

DURING his imprisonment Mr. William O'Brien has been engaged on a novel which he expects to finish by Christmas. It is to be called "When We were Boys," and will probably be first published in *Lippincott's Magazine*.

THE *Critic*, of Dec. 14, announces that, with the new year, Dr. W. J. Rolfe, of Cambridgeport, Mass., the distinguished Shakspearian scholar, will take charge of a department in that paper to be entitled "Shakspeariana."

A NOVEL feature of the "Windsor Peerage," now nearly ready in London, will be the omission of the ladies' ages—an innovation which it is expected will meet with favour, though it must detract from the real value of the record.

THE sudden though hardly premature death of Robert Browning dwarfs all other aspects of the literary world. A notice of his last book, "Asolando," received only two days before his death, will appear in the next issue of THE WEEK.

THE John W. Lovell Company announce a new "Library." It is a series of Foreign Literature, to be edited by Edmund Gosse. The first number, to be ready this week, will be "Joshua: a Biblical Picture," by George Ebers.

THERE is talk of a new English journal being set on foot in Paris, under the name of *The International Times*. Mr. Bottomley, who recently, as a Gladstonian, stood for Parliament in Hornsey, and Mr. Leopold Graham, a London journalist, are the promoters.

THE *Forum*, for January, will contain an article, by ex-Speaker Carlisle, on "How the Tariff Affects the Farmer," in which the Protectionist arguments are taken up one by one, and a statistical view of the condition of agriculture as compared with other industries is presented.

IVAN PANIN, the Russian *littérateur*, was baptized in the Central Baptist Church of Chicago recently, after his renunciation of infidelity. All his life, up to the time of his graduation from Harvard in 1884, Panin was an infidel. He went to Minneapolis, a year ago, to deliver a few lectures. Since becoming a Christian Panin has renounced lecturing on worldly topics and will henceforth stick to the pulpit.

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OF the Eiffel Tower, W. C. Brownell says, in the January *Scribner's*: "It was, however, not only not vulgar, but agreeable. Technically the Tour Eiffel was superb. It may have been intended merely to be astonishing, but in reality it was in the highest degree impressive."

THE *New-Englander* appears to be in trouble. That at least is the inference from a circular hinting that it cannot go on unless an endowment of \$6,000 annually for three years is provided. The precedents of the *Princeton*, *Andover*, and *Church Reviews* are cited, and it is pleaded in justification that organs of culture dispensing with fiction, pictures, and such popular lures cannot hope to be a financial success. Appeal is made especially to the 14,000 Yale alumni.

WE beg to draw attention to the glowing address by Nicholas Flood Davin, M.P., condensed upon another page for our readers. Mr. Davin's style is always unmistakably that of the scholar and born orator, and while it is graphic and fervid, as becomes an Irishman, is tempered by general culture and sound literary opinions. Talleyrand said: "Above all, no enthusiasm." But he spoke to the Gaul. Mr. Davin does well to instil his pet virtue of enthusiasm into the colder Canadian nature, and we are grateful to him for it.

MESSRS. HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY will publish at an early day a new brochure by Prof. E. N. Horsford, on "The Discovery of the Ancient City of Norumbega." The substance of the book was communicated to the President and Council of the American Geographical Society, at a special session in Watertown, on the 21st of November last. In addition to the historical address, there will be photographs of the site of the ancient city, sixteen maps from Icelandic sources down to the United States Coast Survey, and the original map of the valley of the Charles River from Stoney Brook to Cambridge.

THE close of the Parnell Commission is to be signalized shortly by the publication of two volumes. One is "The Diary of the Parnell Commission," by John Macdonald, revised from the London *Daily News*, which Mr. Fisher Unwin will publish. The other is Mr. Davitt's speech, which he has carefully revised for publication. It is to be called "The Defence of the Land League," and will

be issued by Messrs. Kegan Paul and Co. A feature of much interest in the latter volume will be its appendices, in which many matters objected to by Sir James Hannen, when about to be referred to by Mr. Davitt, will be included. In addition there will be an array of facts covering the whole field of the Irish struggle for land and liberty.

THE first 1890 protected party of the Church Emigration Society will leave England for Canada early in April. The party will consist of good farm hands, single or young married couples being preferred. Those desirous of joining should apply to the Secretary, Church Emigration Society, 49 Victoria Street, London, S. W. Single girls, domestic servants of good character, able and willing to undertake general work, should apply to Miss C. E. Denison, Hon. Sec. Ladies' Auxiliary, 196 Cromwell Road, London, S. W. The Bishop of London has, by the way, accepted the office of the Vice-President of the Society. The Bishop takes great interest in emigration, and his active co-operation with the work of the Society should be of valuable assistance to the Committee.

WHAT is meant by the following notice, culled from *The American*, is not quite easy to gather:—

"If it be the purpose of poetry, as Mr. Stopford Brooke has told us, to give pleasure, then few men of the century had a better right to the name of poet than Martin Farquhar Tupper, whose death was announced from London, on the 20th ult. What writer of verse in our day has reached and pleased so great a number of persons? He went down as low as Burns in the stretch of his influence, and he certainly did his readers no harm, while he added some colour to their lives by his writing. His vast popularity showed that while the educated classes had passed that stage of mental development in which gnomic poetry is relished—a stage represented by Solomon and Hesiod in the ancient literatures—the masses had not done so, and they found in him what they did not in Tennyson or even Longfellow. It is to be remembered that while 'Proverbial Philosophy' was his most popular and his best remembered book, he wrote many others between the issue of the earliest, in 1838, and his latest, in 1863."

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