

El Mahdi, on this subject, would be delightfully interesting just now, if only some periodical could develop sufficient enterprise to procure it.

MR. WILLIAM SHEPARD has added to his interesting compilations "Pen Pictures of Living Writers," and "Authors and Authorship," another entitled "Pen Pictures of Earlier Victorian Authors." The new volume includes sketches of Bulwer, Macaulay, Disraeli, Irving, Charlotte Brontë, Poe, and Harriet Martineau.

DR. C. P. MULVANY is engaged in writing for Mr. C. Blackett Robinson a "History of Liberalism in Canada;" but the work will also practically be a history of Canada during the period it covers. If this book embrace the movement and brilliancy that are characteristics of Dr. Mulvany's style then it cannot fail to be valuable and interesting.

THE *Atlantic* for 1884 will monopolize all the work of Oliver Wendell Holmes. It will also contain a new serial entitled "In War Time," by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, whose volume of verse, "The Hill of Stones and Other Poems," was so well received a year ago. It will continue to receive frequent contributions from Henry James, Charles Dudley Warner and W. D. Howells.

It is pretty generally acknowledged that the valuable work left unfinished by the late Mr. Rattray, "The Scot in British North America," was not, in its latter portion, quite up to its own standard. It is reported that the task of writing the final chapters has fallen into the hands of Mr. Philipps Thompson, in which case the rest of the work is likely to show no lack of pith and intellectual alertness.

MR. HENRY J. MORGAN, chief clerk of the Department of State, has in preparation "The Dominion Annual Register and Review for 1883." He is being assisted by former *collaborateurs* and by several new ones. This invaluable work has become an acknowledged institution, and has ceased to need the praise which it will probably never cease to deserve and receive so long as it remains under the present capable editorship.

MRS. J. F. HARRISON (Seranus), of Ottawa, has written a "Song of Welcome" in honour of Lord Lansdowne. As Mrs. Harrison is one of our most individual singers, this production contains several passages of genuine strength and beauty. As a whole it does not reach the high degree of lyric excellence which Mrs. Harrison has taught us to look for in her work. But this could hardly be otherwise: the defect is not in the singer, but in the occasion of the song.

APROPOS of Mr. Matthew Arnold's indistinct utterance on the occasion of his first lecture on this side of the water, the *New York Times* said: "Mr. Arnold has revenged himself on society. When it went to see him lecture last week it did not hear him. Then society complained. As if society did not get its full money's worth by gazing upon the philosopher while he read in dumb show his charming essay on 'Numbers.' By-the-bye, if Mr. Arnold would defend his imperfect utterance he might say, with Pope, 'I lisped in numbers, for the numbers came.'"

VICTOR HUGO's knowledge of foreign literature appears to be somewhat elementary. In conversation with Tourguéneff he spoke very disparagingly of "Wallenstein's Camp," in illustration of Goethe's literary deficiency. When Tourguéneff gently suggested that Goethe was hardly accountable for any defects that work might possess, as it had been written by Schiller, the great Frenchman answered:—"That is all the same thing, Goethe and Schiller; they are fruits of the same tree, and believe me, that I know, even without having read either of them, what a Goethe could say and did say, and what a Schiller could write and did write."

THIS is a characteristic bit from "Some Reminiscences of Jane Welsh Carlyle," in a late number of *Temple Bar*:—"She described her charwoman sort of work to get all in perfect order for her husband's arrival; and when all was complete, his dinner ready, his arm-chair in its usual attitude, his pipe and tobacco prepared; all looking as comfortable as possible—Mrs. Carlyle sat down at last to rest, and to expect him, with a quiet mind. He arrived; and 'after he had just greeted me, what do you think he did? He walked to the window, and shook it, and asked, 'Where's the wedge of the window?' And until we had found that blessed wedge nothing would content him. He said the window would rattle and spoil all. That's just Carlyle.'"

In the *Fortnightly Review* is an article in vindication of Bazaine, by Mr. Archibald Forbes. Mr. Forbes witnessed every action in which Bazaine took part, during the Franco-Prussian War, he was one of the first to enter Metz, and was present at the Marshall's trial. Mr. Forbes, therefore, speaks with some authority, as is needed to justify the energy of the following quotation:—"The truth is that of all the madresses of the half-heroic, half-base time that followed the *déchéance*, of all the false trails of vengeance along which the French nation hunted with yelpings and clamours purposely loud in their efforts at self-deception, of all the injustices which a people mad with shame, tortured by humiliated pride, infuriated by lust for a scapegoat, ever perpetrated, the persecution of Bazaine was the most lunatic, the falsest, the cruellest; the most utterly unworthy, malevolent and unredeemably base episode of a period which, if not infertile in patriotism, bore a far ranker crop of unworthiness, malevolence and baseness."

THE *Gossip* cannot consent to confine himself to matters purely literary. If he wander wide a-field now and again, let no one demand apologies, for the demand will be fruitless. The following note on Havre and Rouen will go to show that neither Montreal and Toronto nor St. John and Halifax have a monopoly of the spirit of mutual devotion and self-abnegation: "It would be as easy to establish the quadrature of the circle as to curry favour with the Rouennais without vexing the Havrais, or to get in with the latter without bringing the former down upon one's self in the character of bitter enemies. Havre wants to be the New York of the French side of the English Channel, or as they call it here, la Manche. Rouen wants to be to the Seine what London is to the Thames. But to be this it would be necessary for the State to execute colossal engineering works which would diminish the value of the river at its mouth for harbour purposes. The Havrais want their city to be made the seat of a Prefecture. The Rouennais want their town to remain the capital of lower Normandy. There are advantages to which they are not insensible in having a Prefect in Rouen and only a Prefect in the seaport town dedicated to our Lady of Mercy and founded by King Francis I."

#### CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

DOMESTIC.—The North Ontario provincial election petition is to be tried during the Christmas vacation.—A new steamer built for the Dominion Government was lost on the night of the 3rd inst., at Point Prim, near Digby. Eight persons perished including a superintendent of lights. Particulars say that while the Government steamer *Newfield* was towing the vessel the latter broke the hawser and struck against a bluff rock. Captain Brown, of the *Newfield*, was on board the new ship with nine others, only two of whom were saved, Captain Brown and seven other men drowning. The men saved were James Dane and James Soi. Dane was second steward of the *Newfield*, and was sent on board the ship to look after Captain Brown, when the hawser parted. Brown saw Point Prim light, and knowing they must go ashore, tried to steer her for the light, which, if he had succeeded in doing, would have saved the crew and himself, even if the vessel would be lost; but with the wind and tide against them he failed. Brown was formerly a lieutenant in the Royal Navy.—The Merchants Bank has begun proceedings in Equity to compel the Canadian Steel Company to perform the conditions on which the loan of the bank to the company had been granted.—The election for Sunbury, N.B., on the 3rd inst., to fill the vacancy created in the representation of the above county for the House of Commons, by the death of Mr. Sterling, resulted in the election of Mr. Glasier, the Government candidate, by a large majority.—At the great cattle show in Birmingham, England, held on the 14th inst., Lord Lorne, in replying to an address, paid a high tribute to the Dominion of Canada. He said it was only necessary for Englishmen to know Canada to feel for her that love, sympathy, and friendship which, inherent in all true Britons, binds the Empire into one indivisible brotherhood.—Canada Pacific shares fluctuate much in the market. Of late they were far down in New York.—It was decided at a meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association held at Ottawa on Tuesday last, not to send a team to compete at Shoeburyness in 1884, but to try instead to establish a competition for garrison batteries at Quebec, and for field batteries at Toronto.—Workingmen's wages on the Canada Pacific Railway at Winnipeg is being reduced.—Dom Smulders, it is stated, has been appointed Apostolic Commissioner to Canada by the Holy See.—The City Council of Toronto are considering the question of lighting the city by electricity.—Sir Charles Tupper has failed to obtain any desirable concessions in the Cuban trade conditions.—It is reported that M. Senecal is promoting the organization of a