

and that their reasonable hatred of Russia, and their countenance of the Eastern policy of Count Andrassy, has left their chances of independence or even the exercise of their influence far far to the rear. Going north we can easily realize that the Father of all the Russias has been reared in too close and artificial an atmosphere, politically, socially and morally, to regard the overthrow of royalty with complacency, and therefore he is naturally jealous of the triumph of the French Republic over the tricks and craft of the DeBroglie clique of the 16th May, and fearful of the effect of that triumph on the politics of Europe at large. Prince Bismarck too, having achieved the glory of his devotion to fatherland now seems to be trimming his sails, like a stronger Beaconsfield, in deference to the Court, in the direction of "divine right" and the spiritual authority of the Church. Indications of the former are patent enough in Germany, as well as all over Europe, and trifles indicate the latter. For instance, the Bishop of Posen fleeing from his diocese to the open arms of Pio Nono, now returns to his flock with an intimation from Leo XIII. not to contravene the civil power, and Dr. Falk, on the other hand, totters to his fall, as a Minister of the Crown, in concession to the Ultramontanes. The present Pope is too shrewd a man to suppose that he can afford to despise potentates. Democracy would reduce his Church in the course of a decade to something approaching the purity of the Pentecostal three thousand. But he has threatened to espouse the cause of the masses, and that has been sufficient to scare every crowned head in Europe, and to bring every dynasty to his feet—or rather, we may say, to his crux—embroidered slipper. The papacy and dynasties stand or fall together, and at the moment they are united for a mutual increase of power, and jingoism in England and the lack of the crowning grace of Puritanism in France, which unfortunately she drove out at Rochelle and on St. Bartholomew's day, have emasculated the forces which would have rendered privilege and profit in Church and in State alike powerless for evil. It is a dangerous policy which is being adopted in Europe, for jingoism must be short-lived in England, morality must revive in the centre of civilization, and in Germany the general appreciation of the noxious nature of the papacy is fortunately too great for even the iron will of Bismarck to resist. Referring to the present situation and the threatened alliance of the Government with the Ultramontanes, the Berlin correspondent of the *Times* says:—"As to the people and the Liberals more especially, the feelings produced by the news of the Prince taking up with the Ultramontanes are more easily imagined than described. Though the Prince did not begin the war with the Pope, but only retorted when he found himself attacked, yet in the course of the long and exasperating struggle his Cabinet have so often identified their cause with the interests of humanity and culture that if any notable indulgence should now be shown to the Vatican the tone of the press and Parliament is likely to become more energetic than polite. In fighting the Pope the Germans fancied they were resisting the avowed enemy of their Empire no less than of general enlightenment. Were peace to be concluded without victory and as a means of stopping Constitutional progress at home, the criticisms elicited by the first blush of the Kissingen intelligence might grow into loud and sustained censure. The more indispensable it is thought to be that Government should adhere to principle at a time when so many moral and religious convictions are being shaken, the more deeply it is regretted that misgivings like the above should be excited. Or is the Ultramontane alliance to evaporate into thin air like its predecessors the railway and nicotine schemes, notwithstanding the ominous apprehensions raised." Perhaps so, as the Irish Catholics will be thrown over by the Tories in England when, like the Publicans, they have served the purposes of the party. Meanwhile they have their Intermediate Education Bill and their Fenians released from gaol.

We, like the *Times*' correspondent, are disposed to take an optimist view of the selfishness now prevalent and to think that it will defeat its own egotistical purposes, but what a splendid chance do the fears of royalty and the deep cunning of the clerics present to the Paul de Cassagnacs! If the young Napoleon be ultimately successful in his suit—which heaven forefend for the gentle lady's sake!—he would be more intimately connected with the royal houses than even his grand-uncle. He would become a brother-in-law to the heirs apparent of England and Russia, an intimate connection of the Danish and Swedish royal families, and a relation would have been established with every dynasty of Europe, which would involve the Guelphs, the Hapsburgs, the Hohenzollerns, and the rest in a virtual recognition of his rights as an Imperial personage. With the three Emperors, Lord Beaconsfield and the Pope on his side, not to mention the mild and impressionable MacMahon, what would save France?

The late Mr. Senior has recorded a conversation of M. Adolphe Circourt's, in which he said:—"The missions of England have been many. One was the introduction into the world of representative government, another was to give it free trade, another is to keep alive for happier times the embers of liberty that still remain in Europe?"

Will that England now look with satisfaction on the union of Papist Bonaparte and Protestant Dane? It may! But if the present Republic fail in France through the triumph of jingoism in England, another '98 in the one country and another Puritan upheaval in the other will certainly again purify the pestilential atmosphere of Europe and inaugurate the triumph of the government of the people, by the people, for the people.

The *Moniteur* says the report is not true. Let us hope that it is not. But all that we have said of the evil genius which is brooding over Europe remains for some such incident to give it evil play and force, and the Tory Government in power in England is not consolidating the Empire by its cultivation of what Lord Salisbury called our "Imperial interest," but is alienating many from their attachment to what they had supposed to be a *faintant* Sovereign.

SYDNEY ROBJOHNS.

"The cup of blessing may and often does run over, I doubt if the cup of suffering is ever more than filled to the brim."—George Macdonald.

Some public men think it unkind in a newspaper to criticise their public acts. They seem to think when it rains and they are caught in the shower, it is the duty of the editor to run out and hold an umbrella over them.—*Ex.*

CURRENT LITERATURE.

"THOS."—A Simple Canadian Story: By George Graham.

This little book is just what the author modestly calls it—"A Simple Canadian Story." The writer is a lady,—as may be discovered by reading the first page—notwithstanding that the masculine George is on the cover—and the style is thoroughly feminine—easy—gossipy—pleasant—a lot of letter writing and letter receiving—children, with their prattle given in full—party-going and holiday-making. There is not much attempt at plot—some of the story being evidently fact, and some of it quite as evidently fiction.

"Thos" is written by a brave woman who, her husband having failed in business, like many another in these hard times, determines to be cheerful and hopeful under it all. She tells the story of the reverse in a simple, bright way, as though she felt that while it is hard to suffer loss, it is not impossible to repair it. In that hopefulness and courage lies the chief value of the book. Because of the spirit that breathes from it we recommend the story.

MUSICAL.

If Mr. Mapleson's visit to New York with his company does not benefit us directly, it has at least been so far advantageous to us as to drive Mr. Strakosch to smaller cities, and so we are to have a "grand operatic concert" in the Academy of Music on the last day of this month. We are to have no less than *two real live prime donne*; not worn out vocalists forced through age to take a secondary position in the musical world, but *bona fide* artists in the full possession of those qualities which have charmed thousands on both sides of the Atlantic.

A contralto *prima donna* is something new, that title being generally given only to the principal soprano in an operatic company, but Miss Cary and Mr. Sims Reeves have earned the gratitude of all future contraltos and tenors, the former having on several occasions borne off the palm from the whole company as regards bouquets and like tributes of esteem, and the latter having recently had his carriage drawn to his hotel by Dublin students, an honor usually accorded only to sopranos of the highest merit.

Miss Kellogg is one of the finest sopranos now living; the rivalry between her and Madame Lucca was so great that immense crowds gathered nightly to hear them wherever they sang, and in Chicago the most extravagant presents were lavished on them by their respective admirers. Sig. Rosnati and Mr. Conly come with good reputations; the others are comparatively unknown, but to hear either Miss Kellogg or Miss Cary we would willingly pay twice the admission fee, and we rejoice in the combination of circumstances which has induced such artists to visit Montreal.

So far as we can judge from appearances the musical season of 1878-79 will be by far the grandest Montreal has yet been blest with. The Philharmonic Society's concert is fixed for the 14th October, and the members of the choir are practising twice a week with laudable energy, so that we may expect a good performance of the "Creation" at last. To those who are unacquainted with this magnificent work we would say, do not on any account fail to hear it; it is the greatest effort of a great musician, and is full of sparkling melody. The "Creation" is a work which is easily understood by all, the subject being one with which we are all familiar, and, although it abounds with well-written choruses, some of them masterpieces of harmony, the themes are so natural and melodious that they are easily understood even by the most uneducated. We have not yet heard who are to be the soloists, but the committee seem determined to have none but the very best, and we think they are right. We feel sure that the public will heartily support them, so long as they carry on their society on a first-class basis.

SIR,—I notice an article in the last issue of the *Jester* entitled "Profitable Patriotism," in which a *prima donna* is censured for charging her legitimate fee of forty dollars for her services at the Fusiliers' Concert. Now as a resident musician, and one taking a deep interest in the progress of art in this city, I must take exception to the remarks of your witty contemporary; more particularly as the lady in question is a stranger in this country, and should receive every encouragement from both the press and the profession.

I do not know whether Mrs. Barnes' services are worth forty dollars or not (never having had the pleasure of hearing her sing), but I suppose that singers, like other people, have a market value, and that the Fusiliers agreed to pay the amount they considered her services worth. They probably will pay for the Rink, printing, advertising, &c., and yet there is no talk of the "profitable patriotism" of the Rink Directors or the others who receive a *quid pro quo*. Why not go straight to the military tailors and ask them to make the uniforms for nothing? then there would be no need of a concert at all, and Mrs. Barnes would be able to give one on her own account, instead of having her legitimate field of labour encroached upon by concert-giving warriors, who thereby lessen her chance of making an honest living by an honourable profession.

Yours indignantly,

September 6th, 1878.

P. R. MACLAGAN.

Nordheimer's Hall is to be made once more into a concert-hall, with a seating capacity of over a thousand. This will be a boon to the city; we would like, however, to see a first-class music hall up town, and will record our vote for any "liberal" gentleman who will erect one.

Dr. MacLagan's organ recitals are becoming more popular than ever; Batiste is still in the ascendant, and Beethoven is nowhere. However, we are glad to see a taste for music of any kind, and must admit that if we had to listen to three pieces of Batiste at one recital, they were all splendidly played. Why not try a little of Haydn or Mendelssohn for a change? Bach is wonderfully difficult, but too deep for most people.

We attended the open air concert given by Mr. Hecker, expecting to hear at least something that was tolerable, if not enjoyable, but are sorry to have to record our bitter disappointment. We have no doubt Mr. Hecker says the Montreal public have no taste for music because they do not support these concerts; for our part, we rejoice to think it is because they have a love for music that they stay away. Let us support our musicians by all means, but let them give us something tolerable to begin with.

OLE BULL.

The following, clipped from an Exchange, may prove interesting to our amateur violinists:—

"Ole Bull is re-engaged for another series of *farewell* concerts this fall. As a farewellist he beats the whole musical world; and singularly enough the great public, in vast numbers, continue to encourage him in each new effort to say good bye. He is a trump card, and draws like a porous plaster.

"It is related of Ole Bull that, in Washington, some years ago, he gave a concert to the *élite* of the capital. After playing a brilliant fantasia, a raw-boned delegate from Arkansas arose and remarked: 'I say, Mr. Bull, when you get done chuning that air fiddle, won't you oblige me by playing something?'

"Ole Bull took in the situation at a glance, and rattled off the 'Arkansas Traveller,' to the intense amusement and enjoyment of everybody."

THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE CO. OF CANADA is now issuing Policies and Permits for Travel, covering all accidents by land or water—fatal or non-fatal—at the same rate which had hitherto been charged for Insurances covering *accidental death only* when beyond the limits of Canada. An Insurance of \$5,000 if killed, or \$25 a week if injured, for a three months' trip to Europe, costs now only \$25 in this Company. The Head Offices at 103 St. Francois Xavier Street.—EDWARD RAWLINGS, Manager.—*Adv.*