

There is a class of persons in whose hands legislation seems a mere toy. Passing, amending, and repealing laws is their only idea of statesmanship. Imitation is the only faculty in which they appear to excel. They must have their names identified with some measure, good or bad, even though it would last no longer than the next session.

Through much legislation laws may, and often do, become so complicated that, right or wrong, litigation is ruinous to all except the rich. Of course nothing can "harass" the courts of law so long as they get their fees, but it is different with the great mass of the people, who have neither money to squander, nor time to study law, and want to get their cases decided as cheaply and expeditiously as possible. This kind of legislation is carried a great length in the States. Hence we hear of judges setting aside the decisions of courts repeatedly. Now, the courts must decide according to some law, and the decision must be set aside by some other law, which proves the existence of conflicting and "harassing legislation."

Laws are passed and amended so frequently that people fail to keep track of them till their effects become intolerable. Perhaps, nothing is more conducive to the growth of despotism than "harassing legislation." Making, amending, and repealing laws has become so common that nearly everything proposed is allowed to pass under the pretence of giving it a trial. This is a great error, for when people get into this mood of thinking they are trifling seriously with their liberties. If I am asked to believe that a thistle transplanted into my garden will immediately begin to bear strawberries, should I try the experiment, intending to dig it up and cast it out in case of failure? Now, it may not be so easy as imagined to dig it up and throw it away. The roots of evil principles, like evil plants, often strike deep, and the seeds scatter far in a short time. When the time for digging up arrives procrastination begins to plead for delay and another chance. Thus it goes on till the evil which it was supposed could be nipped so easily becomes unmanageable. Every wrong move produces new complications. It adds to the difficulties and bewilderment of those who are striving to get to the root of evils and discover remedies for them.

Those who recommend experiments, in legislation, should consider these facts. And especially, members of parliament who draw pay from the public chest should see that their services are productive of something more substantial, to the public, than mere experiments. Making a plaything of the legislative power is sure to bring it into contempt. If a law fails to answer the purpose, tolerably well, society is better off without it altogether. A wholesome public opinion is much better than lame laws. We have some laws of this kind, on our statute books already, and are likely to soon have more.

Notwithstanding this there are some continually recommending changes. Changes are in their opinion the only evidence of progress. Hence their constant appeal is "tickle and entertain us or we die." If a long list of measures is not foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne, and along list of Acts receive the Royal assent at the close of the session it is thought that no good has been done. As "eternal vigilance" is aptly called "the price of liberty," so "harassing legislation" might be considered its death.

Changes of government are usually productive of this sort of legislation, for at each change ministers are likely to set themselves to undo or outdo the acts or exploits of their predecessors. The liberty of the people is in more danger by the attempt to outdo than to undo; for in this manner, measures, already carried to an extreme are likely to be carried still further.

Experiments in legislation are also objectionable for other reasons. After a law is passed, unless it is really oppressive to some party, no effective demand is likely to be made for its repeal. Hence, it is allowed to remain, either a dead letter, or an ever increasing evil, till it creates sufficient opposition to cause its removal. In this manner, laws which lie a long time as dead letters sometimes defeat the ends of justice. On the other hand, in their early stages, their evil effects, though not sufficient to cause their repeal, may have pressed with considerable severity on some.

A people may be harassed by legislation, "Till tired and undetermined to the last they yield and what comes then is master of the field."

It was legislation of the kind which paved the way for the usurpations of Marius, Sylla and Cæsar.

Fenelon Falls.

Religious.

It is said that Mr. Lowe at a dinner at Mr. Cardwell's just before the Ministerial resignation, obtained leave to say grace, which he did as follows: "Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die." The *Rock* says that for once it will adopt the Romish formula, and add "B. I. P." but cautions its readers that the letters must be read as three Latin words, not as one English.

Elder Jacob Knapp, well known throughout the country as a revival preacher, died a few days since at Rockford, Illinois, as the age of seventy-four. He was brought up an Episcopalian, but became a Baptist, and preached as an independent itinerant, preferring Baptist churches where they would receive him. He estimated that over 100,000 persons had been converted under his ministry.

The Rev. Canon Miller gave lately the first of a series of lectures on preaching to a large assembly of the younger clergy and students for Holy Orders at the Chapter House of St. Pauls. He exhorted them never to neglect pulpit preparation, and when in the pulpit to speak plainly, not to preach before people, nor at people, but to them, with direct pointed application, calling a spade a spade.

Rumour is still busy with the names of the new cardinals to be appointed at the next Papal Consistory. We present the list as report has shaped it. The fortunate prelates are, Monsignor Pacca, the major-domo of the Pope's household; De Mérode, Papal Almoner; Vitelleschi, secretary of the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars; Simeoni, secretary of the Propaganda, and probable successor of Cardinal Barnabo, its late head, whose death is just recorded; Bartholini, secretary of the Congregation of Rites; and Giannelli, secretary of the Congregation of the Council, together

with the Archbishops of Westminster and Malines. It will be seen that the Pope is likely to provide well for his own household.

The Empress of Russia has just presented to the Rev. Father Hatherly, of the English-speaking Greek Church, Wolverhampton, a handsome donation of money and a piece of altar plate, with the request, written inside the gilt silver margin, "Pray for the rest and peace of the soul of the Emperor Nicholas." He has also just received from the Greek Consulate at St. Petersburg some "sacred vases," a complete massive set of altar furniture, and a set of priestly vestments as recognitions of his services.

As many people, remarks the *Leisure Hour*, seem to think that Bismarck, in the conflict with the Papacy, is acting against the principles of toleration, his own explanation should be accepted:—"I acknowledge it as my duty to respect the dogmas of the Catholic Church as dogmas, and I have never interfered with anybody for believing in them. But, if the Infallibility dogma is so interpreted as to lead to the establishment of an ecclesiastical imperium in imperio, if it occasions the setting aside of the laws of this country, because unapproved by the Vatican, I am naturally driven to assert the legitimate supremacy of the State. We Protestants are under the conviction that the kingdom of Prussia ought not to be ruled by the Pope, and we demand that you, the Ultramontane section of the Roman Catholics, respect our convictions, as we do yours. Unfortunately, however, you are accustomed to complain of oppression whenever not permitted to lord it over others."

The Bishop of Lincoln has recently commented severely upon a certain class of Church advertisements. He says that "pastors of the Church of Christ are tempted by the inducements, not of saving souls and promoting the glory of God, but by such allurements as gardens and green-houses, coaches and stables, a comfortable parsonage and well-kept grounds, with a trout-stream and grammar school for the sons, and with the sea not far off for the wife and daughters, and good society and a railway station within a mile, and an income of £800 a year; and it is added that the incumbent is seventy-five years of age, and that the population is small, with light duty." Comparing this traffic to that which is carried on at Zanzibar, he says: "We have open slave markets of souls in London. Congregations of immortal beings are publicly put up for auction and are sold to the highest bidder, and the clergyman who has bought them—either directly by his own money, or by some clandestine and oblique subterfuge and evasion—comes and presents himself to a bishop for institution, and makes a solemn declaration that he has made no simoniacal contract, by himself or others, to the best of his knowledge and belief."

Some years ago (says *Der Evangelische Botschafter*, quoting from the *Evangelist*), the four chief Church courts of Prussia, Hanover, Saxony, and Wurtemberg summoned ten theologians to undertake the revision of the Lutheran translation of the Bible. An edition of the New Testament has already appeared, in the revised form, at the "Cantein'schen Bibelanstalt," in Halle. For the revision of the Old Testament more labourers were introduced. The First Book of Moses has already appeared, and the whole work has been successful as far as the Book of Isaiah. The course adopted in this important but difficult undertaking is as follows:—Two or three reporters (*Berichtstatter* or *Referenten*), are appointed for every book of the Bible. One of these writes out all the passages which, in his opinion, required to be altered, and sends them to the others, who communicate with one another in the first place only by letter. They then meet and prepare the report for the conference at Halle. No change is made by the conference unless approved of by two-thirds of the members present. In addition to this every book is subject to a three-fold discussion—twice in the conference, after which the decisions are published, and every one has time to make objections and express his views. The opinions, which are sent in from wide circles, are then considered; and after this third discussion the text is finally settled. These arrangements beget confidence in the work. Luther's translation has many imperfections, which, although they do not touch any leading matter, nevertheless leave many passages obscure. He had himself to keep on altering his own translation, which is, on the whole, one deserving of all respect. It is to be hoped this new edition will meet with universal acceptance, especially as the corrections are few, and made only where most necessary.

Literary Notes.

MAGAZINE LITERATURE.

The April number of *Old and New* deals vigorously with several live topics, and diversifies its vigor with a good array of stories and verses. Mr. Hale's Introduction discusses a question which is now growing more and more important every day,—the question of political re-organization. He takes no party view, but suggests, as the important points to consider, these five,—cheap transportation, education at the South, harmony of the legislative and executive departments at Washington, proper distinction of State and National politics, and a real civil service reform. Mr. Trollope's readable novel, "The Way we Live Now," and Mr. Perkins's story of "Scrope," are continued; the latter having a scene or two in Hartford, and one in New York. Mrs. Meredith has a good story called "Acha's Possibilities." There are three poems,—one by Paul H. Hayne, addressed to Mr. Longfellow; a pleasant fancy called "My Bird," by Kate L. Culby; and a satirical description, apparently of some political demagogue, called "The Modern Cleon." Miss Hinckley has another of her graceful descriptions of "Country Sights and Sounds." Mr. Tyrwhitt's useful and spirited "Sketching Club" is continued. Thoughtful readers will be delighted to welcome back Rev. Mr. Martin au, who resumes his series of papers with a powerful and learned discussion of the Romish claim of infallibility. An anonymous paper takes a rather fresh view of Mr. Tweed as a convict, arguing that the old man has a right to be reformed into a good citizen by those who shut him up. There are two short reminiscence papers about Mr. Sumner; a brief additional account of the rescue of the Scotch convict Muir; and only one book review,—a thought-

ful analysis of Stephen's "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity."

The *Penn Monthly*, like *Old and New*, is distinguished by its serious papers and the practicality of its aims. There is no periodical more welcome to our sanctum than this magazine with its bright blue dress. The "Epitaph of Adonis" is an ambitious poem, which promises well for its author. The articles on "The Law of Partnership," "The Communion of the Old World," and "Workingmen's Clubs and Institutes," are brief, but very much to the point.

HARPER'S for April is replete with its usual articles of travel, adventure, and romance. Its stories are "My Mother and I," by the author of John Halifax, and "The Living Link," by the author of the "Dodge Club." An illustrated paper on "Oliver Goldsmith" is worth the price of the number. An account of Carlyle's home is also interesting. General McClellan publishes the first of a series of papers on army organization which does not strike us as in any way remarkable. The "Drawer" is as racy of anecdote as usual.

ST. NICHOLAS is our pet beauty. From the illuminated scarlet cover to the Riddle Box on the last page, it is full of sunshine, birdsong, playfulness and laughter. The engravings are simply admirable, and the papers adapted to the wants of the young. Such experienced writers as I. M. Arvel, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, J. T. Trowbridge, Celia Thaxter, and Frank Stockton, to say nothing of the clever editor herself, have contributions to this number. Bound volumes of ST. NICHOLAS will be a treasure for every household.

An accident delayed the publication of the *LAKESIDE MONTHLY* for February, but it has gained the advantage of being printed on a font cast expressly for it, now presenting a very beautiful appearance. This Western periodical has high ambition in vying with its more ancient rivals of the East, but so far it has done so with success, and the present number is quite in keeping with its predecessors. There is a certain vigour and unconventionality about the papers which savour of the atmosphere in which they are written.

THE GALAXY for April has an uncommonly good list of contributions, including Justin McCarthy, Albert Rhodes, Bayard Taylor, Henry James, Jr., Richard Grant White, Junius Henri Browne, and other well-known writers. The poetical department has contributions from Bayard Taylor, William Winter, and Professor Parsons. The departments of Literature, Science, and Miscellany are well sustained, and the April number, as a whole, is quite up to the usual high standing of the magazine.

IN SCRIBNER'S the remarkable story of Rebecca Harding Davis, "Earthen Pitchers," is concluded. The conclusion is by no means equal to the opening chapters, yet the tale is one of rare beauty and power. The papers on the "Great South" are continued. The illustrations of the "Ramble in Virginia" are very creditable indeed. The number contains no less than twenty-one papers, which all maintain SCRIBNER'S reputation for thoroughness, variety, and literary finish.

LITTIMOOR is as fresh as ever. The "New Hyperion" leads us through beautiful scenes, and an illustrated article on Japan and California is full of entertainment. George McDonald's story, "Malcolm," evolves itself gradually as all the psychological studies of this amiable author do. The number contains the usual series of short stories for which LITTIMOOR has a reputation. A critical paper on Walter Savage Landon is very readable and contains new glimpses into the poet's inner life.

"The Romance of Ysult" is stated to be the name of Mr. Swinburne's forthcoming poem.

Mr. Blanchard Jerrold will write a personal and biographical sketch of the late Shirley Brooks.

Lord Chief Justice Cockburn's work on "Junius" is, it is said, completed, and will be published in September.

It is not generally known, perhaps, that there has been for some time past a *Quarterly Journal of Prophecy*.

The *National Food Reformer*, illustrated, and edited by Amelia Lewis, is the title of a new forthcoming English penny weekly.

General Cluseret, the fugitive Communist, is going to contribute a series of letters on the Paris Commune of 1871 to the *Swiss Times*.

A story by Mr. Black, the author of "A Princess of Thule," will be begun shortly in one of the English magazines. It will be illustrated by Mr. du Maurier.

Several articles on Horace Greeley are said to be forthcoming in the autumn magazines, each author claiming to have known the great journalist better than any living man.

The following telegraphic review of Victor Hugo's new novel was, according to the *Rappel*, forwarded to the author by the Italian poet Boito: "Milan, the 22nd, 1.55 p.m.—To Victor Hugo: I am at the 192nd page of the 3rd volume. Glory!—Boito."

A Novel by Victor Hugo, similar to "Ninety-three," is calculated by the *Paris Figaro* to cost nearly £5,000 to bring out—almost as much as a Galté extravaganza. As a rule, however, it will repay its cost, the *Misérables* having brought in a clear profit of £32,000.

Among Mr. Sumner's valued books is the Bible used by Bunyan when he wrote the "Pilgrim's Progress," in which is the autograph of Bunyan, while the margin is full of notes also in his handwriting. There is also the manuscript of Burns's "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled," given to Mr. Sumner by an eminent Englishman, to whom it was given by Burns. The manuscript is remarkably neat and plain, and is carefully preserved between stiff covers neatly bound.

Messrs. Longmans are preparing for publication, in four volumes, 8vo., with portraits from the originals in the possession of the Imperial family, and fac-similes of letters of Napoleon I., Napoleon III., Queen Hortense, &c., "The Life of Napoleon III., derived from State Records, unpublished Family Correspondence, and Personal Testimony," by Blanchard Jerrold. Vol. I. will be published in March, Vol. II. in the autumn, and Vols. III. and IV., completing the work, in the spring of 1875.

The *Academy* is authorized to deny the statement of the *Athenæum* that Mr. Gladstone "has written to Professor Max Müller, and told him that it is his purpose to devote his attention to philology." But there is a rumour in London that Mr. Gladstone has some intention of retiring for a time from public life, and devoting himself to literature, and more particularly to the translation of classical poetry. A trip to the Holy Land is also mentioned among the diversions in which the ex-Premier contemplates indulging.

A society has been started in the South under the name of the Southern Historical Society, having special reference to securing materials toward a history of the events of the late war, all printed matter procurable having been brought together for this purpose, while a vast amount of manuscript has also been received. One gentleman has furnished a history of the army corps of Northern Virginia of 1,000 pages, while General S. D. Lee has supplied his order-books of the Army of Tennessee. A contract has been made with Trumbull Brothers, of Baltimore, to make the *Southern Magazine* the organ of the society, and they are to publish twenty pages monthly free of cost.