

ART AND LETTERS.

Fitzgerald in his translation of the "Rubaiyat" did something in literature which need never be done again. It is immortal and will always have a place by itself. And now comes a crowd of good, bad and indifferent attempts to rival Fitzgerald. Occasionally a rhymester tries his hand at a little frivolity at old Fitzgerald's expense. Probably the famous translator would have forgiven A. D. Godley, the author of "Lyra Frivola" for this parody entitled "The Rubaiyat of Moderations" which reflects upon examinations:—

Keep clear of Facts; the Fool who deals
in those
A Mucker he inevitably goes;
The dusty Don who looks your paper
o'er—
He knows about it all—or thinks he
knows.

A Pipe, a Teapot, and a Pencil blue,
A Crib, perchance a Lexicon—and You
Beside him singing in a wilderness
Of Suppositions palpably untrue—

Nay! till the Hour for pouring out the
Cup
Of Tea post-prandial calls you home to
sup.

And from the dark Invigilator's Chair
The mild Muezzin whispers "Time is
Up"—

The Moving Finger writes; then, hav-
ing writ,
The Product of your Scholarship and Wit
Deposit in the proper Pigeonhole—
And thank your Stars that there's an End
to it!

Shakespeare has been introduced as a character in a play by the Hungarian dramatist, Arpad Zigany. The play takes its name from the great English dramatist. It was produced recently at the National Theater in Buda-Pesth and was pronounced "sheer nonsense" by the Vienna correspondent of the "London Standard."

Under the direction of Mr. Herbert Putnam, librarian of the Congressional Library, an interesting research has been going on regarding the negro in literature. The work was begun, it is fair to say, by Mr. Daniel Murray about two years ago. It is now proposed, according to the "Chicago Times-Herald," to make a complete bibliography of the literature for the Paris Exposition. Mr. Murray has gathered together about 1,100 titles of books or pamphlets. For the most part the literature has been found in the large eastern cities—Philadelphia, Boston, New York, Baltimore and Washington. The pamphlet literature is said to reveal a good deal of thoughtfulness—colored men were thinking in the days when it was a crime for a colored man to read or write. Many of the earlier writers gained their education in the West Indies. Fiction and poetry are strikingly uncommon. Seriousness is characteristic of most of the writing. The one chief theme was slavery. Since the war there have been a few really notable writers among negroes. Frederick Douglass belongs to the older generation, but his autobiography is a very remarkable contribution to literature. George W. Williams's "History of the American Negro" (two volumes) is valuable. Bishop Payne wrote a history of the A. M. E. church. "A Voice from the South" was a volume of essays written by Anna J. Cooper. Mr. Archibald Grimke is a lawyer well known in Boston, who has written lives of Phillips and Sumner. Mr. W. E. B. DuBois is probably the most scholarly negro in the United States. He wrote a few years ago a history of negro slavery in America based on the most careful study of its sources. It appeared among the Harvard Historical Monographs. Mr. Paul Laurence Dunbar and Charles Chestnut are the best known names of negroes who write fiction to-day.

ford, Conn.