

THE PERIODICALS.

In the February number, the *Overland Monthly* makes a new departure, an article on "Fish-nets and Glaciers," by Edwards Roberts, being accompanied by three illustrations. After a piteous growl at the hybrid climate of San Francisco, Mr. Roberts gives an account of a trip to Alaska, betwixt which two places the writer declares are "the beauties of the world." "The Days of Barbarism on Paget Sound" were even worse than is generally supposed, judging from a paper by S. A. Clarke. A valuable contribution to the Indian difficulty is made by Francis J. A. Darr, in an article entitled "Indian Education applied to the San Carlos Reservation." The hackneyed but momentous question, "How shall we Educate Our Boys?" is discussed from a very utilitarian stand-point by, we opine, the editor. Mr. T. B. Macfarland writes on "The Injustice of New Trials," and the other principal contributions are: "Winter Pictures on Marsh Grant," "Early Presbyterianism" (in California), "A Roman Festival," poetry, and several serial and complete stories.

The illustrations of the *English Illustrated Magazine* are of high quality and exceeding interest, more especially those to the papers on "Haworth Castle" and "Shakespeare's Country" (Part II.). Dramatic matters receive considerable space in this issue, as in last month's, Part II. of "The Dramatic Outlook" now appearing with cuts of Irving, Salvini, Ellen Terry and Mr. and Mrs. Kendal in various characters. Fiction, as usual, is also a strong department. Wilkie Collins' "The Girl at the Gate" is concluded. Hugh Conway's "A Family Affair" is advanced, and there is a complete story, "In a South Italian Taverna," by Charles Grant.

A CAPITAL number of *Wide-Awake* is that bearing date of February. Facing a beautiful frontispiece is a sweet little song entitled "The Snow Bird." Next in order is a story of an infantile commercial venture, with a marvel of wood-cutting. Then comes a spice of comedy, "The Danish Emigrants," followed by two chapters of Charles Egbert Craddock's serial. Several short stories and poems intervene between that and a paper on Spenser's "Una"—one of the "Heroine" series. Another instalment of an Old New York story takes next place, and is succeeded by a graphic account of "Adventures on the Nile." A gingerbread story and "A Boy's Truth" and Chapter III. of "The Bubbling Teapot" complete the lighter portion of the magazine. Papers on "King Edward VI.," "Washington in Past Days," "Entertainments in Chemistry," "King Arthur," "The Making of Pictures," "The Action of Alcoholics upon the Liver," and miscellaneous departments complete the number.

EIGHTEEN valuable articles culled from the great reviews and magazines are given in the current *Library Magazine*. "Imperial Federation," as generally understood, is shown to be impracticable; Professor Ramsay writes of "The Highlanders in North-western Canada;" Mr. Hughes' paper on "Co-operation in England" is reproduced; Mr. Guernsey's discussion of the "Constitution and Migration of Our (The American) Population" is included; and amongst other interesting subjects discussed are "Taine's French Revolution," "German Socialism," "Samuel Johnson," "Professor Fawcett," "The Sins of Cheapness," "The Oil and Gas Wells of Western Pennsylvania," "The Savage," "Corporations, their Uses and Abuses," and "Science Notes."

THE numbers of *The Living Age* for the weeks ending 31st January and 7th February contain "The Centenary of the Times," and "The Savage," from the *Nineteenth Century*; "From Siberia to Switzerland, the Story of an Escape," and "The Colonial Movement in Germany," *Contemporary*; "The Revolution of 1884," *Fortnightly*; "Malta and its Knights," and "Outlying Professions," *Blackwood*; "Charles Dickens at Home," *Cornhill*; "Coca and Cocaine," *Lancet*; "The Jews in Central Asia," *Sunday at Home*; with instalments of "A Home Divided Against Itself," "The Portrait: a Story of the Seen and the Unseen," and "A Millionaire's Cousin," and poetry.

BOOK NOTICES.

STUDIES OF PLANT LIFE IN CANADA. By Mrs. C. P. Traill. Ottawa: A. S. Woodburn.

Outside the interest actually centering in the subject matter of this book, as one of the most ambitious typographical productions ever attempted in Canada it must command attention. Mrs. Traill is well-known as an authority upon the flora of this country, and is no stranger to book-making, having written and published, amongst other works, the "Backwoods of Canada" and "Canadian Crusoes." But the value of the present volume is immensely enhanced by the beautiful chromos which illustrate and adorn the text, the work of Mrs. Chamberlain, of Ottawa. The letterpress and paper are of the best—each page is surrounded by an Oxford border in red—the binding is tasteful, the whole is a credit to all parties concerned. The author—who, by the way, hails from Lakefield, Ontario—dedicates her book to the Marquis of Lansdowne, whose predecessor has lamented the inferiority of Canadian wild flowers to those of the Old Country. On the other hand, Mrs. Traill professes to have found much comfort in Canadian forest flowers, ferns, and mosses, but for which she "would not have been as contented as I have been away from mosses, but for which she" Whilst aiming at correctness and completeness, Mrs. Traill has wisely used a simplicity of style which insensibly charms the reader, and most advisedly she has given the name of every plant in plain Anglo-Saxon as well as in the dog-Latin which is generally made to do duty for floral nomenclature. The book is, moreover, divided into four parts—the wild or native flowers, flowering shrubs, forest trees, and ferns. Most heartily can one join in the prayer of the preface—"that it may prove a means of awakening a love for the natural productions of the country."

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. By Isaac N. Arnold. Chicago: Jansen McClurg and Company.

At first sight it would almost appear that, with so many biographies of Lincoln already in existence, there could be no room for another—that it would be impossible to say anything about the famous President which had not been given to the world before. But Mr. Arnold was probably more familiar with the public life of Lincoln than any person, and entertained for him the highest regard. Mr. Stoddard's recently-published book has been confessed an eminently satisfactory biography; Mr. Arnold's is even more interesting and reliable. The latter gentleman was closely associated with Lincoln as a lawyer, as a member of Congress, and during the War the two were in daily association. Not only were Lincoln and Arnold in general unison upon political matters, they had that mutual trust and confidence which alone induce men to appear in their true characters. The one was a rustic, the other essentially a town bird accustomed to town plumage. Mr. Arnold set about writing his friend's biography before the decease of Lincoln, and in 1867 published one which he always considered as crude; this latter book is the loving work of

years which the unfortunate death of the writer has made posthumous. It is incontestibly the fullest and most reliable life of Lincoln yet offered to the public. An account of the ancestry of the Martyr President is followed by a somewhat matter-of-fact sketch of his boyhood and youth. A chapter is devoted to a history of slavery in the States and the growth of an anti-slavery party. Three succeeding chapters narrate the state of parties previous to Lincoln's appointment to the Presidential Chair. Following is a full account of his life at Washington, the War, and contemporary history, the latter given with a fulness of detail quite invaluable. Mr. Arnold is no niggard of his praise of Stephen A. Douglas, and is just as outspoken in his condemnation of General McClellan. The final chapters of the book, tracing the downfall of slavery, the assassination, are fully and fairly treated, and with evident personal knowledge.

THE ELEMENTS OF MORAL SCIENCE, THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL. By Noah Porter, D.D., LL.D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs.

Mr. Porter's treatise is written primarily for the use of college and university students in their preparation for the class-rooms. It pre-supposes some familiarity with psychological and philosophical studies, the earlier portions being devoted to a dissertation on moral philosophy, the latter being a practical application of the same. The President of Yale College was fully aware of the difficulty of the task he undertook—he knew that in avoiding diffuseness he was liable to fall into incompleteness, but must be congratulated on having produced a text-book which in reasonable limits supplies the data necessary to an intelligent study of Christian ethics. The mechanical construction of the book, also, is all that could be desired—its division into chapters, sections, and paragraphs with indented marginal notes in black letters.

EVE'S DAUGHTERS; or, Common Sense for Maid, Wife, and Mother. By Marion Harland. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs.

"Marion Harland" is inclined to sneer at the common comparison of the woman of to-day with her of a couple of generations ago to the disadvantage of the former. She claims that, in spite of the legacy of complaints left to the women of this age by their grandmothers, women's life is longer and happier now than it ever was—that is where it gets a fair chance. Her mission in the book under notice is to show in what direction the education of women is conducted upon wrong lines, in each case the proper remedy being suggested. With a contempt for the ultra-delicacy which has kept from girls much knowledge that is essential for their happiness, she talks "common sense" upon delicate subjects in an irreproachable and convincing manner. The book might with profit and perfect propriety be placed in the hands of any girl, and especially one who is on the point of entering upon married life.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE handsome *Art Interchange* of January 15th issued a supplement containing six designs for fan decoration.

THE *Miller*, the leading organ of the milling interest in England, reproduces in full an article from THE WEEK on the wheat trade of Canada and India.

THE *March Century* will contain two biographical papers, one on Charles O'Connor, by a friend who knew him intimately for many years, John Bigelow, and "Reminiscences of Daniel Webster," by Stephen M. Allen.

WE learn from the *Athenaeum* that Dr. Alexander Schmidt is preparing a new edition of his incomparable "Shakespeare Lexicon," which is out of print. It will be some years, however, before the work can be printed.

"How Success is Won" is an attractive volume illustrated by portraits made expressly and with great care, in which Sarah K. Bolton sketches the history of some of the most successful men of to-day, and published by D. Lothrop and Company.

PROFESSOR BLACKIE, whose new book upon the Scottish Highlanders and the land laws has been issued by Chapman and Hall, dedicates his work to Mr. Bright, "the stout asserter of popular rights, the eloquent denouncer of Irish wrongs, and the accomplished master of the English tongue."

MR. HENRY M. STANLEY is rapidly pushing to completion the manuscript of a work on his African labours called, "Congo, or the Founding of a State; a Story of Work and Exploration." It will consist of two good-sized volumes; and it is expected that the manuscript will all be ready for the printer within a month.

AMONG the reviewers who have undertaken to review "George Eliot's Life," just published by Harpers, are Lord Acton, who has done an article for the *Nineteenth Century*; Mr. Frederic Harrison, who contributes a notice in the *Fortnightly*; and Mr. John Morley, who reviews the work in *Macmillan*. One of the most eminent English novelists will probably be the critic of the *Edinburgh*.

BOSTON'S new weekly, the *Spectator*, is described as "a national journal of political science, literature and art." It promises to "promulgate the principles of politics, and not the policies of parties." This is an ambitious (as well as an alliterative) aim, and the conductors of the *Spectator* will deserve great praise if they persist in it. The interests of the new journal seem to be identified with those of the Webster Historical Society.

THE letters of the late Lord Lytton will probably make their appearance in England after all. The *Pall Mall Gazette* hears that some of the copies sent out for review were forwarded to America, where they are now being reprinted. As the work was suppressed no copyright in it was secured, so, unless some extraordinary measures are taken there will be nothing to prevent the importation of the objectionable book in any quantities the public will order.

MR. PORTER C. BLISS died at New York last week. He was eminent as a journalist, traveller, scholar and diplomat, and his death was the remote result of injuries, inflicted by the infamous Lopez, dictator of Paraguay, who tortured Bliss to extract State secrets from him, while he was Secretary of Legation under Minister Washburn. He was also attached to the Diplomatic Service of the United States in Mexico, Brazil and the Argentine Republic.

"MATTHEW ARNOLD proves himself capable of learning when he is old, and of confessing himself in the wrong—two admirable traits, and not very common," so writes the editor of the *Springfield Republican*. Continuing, "He has 'A Word More About America,' in the current *Nineteenth Century*, and though he does not as he might acknowledge outright that his previous word was an impertinence and that he is sorry he wrote it—he does say that his estimate was imperfect, and that until he visited the United States he had never seen a people with institutions thoroughly suited to them."