

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### BENEDICTUS DE SPINOZA.

Our readers will be pleased to find reproduced in our frontispiece an unusually good and authoritative portrait of Spinoza, the original of which has been kindly loaned us by Mrs. Julius Rosenthal of Chicago. We will add that we knew of the existence of this portrait from her late husband, Julius Rosenthal, who unfortunately died about a year ago at the age of seventy-six, as a result of being knocked down on the street by a cab. We take this opportunity to express our great appreciation of the friendship of Mr. Rosenthal, who endeared himself to us through his congenial spirit and the intense interest he took in the work of the Open Court Publishing Company.

Mr. Julius Rosenthal discovered the original of this picture in Europe, and appreciating its unusual merit, had it framed under glass. It had been engraved soon after Spinoza's death by an artist who knew the philosopher personally. The Latin lines were accompanied by a Dutch version which reads as follows:

“Dit is de schaduw van Spinoza's zienlijk beelt,  
Daar't gladde koper geen sieraat meer aan kon geven;  
Maar zijn gezegent brein, zoo rijk hem meégedeelt,  
Doet in zijn schriften hem aanschouwen naar het leven.  
Wie oil begeerte tot de wysheit heest gehad,  
Hier was die Zuiver en op't snedigste gevat.”

We here publish an English translation of the Latin in the original meter:

“He to whom Nature and God were known, and the cosmical order,  
Here he, Spinoza, is seen; here are his features portrayed;  
But the man's face has been pictured alone. As for painting his spirit,  
Verily Zeuxides' hands would not suffice for the task.  
Seek in his writings his mind, where he treateth of things that are lofty.  
He who is anxious to know, therefore, his writings must read.”

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### BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

SHINTO, THE WAY OF THE GODS. By *W. G. Aston*. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1905. Pp. 390.

The present volume on Shinto, or as we commonly say, “Shintoism,” the native religion of Japan, bids fair to become the standard book for information not only to us Western people but also to the Japanese themselves.