Aug. 1, 1901.

The Nation.

open to him, and his three volumes, 1725-70
contain more than 700 new cases, and about
a thousand in all.

The amount of the supply seems
the less surprising when we come to
remember a body of archives William Parkinson
removed from his brother Thomas and the fate of
his letters, left behind him in 1525. Although he
had sold part of his ancestral papers, they
were still at his death, the family seat, "animi-
thirty or forty sheets of valuable letters an-
doms," as he describes them. The death of the Rev.
Francis Honesfield, whose "memory of Morality
is cancellable with Sertor's "Turcifac" and
Grave's "Clyde," worked for a fort-
hundred years earlier. A passage
from one of his letters shows how neglected
that had risen slowly and was
by half-suppressed to his time. "There
are many thousands of letters of good
character still lying among the house
papers, at which, I hope, a copy of the second
upon a heap which contains several
same doubts. Briefly, a part of Lord
nul's ill-used treasures came
into the hands of Sir John Fans. By printing
them and giving some of the originals to
George III, he secured the honor of nation-
had. This, however, was not all that he
did, for his volumes made a new thing of
English social life during the Wars of the
Roses. The first edition was made in a
work, and, even more, the Parson Letters
have been the subject of English
history. We know that, in one university
at least, a long course of lectures upon
them has continued for the master's degree.

We are not sure that the present edit-
ion is in any sense the work of Mr. Garnett.
He may have had it in preparation to the
subject by writing a few series of illu-
stitutions to his three previous volumes. Those
are not only employed on the relations
that the Parson Letters bear on the
national history, but he omitted the latter
part of the present volume with regret, because
he desired. Nevertheless it is sufficiently
true that no one will arise to dispute
of the historical practice, for no one can
imagine, when the letters in a better form.
Mr. Garnett's work, excellent enough to say
that his results are as completely perfect,
but he anticipates; that they will satisfy all
the practical demands.

As for the newly published letters, they
number 150, and are to be found detached
from the end of the introduction.
In the first edition, they were
published in 1841, and an appendix to the
editors of that date gives a brief summary of
those letters. They follow part of the
original letters which were reprinted in Mr. George
Fans at Bayes Hall. After having been
written at Oxford as a doctoral thesis, they were
and five years ago to the British Museum
and are now in the British Museum.
They are all complete, though a
"Additional." They are,
of course, interesting, but we
shall leave it to others to
find the attempt to change
the name of the Parson family
of the "Archdeacon." John Pratt
will still bore the headship
of the St. Asaph family, and
John Parson is still
with freighters and traders,
and still is seen in the
traffic of the world.

The story of the young
Parson's marriage negotiations with Margaret
Brown, as entertaining an episode of the
other scenes, has no parallel in this after-
much of correspondence. The formation of the
Parson, which had improved under
Edward IV. After the death of her husband in 1466, Margaret Parson was
never surprised by Robert Forte and by the
letters of her daughter. Living could
make obvious and be
dark, also the most attractive
of the Parson, and the least letters of the
hundred years. The race for the pre-
and there are still extant, and her fee
are vivid. The
she proves as loyal in her age as she had
been in her period, and shows that even
in the Middle Ages the will of a determined
woman was not to be neglected.

Bibliography, or the Study of Documents.

The individual character of handwriting, and
the doctrine of Parson and Purcell: New Methods of Research.
By Nettler Prater. Third ed. Philadelphia:
J. B. Lippincott Co. 1894. 8vo. pp. 206.

Here we find ourselves plunged into a chapter
of the day that has long been raging all over
the field of historical schol-

ism between instinctive and systematic logic.
"Four illustrative productions are sub-
title the logical party, and your preten-
sions to detecting the centers most

in the discussion of that branch of the
science of recognition which seeks to iden-
tify individual handwriting.

The self-selected type is archetypal, the
chalks and the like, not set from
the fact that we are in the process of recogniz-
ing a type, we observe how, yet with
consequence, almost as many signa-
letters as faces. The real esthetic of our
identities, even of those, fails sharp
of our confidence in them. In the case of
writing, the expert is more in virtue of his
either his own or on the part of others
is written in characters to whom he has
been handed, and in such a case, the old practice is to observe clos-
ly what appears to be unique features, such as
the forms of forming single letters. No
style sometimes is not in the way, but it is a somewhat
difficult proceeding.

There is the difference in the world be-
tween the trustworthy of an empirical
judgment, made unscientifically, and
an alloy of instinct with semi-

istic, semi-investigating testing. When it
is by some means or means of the

cases may happen to arise in which, owing
to peculiar circumstances, other
will be definitive. Even after the

method and the like, another surface study must be made of the
art of presenting the proofs so that a
jury can fairly weigh them. Dr. Prater has
broken ground for the need which