has recently lost, Sir Henry Maine, in his last volume of Essays entitled "Popular Government," has a valuable paper on our Constitution, in which he says: "The Senate of the United States ... is at this moment one of the most powerful political bodies in the world. In point of dignity and authority, it has in no wise disappointed the sanguine expectations of its founders."

The student of politics will also read with pleasure and profit in the Nineteenth Century for February and March two papers on our own political system, by Mr. Phelps, our present Minister to England. The first, a clear and brief sketch of the provisions of our Constitution, contains nothing which will be new to an American who knows his Constitution—and every American should know his Constitution. But the second, containing the observations which one of our most eminent lawyers sees fit to lay before the British public, is interesting. Mr. Phelps lays much stress upon the most original part of our system, the one to which there is no counterpart in a country whose Parliament is omnipotent,—the position and power of the United States Supreme Court. These papers ought to be read by all our students of political science.

W. P. A.

The Ganoid; or, a "Tail" of Long Ago.

With a biscuit in my pocket and a hammer in my hand, Chipping bits from off the strata that were "cropping" o'er the land, Wore out at length, I rested by a fracture fresh and new, And gazed in languid humor at the thing it brought to view.

I had found an ancient casket that Agassiz e'en would hail, When he saw beneath its cover that a ganoid curled his tail.

It was lying half imbedded in its matrix in the stone, And scintillating round it bright micaceous fragments shone;
And I thought of all the weary, sad, and slow-revolving years Since the earth commenced her circling search for light among the spheres;
And the huge ichthyosaurus must have felt his courage fail
In the turbulence around him, when this ganoid curled his tail.

When from out the turbid ocean seethed an atmosphere of steam,