it. Nobody who did not expect to live to the age of Methuselah would now-a-days disturb the eight or ten volumes into which Lord John Russell shoveled his friend’s dinner invitations and other “correspondence.”

Mr. Saintsbury touches upon one curious question. Moore’s poetry adapts itself better than almost any other to music. Moore was himself a musician, and sung his own songs with exquisite taste and feeling. But the lyrics of Burns, a far greater poet, adapt themselves equally well to music, while Burns himself had no ear; neither had Scott. Again, Shelley’s lyrics, “having poetical music in an unsurpassable degree,” cannot be set to music. Clearly “poetical music” and “musical music” are two different things, but no critic seems able to discover in what the difference consists.

In the January number of the Fortnightly, that vigorous writer, Mr. W. S. Lilly, attacked the ethical system of Mr. Herbert Spencer, and was answered in the February number by a Mr. Collins, writing at the request of Mr. Spencer, too ill to reply. In the March number Mr. Lilly returns to the charge, and the question is also exceedingly well discussed in the March Macmillan, in a short paper by Ernest Myers. Dealing as they do with the very foundations of moral philosophy, these papers will be found interesting by all who like such discussions. To the present writer Mr. Herbert Spencer seems the very prince of modern sophists.

In Blackwood for March the subject of Technical Education is dealt with by Prof. G. G. Ramsay, of Glasgow University. Professor Ramsay’s conclusions are interesting. He does not think that Great Britain’s manufacturing and industrial supremacy is as yet seriously threatened, but he does think it will be unless Great Britain improves her technical education, and it is interesting to see what direction he thinks that improvement should take. He says: “The only kind of technical knowledge which is valuable from a national point of view, is that which rests upon the scientific principles on which all technique depends.” Clearly he has no belief in shallow, superficial rule-of-thumb training. He says, too, “that no system of merely scientific education will be satisfactory unless it rests upon a sound basis of general education, whether the basis of that edu-