

is so *natural*, and the young men say she is "slap up." And very likely she may be, but *you* can not hear a word she is saying. The selection—quite a fitting one, by the way—is the ride from Ghent to Aix, by Robert Browning, and it is really remarkable to see how easily all the meaning and passion of that spirited poem can be eliminated when one's attention is directed that way. If you could look over the reporter's shoulder and read shorthand you would see that he has represented this meek and unaffected young lady as "a fair and gifted reciter, who brought home to our hearts as never before all the wondrous beauty and strength of the master's noble poetry, in the recitation of which her delivery was marked by superior clearness and fire of enunciation, to which was added the sweet maidenly reserve of the fair girl graduate, queen in the garden of girls at Minerva Villa, Vickson Street."

At this stage of the proceedings you have to leave, for there is another ceremony of the kind at the opposite end of town at which you must assist; so you beg the reporter's pardon and scramble down and out just as the essay upon "Tennyson as a Poet" is being commenced. You would like to have heard this essay; "Tennyson as a Poet" is a new idea. You had always thought of him as a statesman, or as a novelist, or as a philanthropist; now, it appears, you would have heard of him as a poet. Well—it is too late to go back. Here you are in the narrow hall, lined with susceptible youth on both sides, and with an odour of coffee coming up the back stairs.

The atmosphere of the second school to be visited this evening is decidedly different in one way, but quite the same in point of temperature. The music here is listened to with marked attention. Now it is Chopin, now Schumann, now Beethoven. The essays range from "The Future of Canadian Literature" to "The Aesthetic in Art." All is gravely serene and earnest; the misguided men present feel like Cyril and Florian, and the dreamy Prince. Higher Education confronts you here if anywhere, and you do not even smell coffee.

Mr. Howell's little volume, "Criticism and Fiction," is to be found at the bookstores, and I hope that the excellent, if slashing, review of it in current *Literary World* will prepare its way for it. Bound together, these essays look worse—and better—than they did in magazine form. But, while they may interest a few and amuse many, they may do a little harm to some. It is difficult to see how a man, apprenticed honourably to literature for so many years, can say so many extraordinary falsehoods.

THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE.*

THE second number of the new series of Transactions of the Canadian Institute embraces a number of papers on literature and science read during the winter of 1889-90. Several of these take rank amongst the most valuable of recent contributions to the literature of learned societies. The paper by Rev. A. G. Morrice, O.M.I., on the Dene languages—the languages of the so-called Tinneh Indians of British Columbia and the Mackenzie River country, must be placed amongst the most interesting and most meritorious of recent contributions to philological research. It is indeed a revelation in regard to the languages of the aborigines of North America, and must excite universal attention. That a lone missionary in the wilds of our far North-West should produce a paper rivalling in careful research and grasp the most noted of philological contributions ever made in the centres of European scholarship excites wonder, and, following Prof. Campbell's researches in a somewhat similar direction, must induce the philologists of Europe to look with more than ordinary interest to the Canadian Institute for valuable light in this most fascinating field of enquiry. The subject matter is a revelation to Canadians and a surprise to the world. That a small tribe of savages—the Carriers—in the far north-west of this continent—should possess a vocabulary of 750,000 words—a larger number than the most advanced of European languages had not a quarter of a century since—is what no one would be prepared to imagine possible. That the verb formations are inflected with all the regularity of Greek and Latin is, to say the least, interesting in view of conceptions hitherto entertained respecting the languages of the North American Indians. Astonishing, moreover, is the prodigious exuberance of differentiating forms given to the verb. For instance, the word "brise," to be broken, possesses no fewer than 110 particularizing substitutes for the Aryan term, and

not one of these could be indifferently used for any other. These substitutes are expressive of (1) the object employed to operate the breakage; (2) the manner in which the object has been affected, *i.e.*, whether broken in two or in many, by the middle or otherwise, purposely or by accident, etc., and (3) the form of the object broken. Further discriminative forms multiply these 110 distinct verbs by four or five. The single paradigm of the verb "to put" contains over 3,000 verbs, all differing in meaning and structure; and, strange to say, so simple is the construction that diversifies this wonderful language that a child of four or five years possesses these innumerable vocables as perfectly as does his father, and knows his own intricate language as perfectly as a French academician does his own mother tongue. This extraordinary paper is so full of surprises, so comprehensive, and yet so concise, that it will well reward the close perusal of the ordinary, intelligent reader, as well as the study of the philologist. Mr. R. Dewar's paper on "Arsenic and Sulphur as Metallurgical Agents in the treatment of Canadian auriferous and argentiferous ores" is a very suggestive application of the law that "when a metal is alloyed with one or more other metals the resultant alloy has a lower melting point than the mean of the several melting points of the constituents taken together." Mr. Dewar thinks that the cost of reducing our ores might be one-fifth of what it is at present. Other papers are: Arthur Harvey's on the speroidal concretions (*pelotekthen balanoides*) found in the archæan rocks of Lake Superior, and which he suggests to be fossils; Sandford Fleming's valuable tables illustrating his new method of time-reckoning now being adopted throughout the world; Dr. P. H. Bryce's "Natural History of Ground Waters"; David Spence's "Ossianic Poetry"; L. J. Clark's "Formation of Toronto Island," and Mr. A. B. Macallum's "Morphology and Physiology of the Cell." The volume in paper, type and generous appearance is a credit to the publishers and printers.

J. G. M.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"PATRIOTISM IN ITS RIGHT MIND."

To the Editor of THE WEEK:

SIR,—Professional critics are sometimes charged, by their victims, with forming their judgment of new works from the title-page, and a random line caught here and there from the text. Your correspondent, Mr. W. F. Stockley, who devotes an interesting paper under the above caption to "The New Empire," seems to have adopted the same summary process. The extract in *THE WEEK*, from which your correspondent quotes, was, declaredly, not from the book, but from the proof-sheets of the then forthcoming work. Mr. Stockley founds a great deal upon the words "dishonest states and half-civilized republics," in that final chapter (really very little more than a hastily-written appendix). When your correspondent consults the book, as actually issued, he will find that the phrase "dishonest States" is not in it. There are other "States" in the world than those constituting the American Union. Nevertheless the words were eliminated, in the final revision, for the purpose of preventing the possibility of misapprehension, so anxiously careful was the author to avoid unnecessary offence. In the course of an historical review, facts must be stated, even if not wholly agreeable, and a spade must sometimes be called a spade. But the author would be surprised to find himself accused, by any careful reader of his book, of setting forth anything in a hostile or offensive mood towards a neighbouring nation, one branch of our great common race; the possible reunion of which, on lines consistent with, and not in violation of, historical development, is the main argument of "The New Empire." Should your correspondent hereafter do me the honour of reading that attempt to treat that somewhat broad, and I believe important, subject, he may find, I think, that the spirit and aim of the book are not so different from those which he himself professes. There are certain current notions as to what constitutes Imperialism; and those notions are attributed to a book written very largely for the purpose of setting forth an entirely different view of historical tendency, and quite another *raison d'être* for our Imperial Union.

"The New Empire," could not hope to be more than a suggestive introduction to a great subject. The work was kept with some effort within reasonable dimensions. Phrases might have been expanded or explained; but, for the sake of compression, it was necessary to leave a good deal to a fair and intelligent construction on the part of the reader. Surely a reference to the "spirit of Elizabethan England"

—an ideal commonly accepted (rightly or wrongly) of English *patriotic energy*—need not be construed as an advocacy of Hawkins and the slave-trade, or of religious persecution: that wave of mediævalism, which (need I remind your correspondent) receded from the shores of Elizabethan England, while it continued to flow, deep and destructive, over the Continental nations? Is not Milton's tremendous conception of Satan—that terrible, almost majestic form, potent and defiant—an idealization inspired by the apparently triumphant cause of darkness and cruelty, still prevailing, some reigns after Elizabeth, over the greater part of Europe—an echo of the cries of the Albigenses and from La Rochelle?

Your esteemed correspondent objects to some sentences referring to the policy of modern France (with which the relations of the new Empire are likely to be close, perhaps acute, in the future). The Newfoundland issue, it is said, is but a reflex of the differences between England and France over the occupation of Egypt. As if the whole long story of the conduct of France over the Egyptian question had not been an illustration of the spirit which rules her policy now, as in the past: that jealous, truculent, discontented spirit of her masses, with difficulty moderated by her Governments, which has made not only Germany but Italy her enemy. Modern nations, it seems to me, exert an educating influence on each other. Hardly directly stated, but to be gathered from the facts set forth in "The New Empire," is my conviction that a narrow, jealous trade policy in America partakes of, and supports, the militant feeling in Europe; and that the future action of Canada—throwing her weight with the United States, in favour of that policy, or, with the Empire, against it—will be of importance in impeding or advancing what, I believe (and I think your correspondent believes) to be the true course of Civilization.

O. A. HOWLAND.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

It was in the nature of things that Ibsen should be caricatured. "Ibsen's Ghost; or, Toole up to Date," described as "a new Hedda," has been taking in London lately.

A CHORAL work of Glück, up to the present time totally ignored, and one which possesses many fine passages, is about to be published. This work was composed for the Grand Duke Leopold of Tuscany, in 1768, and performed for the first time on February 22 of the same year.

THE closing exercises of the Ontario Ladies' College, Whitby, were in every way creditable to the directorate and faculty. The usual piano and vocal recitals were diversified by excellent elocutionary displays, and the most delightful of excursions by special train last Monday brought hundreds of gratified friends from Toronto to view the beautiful building and its surroundings, including a new fountain and a large and elegant flag. The music under the direction of Mr. J. W. F. Harrison, the art inspired by the critical visits of Mr. L. R. O'Brien and Miss Windeat, and the other branches of education superintended by Rev. Dr. Hare, Miss Adams, Mrs. Bradley, Miss Graham and Mr. Bayley, were all of a high and satisfactory character as evinced by the performances of the pupils. The College re-opens on September 7, and is probably the best equipped institution in the Dominion and possessed of an exceptional situation.

On Tuesday evening week the closing exercises were held at Morvyn House Ladies' School. Miss Lay has instituted a new departure in giving certificates to those pupils who merit them by attaining a sufficient progress in their studies. The certificate is from a design in which one prominent feature is Miss Lay's motto (*non est sine pulchre palma*) on a scroll surmounted by a view of their "home," as she prefers to speak of it. Prizes and certificates were presented by Rev. Dr. Kellogg to the following young ladies: Junior Department—Emma Campbell, Ada Gooderham, Susie Mara, and Katie Hall; in the Sub-Senior Division—Lillie Barton, Florence Graham, Frances Flood, E. Defries, Anna Butland, and Margery Upton; Second Class—Katie Hall, Grace Switzer, Mary Reid, Jennie Smith, Marion Parmenter, Ellie Phillips; Third Class—Lizzie King, Elsie Johnston, J. Jamieson. In the Advanced Intermediate certificates were presented as follows: First Class—Louie Darling; Second Class—Margaret Britton, Katie Watts, Lillie Taylor, Lottie Taylor, H. Knapp, Clara Port, Ina Keighley, Idaverie Warren; Third Class—A. Boyd, Hattie Milligan, Ethel Mulkins. After the distribution of prizes, etc., a musical and elocutionary programme was carried out.

*Transactions of the Canadian Institute. Vol. I. Part 2. Toronto: Copp, Clark Company (Limited).