

Then strong and slow,
 With a muffled blow,
 The flying flail he heaves !
 While the children laugh,
 As they watch the chaff,
 So light and dry,
 Fly wide and high—
 While underneath,
 From its golden sheath,
 Down rattles the ripened rye.

Mr. Riggs writes often beautifully and well, but he writes too easily. Yet his freedom is in one sense a charm. But he would please the public better if he would imitate the children in his picture, who

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Mr. Riggs is comparatively young, and he will probably write a good deal yet, as his poems have been well received. He can afford to sift the fancies he throws off so easily, and his work, or play, if it is play, will gain by the process. He has written already so many good things that he does not need to publish anything but what can be pronounced really good.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GALTON'S ENGLISH MEN OF SCIENCE.*—The object of this work is to ascertain and generalize facts respecting the lives and characteristics of English men of science, and thus “to investigate their sociology from wholly new, ample, and trustworthy materials.” The writer selected by various tests 180 scientific men and addressed to each a circular of questions as to his ancestry, qualities, education, and origin of his taste for science. The work consists of a summary of the answers, and the author's generalizations from the same. The book is not without interest and value. But its scientific worth is slight. A large proportion of the answers would have been essentially the same if the questions had

* *English Men of Science: Their Nature and Nurture.* By FRANCIS GALTON, F.R.S., author of “Hereditary Genius,” etc. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 549 and 551 Broadway. 1875. 12mo, pp. xiii, and 202.

been addressed to the more successful men of any department of life, and therefore present nothing distinctive of men of science. Others are indefinite; and so complicated are the influences bearing on the direction of a human life and the formation of character and habits, that the brief answers to many of the questions are necessarily untrustworthy without a more minute knowledge of the history of the person. The work has a pretentious scientific form with little material for real science.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS GUTHRIE.*—The first volume of this admirable work was noticed in our number for April, 1874. It had the advantage of a certain personal interest, delineating his earlier life, and being more than half occupied with the autobiography, which, as we then said, "every reader will wish that the author had begun earlier so as to have completed it to the time of writing, instead of having 'to lay it finally aside while in the midst of describing the Disruption conflict.'" His sons, however, have done their work well as editors, enlivening the narrative by extracts from his letters and addresses; and this volume derives an interest of its own from the stirring events to which it relates, and the picture given of his activity and influence. High as was his standing, on this side of the water as well as the other, as a preacher and a philanthropist, he cannot fail to be yet more admired by the many readers who are thus brought into a fuller acquaintance with the man and his work, and we must renew the expression of the regret we felt, in common with so many others, that his death frustrated his cherished purpose of visiting this country. He was physically and intellectually and morally a Scotchman of whom his country might well be proud. The older readers who watched with interest the Disruption of the established Church of Scotland in 1843, and the course of the "Free Church," will find that interest renewed in this second volume, and others will find pleasure and profit in the account here given of that noble movement, and of other enterprises into which Dr. Guthrie entered with the "*perfervidum ingenium*" noted as characteristic of his countrymen. The first chapter of this volume (the fifth of the whole work) relates to the "Disruption;" the next to the "Manse Fund," which he had the chief part in raising,

* *Autobiography of Thomas Guthrie, D.D., and Memoir.* By his sons, Rev. DAVID K. GUTHRIE and CHARLES J. GUTHRIE, M.A. In two volumes. Vol. II. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers. 1875. pp. 494.