

what meagre in substance, albeit the dish is served up daintily enough. The tales are of the most ordinary character, one indeed not really a tale at all, but a very matter of fact account of a certain postman's daughter, and a somewhat Homeric catalogue of her accomplishments. They are, however, wholesome and pure, and alas such qualities are often far to seek in modern fiction. And an exception certainly holds in favour of "Prin," which should have given its name to the book, as it certainly gives its chief claim to recognition. How deep a drama is played out in many a child's life, how real and absorbing are the griefs and joys of the nursery, we seldom realize, often misunderstand. Miss Muloch has given us in "Prin" all the elements of a tragedy, though the chief actor number but eleven summers, and the tragic element be the loss of a dog. If you cannot understand this, reader, you must turn to the story itself, and if you are not the better for reading it, at least you will not deny that the pathos is real and unaffected, and that the tale has fallen into good hands in the telling.

PARLOR Varieties, Plays, Pantomimes and Characters, is the title of a little volume by Emma E. Brewster, (Lee & Shepard), which if it has not a very high order of merit, will perhaps be useful for extempore theatricals.

THE latest additions to the Franklin Square Library are "The Glen of the Silver Birches," and "Social Etiquette and Home Culture," by the Lounger in Society. The former is a clever little story of Irish life, which will repay the reading, and the latter is really practical, and so far as I have seen may be depended upon, which of a manual of etiquette and the rest of it is saying a good deal.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE Cartoon will be found discussed under the head of the Week.

WE give an illustration of the masked ball under the auspices of the *Masqueraders*, or Male Athletic Association, which took place recently at Munich, the capital of Bavaria. The ordinary incidents of a masked ball received an addition in this case from the acrobatic performances of some of the members of the Society which are illustrated in the sketches of our artist. The drawings are taken from *Over Land and Sea*. From the same publication we have borrowed a page of Specht's clever silhouettes of animal life for which no apology is needed or shall be made.

THE EARTHQUAKE AT CASAMICCIOLA, ISLAND OF ISCHIA.—Some illustrations of this calamitous visitation of nature, which took place on Friday, the 4th ult., and which caused the loss of 120 lives, appear in this issue showing the parties employed in searching for the dead bodies, which were carried away by gangs of Neapolitan convicts or criminals under sentence of penal servitude, who are still called "galley-slaves," though now under a different kind of prison discipline. Three hundred houses were destroyed; and for the shelter of the houseless people a number of little wooden huts have been put up. The inhabitants were unwilling to be removed from the site of their former homes, as they mostly possess little orchards of olive and fruit, or vineyards, over which it is necessary to have a vigilant eye. The wooden huts, therefore, will be dispersed in places where they are most wanted. One of the inhabitants of a street which suffered severely relates the following anecdotes:—A young girl was holding a little brother in her arms, when all at once she saw the house falling about her. She had just time to throw the baby out of a window, when she was buried under the masonry and killed, while the baby was picked up alive outside. The body of a shoemaker was found still seated, with his awl and thread in his hand, in the act of sewing up a boot. He had died of suffocation. In another instance, three old women were sitting spinning when the house crumbled. A strong beam just above their heads sustained a large portion of the falling roof, and the three women were afterwards saved. In another house a baker's boy, seeing the walls giving way, got into an empty oven, the back of which was split open, and through the aperture thus made the boy put out his head and made signs, which were soon perceived, and he was speedily dug out. Most of the scholars of the Municipal School had left it at one o'clock. At five minutes past the building fell, killing a chemist and his son, who was standing near the door. The Church of the Purgatorio was entirely destroyed; the decorations and organ lay in the middle of the ruins, broken into a thousand pieces, but a statue representing a soul in purgatory, which was in a niche above the door, was found uninjured, and turned completely round on its pedestal. Of course the people cried "A miracle!" A young man belonging to a family of Casamicciola was a student in Naples, had been sent for to come home, arrived at twelve o'clock on the day of the earthquake, and an hour after perished, together with the whole of his family.

THE REPULSE AT LAING'S NECK.—We present a sketch drawn by an officer belonging to the King's Dragoon Guards, illustrating the action. In the engraving Sir George Colley and his staff are shown on the ground in front of Laing's Neck, preparing to commence the attack in the manner described by the lamented General in his official despatch, given in the last number of our journal. It was half-past nine

o'clock in the morning, when the Naval Brigade and a company of the 60th Rifles were pushed forward to the inclosure at the hill; where they took up their position, as explained by Sir George Colley, in order to cover the advance of the 58th Regiment to capture the isolated conical hill, or spur, intervening between the British right and the main position of the Boers on Table Hill. The advance of the 58th, led by Colonel Deane, was protected by the artillery, and by the mounted troops, composed of some of the King's Dragoon Guards. The despatch of Sir George Colley already cited relates how the infantry advance was repulsed by the Boers moving down, simultaneously, from the isolated hill, and opening a deadly fire as well from that side as from the brow of the Table Hill, by which Colonel Deane, Major Ruscombe Poole, and several other officers were killed in a few minutes. It then became necessary for the 58th Regiment to retire down the slope, which was effected under cover of the 60th Rifles, aided by the Naval Brigade, under Commander Romilly, the artillery under Captain Greer, and the Natal Mounted Police.

AMONG the Southern cities which have already become important seats of the cotton manufacturing industry, Atlanta and Columbus, in Georgia, are prominent. We cannot here refer in detail to the progress made in the development of this industry of Columbus, but we subjoin, in this connection, some interesting facts as to what has been accomplished, and is being done, in the capital city of the State. The Atlanta Cotton Factory is situated in the business centre of the City of Atlanta. The enterprise was conceived and put into successful operation by the president of the company, Mr. H. I. Kimball, to whose keen intellect, great skill and unlimited energy Atlanta is not only indebted for her cotton factory, but for nearly everything that makes her a leading city in the South. The main building is 234 feet long, 72 feet wide and 5 stories high, besides basement. The engine and lapper building is 92 feet long, 49 feet wide and 3 stories high. The capacity of the mill is 23,000 spindles, 700 looms. The machinery is of the latest improvement, built by the Sacco Water Power Machine Company, of Biddeford, Me., and the Lewiston Machine Shop, Lewiston, Me. The mill was started July 1st, 1879, and is now in full operation, running night and day.

WE give also an illustration of the saving of the balloon "Gabriel" which started from Nice under guidance of M. M. Jovis, Visier and Alioth. Rising on the 6th of March about four in the afternoon the balloon was directed towards the north-east, but meeting with an upper current of air it was driven to the south and in spite of the efforts of the travellers to descend was carried out to sea. Capt. Pinielli of the Italian vessel *Morosini*, fortunately perceived their danger and at once lowered a boat to their assistance, but it was only after a pursuit of two hours that the fugitive monster was finally captured and its occupants released from their unpleasant position.

THIS week we give a new portrait of the present Emperor of Russia (Alexander III.) The particulars of biographical dates and other details, belonging to their Majesties the new Emperor and Empress, have already been stated with sufficient precision. The Emperor is thirty-six years of age, and the Empress thirty-three; they have been married fourteen years, and have four children. It is arranged that the coronation of Alexander III. shall take place in Moscow, at the end of six months, which have been fixed for close mourning for the late Emperor. It is considered probable that Alexander III.'s residence in Moscow will extend beyond the period occupied by the ceremonies in connection with the coronation, and that the present Czar will become a frequent resident in the ancient capital of Russia.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

THE prospects of a good understanding regarding international copyright between England and this country were never fairer than now, and the general interest which has been manifested shows that the proposition of accommodation, of which we have formerly spoken, was made when the time was ripe. There are now very serious disadvantages to authors, to publishers, and to readers arising from the want of some equitable arrangement. In this country we are a newspaper-reading nation, but it would be unfortunate if all our literature of every kind should take the form of newspapers. English writers of books, however, may well wonder if that is not the obvious tendency of the present situation, and American readers of books, with equal reason, may ask whether it be a desirable tendency.

One of the most significant contributions to the discussion is a paper by Mr. Longman, a member of the distinguished London Publishing house. He asserts, indeed, the right of the author to the same legal protection for his literary property that he receives for every other kind of property. This however, he recognizes, to be the abstract question of which the pending proposition is a waiver. If action should be deferred until this question was settled, there would be no action whatever. We know distinguished authors who do not agree with Mr. Longman, and Professor Huxley, in his evidence before the Copyright Commission, admitted that, however just the claim of absolute property might be, the immediate practical question was one of comparative advantage.

Mr. Longman accepts the pending proposition as a compromise. That, however, is not precisely a correct statement as to the arrangement between the countries, because there is no right acknowledged on either side. England denies to Tennyson the right to property in his published "In Memoriam" or "Idyls." England says to him "In order to encourage you to write poetry for our pleasure, we will allow you to control the publication of your poems during your life." America does substantially the same. If Washington Irving's gardener left a hoe to his heirs, the law of the land guarantees their ownership as long as the hoe lasts. But the law of the land permits anybody who chooses after a certain period, to publish Washington Irving's *Knickerbocker's History* and pocket the profits. In other words the copyright laws of England and of the United States grant the author a brief, limited control of the publication of his work, not for his benefit, but for the advantage of the public. The laws are not recognitions of right; they are concessions of privilege.

It will not do, therefore, for either country to assume an air of superiority as more careful of the rights of authors. England permits an American author first publishing in England to control the publication. The United States do not under similar circumstances, grant the same control to English authors. But in both cases each country does what it believes to be best for its own interests. No property rights of the author in publication are conceded, and he is considered at all only as auxiliary to the public benefit.

Obviously, however, the more control and the longer control of publication the author can obtain, the greater is his advantage. Therefore, Mr. Longman is in error in saying, as if that were all, that the pending proposition is designed to protect American publishers, printers, binders, and paper-makers from British competition, because it is equally designed to give the British author more and wider control of publication, and consequently to enhance his profits. Indeed, the proposition is designed to relieve a situation in which the English author can expect no profit whatever. If a guinea book in London is to be reproduced for fifteen cents in New York, the author can reap no advantage. Under the principle of the copyright laws of both countries, the question then arises whether it is desirable that he should not have an advantage, and whether the very object of our own copyright law is not defeated by his not having it. The basis of our copyright law is the constitutional grant of authority to Congress "to promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times, to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." It is not here stated, but it is doubtless true, that the purpose of this grant is to promote American writing and discovery. But how is American literary production to be promoted by reproducing foreign literature at the cost of the labor and material exclusive of the author! Evidently for the purposes of our own copyright laws, a mutual understanding is desirable.

Indeed, the alternative question seems to be whether we shall have any books. It is now plain that in the absence of any international understanding, literature in this country will consist largely of cheap English reprints. The tendency will constantly be to greater cheapness and flimsiness of form, and so far as unwisely laws and unjust conduct can avail to suppress it, American literary expression will be suppressed. American authors, as a class, are not so reprobate that they deserve to be summarily destroyed. They may be an inconsiderable body of insignificant performance. But innumerable and important as the works which they have not written may be, their offences are certainly not so much more heinous than those of their fellow-citizens that they should be practically outlawed. They ask only fair play. They ask only that the laws of their country may not favor the foreigner more than they favor the citizen. They still hope that it is not wrong to have been born Americans, and although their presumption in being authors may be great, they urge that they were deceived by the words of the Constitution, which imply that authorship and invention are not unpardonable sins.

England and America speak a common language, and they have a common literature. Both countries have decided that the author shall not indefinitely control the publication of his works. But they have also decided that it is desirable to encourage him to write. Literature, these laws concede, may wisely be tolerated. Chaucer and Shakespeare and Bacon and Newton and Scott and Gibbon and Darwin need not summarily be suppressed. They may be allowed for a time, and under certain conditions, to control the publication of their works. It is therefore for the welfare of both countries that this should be done upon the same general terms, in order that no one who contributes to the common welfare should suffer. This is now the practically common agreement of the authors and publishers who write and who print books in the English language, and the treaty form of that understanding will not, we hope, be long delayed.—EDITOR'S EASY CHAIR, *Harpur's Magazine*

THE touching sentiment, "Our first in heaven," appeared after an obituary notice in a Philadelphia paper, and the father of the child came into the office raging mad. It was the third death in the family, and he desired to know of the clerk where he supposed the other two had gone.

VARIETIES.

A BURGLAR entered a house in which a mother was sitting up with a sick child. "Sir," she said to him in a whisper, as soon as she could compose herself to speak, "there is nothing of value in this house except the child's life, at least to me, but you may find otherwise. Here, take my keys, search everywhere, take what you want, but speedily and without noise. I implore you." She handed him the keys, placed her finger on her lip and pointed to the door. The burglar moved quietly away, then turned and said in a low voice, "Is he very sick?" "His life hangs on the continuance of this sleep." "Then he will recover for all the noise I'll make," the robber answered, laying down the keys and noiselessly taking his departure, but absolutely nothing else.

TWO Paris savants, M. Bertin and M. Duboscq, have at length, by means of the electric light, satisfactorily explained the hitherto mysterious Chinese mirrors, called "magic mirrors." These mirrors are of bronze, one of the faces polished and convex, and the other slightly concave, and ornamented by figures in relief. If a ray of the sun strikes on the polished surface, and is reflected upon a white screen, the images on the reverse side of the mirror are seen. Since 1844 a great many theories have been propounded to account for this singular phenomenon. But MM. Bertin and Duboscq have shown all metallic mirrors may be rendered magical by means simply of warmth or pressure. This is shown by directing the electric light upon such mirrors.

SANG OUT.—Col. Sellers used to whistle to cure himself of stammering. There is an old story dusted up again of a fellow who sang for the same purpose.

THERE used to be a really funny fellow on board a Nantucket whale ship during a cruise in the Pacific. He got off jokes enough to amuse the whole crew, and was a good singer. In fact singing was the only form of speech which he could use without stammering to a terrible extent. One day only he and the cook were on deck, when the cook fell overboard. The stammering tourist rushed to the cabin companion-way to notify the captain, but, as usual with stammerers when in a hurry, he couldn't say anything, stammer as he would. The captain saw that something was the matter, and shouted, "Well, if you can't say it, sing it, you fool!" "Be-be-be-be—"

Overboard is Barnabas
And half a mile astern of us!

Barnabas was promptly rescued.

MISCELLANY.

PROVINCIAL papers of Germany tell of a hearty country bride in the village of Necker-munde who has been literally danced to death. Each of the young men at the wedding wished to have a dance with her. They took turns and so wearied her that she soon afterward became ill, had to take to her bed, and after lingering for a short time, died.

A glass dress is being made for Fanny Davenport in Pittsburg. It will be a full toilet evening suit, and the process of making is such as to give the work the appearance of fine French satin, only that it is much more brilliant. The dress will have a long train of woven glass, and it will be elaborately trimmed with glass lace. To make what is called the glass cloth, from which this suit will be made, the glass is first spun into the threads and then woven. There is nothing to compare with the progress of this age.

IN a very entertaining book entitled "The Truth About the Iron Mask," M. Theodore lung devotes a piquant chapter to a study of the formation of the legend of the iron mask. Its real creator is the Chevalier de Moubly, who, in a romance several times reprinted during the last century, gives to his hero and heroine masques of steel, and transports them to a desert island, where the heroine gives birth to two infants. These grow up without seeing the faces of their parents, until a day when, during an awful tempest, crack! the electric fluid breaks the steel visors of the father and mother!

COL. DESALABERRY'S STATUE.—The statue of the old Hero of Chateauguay, the contract for casting which was given to Mr. Herard, of the firm of Cooper, Fairman & Co., of this city, in January last, by the committee of the residents of Chambly, is just completed. Through the courtesy of Mr. Herard, a *Star* reporter recently examined the statue, which is admirably finished, reflecting credit on the founder. The gallant old Colonel is represented as standing erect with his right foot slightly advanced, and his hands resting on the hilt of his sword. He is in the full regimentals of the Voltigeurs, with Wellington boots, shell jacket and military cloak. On his breast are the "Chateauguay" and "1812" medals. The surface of the metal is oxydized by a process of Mr. Herard's invention. The figure is seven feet high, and weighs some two tons. The mouldings and finishing were done by Mr. Herard, and the fused metal supplied by Robt. Mitchell & Co. The effect of the whole is admirable, and it is a work of art all citizens of Montreal may well be proud of, as it is entirely the work of Montrealers, born and bred, even the files, chisels and chemicals used in its production being of Montreal manufacture.