

nare," written for chorus, orchestra and solos. Mr. Parker, of Boston, has already been engaged to sing the tenor solos; other soloists will be announced later on.

DR. DAVIES' ORGAN RECITAL.

A RECITAL of organ music was given by Dr. Davies in St. James' Cathedral on Tuesday evening before a large audience. Dr. Davies is well known throughout Canada as standing amongst our foremost musicians and has had great success as an exponent of organ music, being particularly happy in improvising, though Mr. Bowles, who played the accompaniments to the vocal solos, showed of course a greater familiarity with the registration of the Cathedral organ. Dr. Davies' most effective numbers were a "Minuetto" by Guilmaut, and the grand march "Irene," by Gounod. Mr. Chambers, who sang "It is Enough," was overweighted by his subject, his voice being of too light a calibre; his *mezzo voce* is good, but when he essayed to use the chest voice it resulted in a harsh, disagreeable quality. The Misses Reynolds and Bonsall sang the duett "Quo est Homo," by Rossini, not evincing a correct conception of this beautiful composition, the runs and *grupetti* were indistinct and slurred, the voices did not blend well together. Miss Bonsall's chest voice is rich and full, but the effort to reach the upper tones was strained, and at times she failed to rise to the correct pitch. Miss Reynolds does not possess a sympathetic voice such as required for this class of music; a couple of years of judicious study under a capable voice master would greatly benefit these young aspirants for vocal honours. Miss McFaul sang Dudley Buck's "Fear Not Ye, O Israel," in which she displayed a remarkably sweet well-toned soprano voice, at times used a little too dramatically in the head register, but her whole conception of this beautiful solo was highly commendable; with judicious training her naturally fine voice should bring Miss McFaul within reach of the desired goal ere long.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

ODES, LYRICS, AND SONNETS from the Poetical Works of James Russell Lowell. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company; Toronto: Williamson and Company. 1892. Price \$1.00.

This is without exception one of the daintiest little volumes that ever graced the Library Table; the unglazed paper, clear type, convenient size, pale green silk marker, and chaste binding and title make it a delight to the eyes. Only one little point there is to criticize, and that is it will not remain open where wanted. But for the sum of one dollar perhaps this is a superfluity of excellence hardly to be expected as an addition to its other many charms. Of the contents it is needless to say more than that the odes, lyrics, and sonnets are well chosen. There is, of course, the "Ode Recited at Harvard" and "Under the Old Elm," there is "Endymion" and "Phoebe" and "Auf Wiedersehen," and some eight or nine sonnets. A re-perusal of these shorter poems of Lowell's confirms the conviction that he is on no account to be ranked with the great master-singers of the world. His utterances, though often deep and often sweet, though replete with human interest and not seldom highly poetical, though earnest and sincere, lack that one indefinable thing only achieved by those of the first rank, that one thing which Matthew Arnold perhaps best characterized as "inevitableness." Homer has this in supremacy, and Homer's compeers and nearest rivals: Milton has it, Wordsworth has it, Tennyson has it. With the utterances of all we feel perfect satisfaction, we feel that the thought has received its final and most beautiful expression, to add to it or to subtract from it is undesirable, nay impossible. This it is impossible to say of Lowell.

CHESTERFIELD'S LETTERS. Second series. Knickerbocker Nuggets. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Two volumes.

This edition of the "Letters of Phillip Dormer, fourth Earl of Chesterfield, to his godson and successor, now first edited from the originals, with a memoir of Lord Chesterfield by the Earl of Carnarvon, with portraits and illustrations" is one of most interesting and valuable additions to this beautiful series. The Earl of Carnarvon, in his memoir of the author of the letters which occupies ninety pages of the first volume and which adds so much to the enlightenment and information of their readers, says of them: "These later letters, now for the first time published, were originally given to me by my father-in-law, the late Lord Chesterfield, the sixth earl, and the son of the youth to whom they were addressed." This collection of letters includes in their correct form the fourteen letters on the "Art of Pleasing," which the editor says have "appeared in print . . . in a very incorrect and garbled form," and "were stated to have been addressed to the son instead of the godson." The celebrated "Letters to his Son" which led Sainte-Beuve to style their author as "The English Rochefoucauld," and which, despite the enmity and sarcasm of Dr. Johnson, Horace Walpole and other eminent men, have gained for the Earl of Chesterfield a distinguished place in English Literature, were written by him in the prime of life. These letters to the godson were written in life's decline. To a certain extent the same ground is covered in both series of letters as they are aimed at the same object, the moulding and influencing the tastes, thoughts, manners and characters

of their recipients. The quality which most distinguishes the latter letters from the former is their improved moral tone and the stress which is laid upon the cultivation and practice of religious conduct in the affairs of life. The two hundred and thirty-six letters which are comprised in these volumes cover a wide range of subjects and illustrate the learning, accomplishments and clearness of intellect of their author. Though they may often seem to be more suitable for the adult than the adolescent mind, yet on the whole they are equally with the former letters a monument to the exceptional ability, extraordinary sagacity and literary power of the English statesman, whose fame rests so largely on their foundation. The very able editor, the late Earl of Carnarvon, has done ample justice to the memory of his ancestor, their author, and while not withholding blame where it is deserved, has yet taken a fair and impartial view of his life, attainments, work and character, in the light of his circumstances and of the age in which he lived. These volumes well illustrate the perfection and beauty to which the printing and publishing art has attained and reflect the greatest credit on their publishers.

YEAR BOOK AND CLERGY LIST OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN THE DOMINION OF CANADA. 1892. Toronto: J. P. Clougher. Price 25 cents. THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL ALMANAC AND PAROCHIAL LIST. 1892. New York: Whittaker. Price 25 cents.

The members of the English Church in Canada are under deep obligations to Mr. Clougher for the spirit with which he has supplied a manifest and long-felt need. We believe that the Provincial Synod, a good many years ago, appointed a committee to prepare such a book as Mr. Clougher has given us. That committee, like a great many others, has no doubt met and debated the subject, and probably would have given us a Year Book somewhere about the Greek Kalends. Mr. Clougher has given us a very good book without much delay. It is much better that this work should be done by private enterprise. We believe there are at least three large books of this kind published in England, and not one of them has an official character. All the clergy lists and directories are due to private enterprise, and the Year Book is published by the S.P.C.K. Mr. Clougher has done his work excellently for a beginning. His plan is good, the information given is full and varied, and the Clergy List is at least as complete as could have been expected, and far more complete than anything which we possessed before. A good many of the clergy seem to have made no returns; but this is always the case. Crockford has only partially succeeded in getting the complete facts. If members of the Church of England do not encourage this undertaking, they must not complain if, by and by, they have no Year Book or Clergy List.

Mr. Whittaker's Almanac for the American Church is in its thirty-eighth year and contains a great mass of well-digested information respecting that communion, besides a number of portraits of recently appointed Bishops and eminent clergymen, among others, one well known among ourselves, Dr. Rainsford. As regards the Canadian portion, its incompleteness will be less regrettable now that we have a book of our own.

JACQUES CARTIER AND HIS FOUR VOYAGES TO CANADA: An Essay with Historical, Explanatory and Philological Notes. By Hiram B. Stephens, B.C.L. Montreal: W. Drysdale and Company.

"There is certainly no reason," as Mr. George Murray remarks in his prefatory notice to this prize essay, "why an educated Canadian should neglect to acquire a full knowledge of the history of Canada," and the publication of such works as this must both stimulate and aid the acquirement of such knowledge. The essay is one of four which received the medals some time ago offered by His Honour Lieutenant-Governor Angers for prize essays on "Jacques Cartier and His Times," the other three being written by Joseph Pope, C.S., Ottawa; Dr. Dionne, Quebec, and Toun de Longrais, Rennés, France.

This essay is somewhat different from the more ordinary form of essay, in containing but little original matter and no rhetoric! It is, in fact, rather composite in character—its *motif* being, as its author tells us, "to give all the facts concerning Jacques Cartier known up to the present time," and he believes that he has so far carried out this object that its pages "contain everything of value now known about Cartier." He gives us first a brief outline of the biography of Cartier, so far as that is ascertainable, and of the order of his voyages—with a descriptive sketch of his little "Manoir" on the rugged coast of Brittany. Then follows a careful translation of the various Canadian voyages of Cartier, with a vocabulary at the close of each of the first two voyages containing a considerable number of common words "in the language of the land newly discovered." The authorship of these "voyages" is not by any means certain, further than that they were written by some one who took part in the expedition, and the originals exist in various early editions as to which Mr. Stephens gives full particulars. These quaintly worded "relations," with the equally quaint maps, will be eagerly scanned by all Canadians who care to learn at first hand the history of their country, and Mr. Stephens has done good service to all such by publishing these original sources of information in such a convenient and attractive form, with reproductions of old maps, drawings, portraits, etc., which

add greatly to the interest and comprehension of the narrative.

We would only add one word of *demur* as to the otherwise admirable manner in which Mr. Stephens has performed his task. We think he has been led by the natural enthusiasm which a writer feels for his subject to exalt Cartier into a greater and nobler character than he was. We can quite acquiesce as to "simple courage" and commanding leadership of the dauntless mariner of St. Malo, but when "enduring faith and wisdom" are added to the best of virtues, we feel inclined to put in a *caveat*. In his treacherous abduction of the Indian chiefs who had shown him such kindness and confidence under the very shadow of that cross which should have suggested instant condemnation of such a course, there is not only a blot on his honour, but a signal lack of *true* faith and *true* wisdom—as his experience of the disposition of the natives on his next visit clearly showed—notwithstanding the "dissimulation" with which they at first concealed that "wonderful doubt and fear of us," which, in the circumstances, was not *wonderful* at all, Cartier, it will be said, was a man of his time not to be judged by our standards. But there is but one standard of truth and honour for all time, and we cannot admit Cartier to so high a position as our *preux chevalier* Champlain, who was so nearly his contemporary our knight *sans peur et sans reproche!* To Cartier as well as to Columbus, though in far less degree—with all the honour due to their persistent courage as explorers—belongs also the dishonour, shared indeed with too many other explorers of inaugurating a course of selfish treachery toward the natives which naturally provoked retaliation, and made the advent of "Christian" civilization the commencement of the long and weary warfare between Indians and whites, which has been so demoralizing in its results and has so dismally overshadowed the early history of our continent.

With this one exception of passing over in silence this blot in the otherwise fair fame of Cartier, we cordially commend this interesting monograph to all students of early Canadian history.

*Greater Britain* for February presents a most varied and attractive table of contents, starting with "A New Zealander's Reflections upon State Borrowing," by E. W. Burton, and ending with "The Voice of India and the Colonies." "A Bishop on Canadian Life" will be read with interest by Canadians. Murari Lal Taitri contributes a paper entitled "English Officialdom in India." This number is most readable.

*The Overland Monthly* opens with a paper from the pen of William E. Dougherty, which is illustrated from numerous photographs and sketches. "Dusk at Point Bonita," by Ella M. Sexton, shows real power, and we venture to suggest that the author is capable of still higher work. "Caldonia of Red Cloud" is worth reading. The magazine is altogether a very fair number for March. The illustrations are good, some of them particularly so.

*The March Wide Awake* is a lively number of this popular juvenile magazine. "A March Mood," comprising March pictures and poems, is a capital little sketch. Mrs. E. F. Bonsell gives a sprightly account of an elephant's bath. Margaret Johnson tells a girls' story entitled "The Red Necklace." Herbert D. Ward contributes some pretty lines on a collie's fidelity. Elsie Kendall writes a doll poem. The number is altogether bright and readable.

*The Quarterly Register of Current History* for February contains amongst many papers of interest one entitled "Canadian Affairs." The World's Fair is also discussed in this number. Reviews of the political situations in the principal countries of Europe are also given. *The Quarterly Register* will be read by all who are anxious to keep in touch with the rapidly changing political aspects of the day; it contains a surprising amount of information considering the low price at which it is sold.

*Outing* for March has its usual complement of sporting matter of absorbing interest for the varied readers, young and old, who delight in its serials, short stories, poems and general articles. They all bear on subjects which will attract its sporting and athletic patrons. "A Marauding Leopard; or, Wild Sport in Ceylon"; "Cycling in Mid-Pacific"; "The St. Bernard Kennels of America"; "Standing Jump"; "Horseback Sketches"; "March Rides"; "Rowing"; "The Status of the American Turf, Part I," surely present an ample list—not to mention a characteristic contribution by Ed. W. Sandys, entitled "A Bit of Winter Sport." Poems, editorials, monthly record and other articles make this a capital number.

The March number of the *Magazine of Art* has a coloured frontispiece, a decorative panel, "Autumn Twilight," by Albert Lynch, an artist whose work, through the medium of the press, has achieved an equal popularity with the art public in France, America and England. The opening article relates to "The Ornamentation of Early Firearms," and is profusely illustrated. From this we come to a very fair paper, "The Artist his own Colour-Maker." "Current Art" is discussed and illustrated by R. Jope-Slade. The paper on "Artistic Homes" is full of useful hints. There is a paper on John Linnell, giving examples of his work. "The Reynolds Centenary" celebrates the death of Sir Joshua in 1792 by a paper on Plympton, the Devonshire town where he was born, giving pictures drawn on the spot by G. Fidler.