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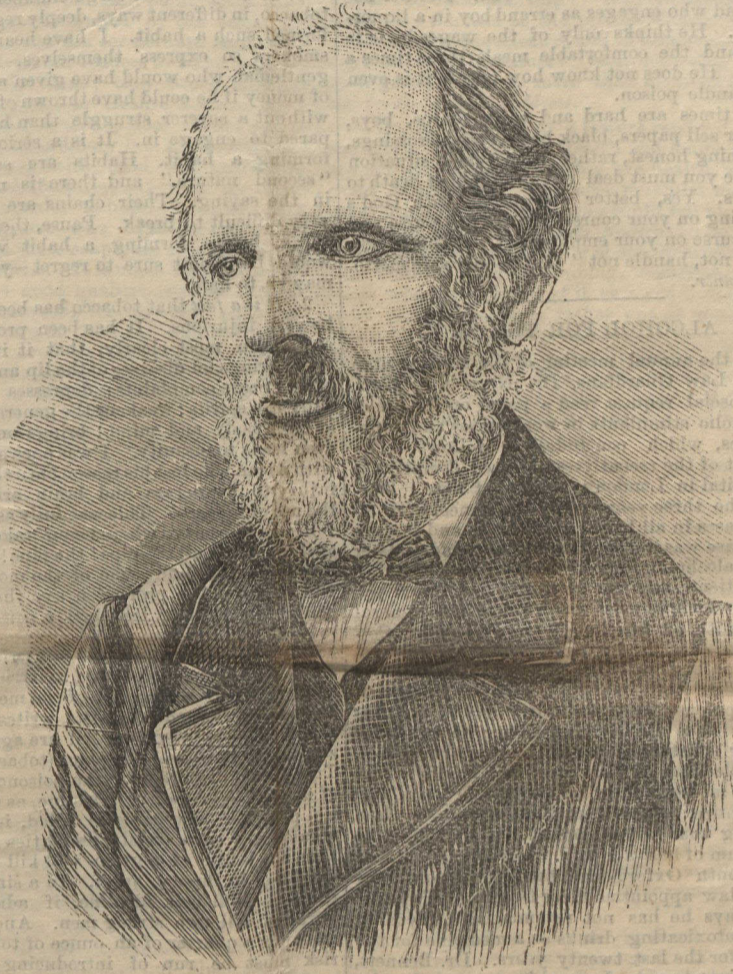
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NOTICE.

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CHARLES HEAVYSEGE.

Amongst the foremost poets in America must rank Charles Heavysege, who died in Montreal, on July 14th last, at the age of sixty. Two of his poems, "Saul" and "Jephthah's Daughter," have for many years been recognized by literary men as amongst the standard works of the present age. Their author was born at Liverpool, in the year 1816. His father was a master cabinet-maker, and gave his children such an education as Englishmen in the middle classes of society then obtained. His parents were very strict in their religious views, his father considering that Shakespeare's works were injurious and should not be read. The son, however, having seen Macbeth acted, induced his mother to give him a small stipend weekly, till sufficient was saved to buy a copy of the great author's poems, which, when obtained, he read and studied all his life through. At an early age, he was apprenticed to a carver, and on learning the trade started in business for himself; but, having neither that tact nor business faculty necessary to successfully compete with the world, did not succeed very well, and on an invitation being extended to him by a gentleman in Montreal, came to this city in 1853, having married ten years previously. During the following nine years he composed his three principal works, "Saul," "Jephthah's Daughter," and "Count Filippo." The first edition of "Saul" was published in 1857, by Mr. Henry Rose, of Montreal, and at first met with a very cool reception from the public. But a copy chancing to fall into the hands of Nathaniel Hawthorne, then in England, he gave it into the hands of a writer of the *North British Review*, with a few commendatory words and the latter, recognizing the genius shown in the work, reviewed it in the highest terms of praise, considering it one of the most remarkable English poems ever written outside of England. Attention having been attracted to "Saul" in so public a manner, it became much enquired for, and soon the first edition was exhausted; and in answer to the demand, a second and third printed. "Count Filippo, or the Unequal Marriage," was published in 1860, and "Jephthah's Daughter," his most finished work, in 1864, although it was written several years previously. Mr. Heavysege had, in 1862, exchanged his trade for a position on the newspaper press, first being engaged on the *Montreal Transcript* and afterward on the *Montreal Witness*. But this change, instead of stimulating his energies to greater efforts, as his friends had hoped, had a totally different effect. The unremitting attention required to faithfully perform his journalistic duties left him not a moment for those pursuits more congenial to



CHARLES HEAVYSEGE.

him. When engaged as a carver, he could think and dream over his poetic imaginations, even during the hours of his daily occupation; and late at night and early in the morning he might have been seen polishing those thoughts which had been the subject in his mind during the day. Even during the hours supposed to be devoted to rest, some thought would enter his mind, and he would rise from his bed to perpetuate it by committing it roughly to paper, which he technically termed "roughing it in." About two years ago, his health failing, he retired from the newspaper work, and began anew to direct his attention to poetry. Shortly before his death, he began to revise "Count Filippo," which he desired to leave perfect, but before he had fairly begun, the days of his labor on earth had come to an end, and he had obtained a perfect knowledge of the mysteries longed for in the following sonnet, one of his earliest writings:—

How great unto the living seem the dead!
How sacred, solemn, how heroic grown;
How vast and vague, as they obscurely tread
The shadowy confines of the dim unknown!
For they have met the monster that we dread,
Have learned the secret not to mortal shown.
Even as gigantic shadows on the wall

The spirit of the daunted child amaze,
So on us thoughts of the departed fall,
And with phantasma fill our gloomy gaze.
Awe and deep wonder lend the living lines,
And hope and ecstasy the borrowed beams;
While fitful fancy the full form divines,
And all is what imagination dreams.

OF GYMNASTICS.

Gymnastics played a very important part in the education of the ancients, especially among the Greeks and Romans. The men of those days were consequently more robust and better formed than they generally are to-day. It is acknowledged that the bodily organism is strengthened by the even exercise of all the parts that compose it. The muscles are thereby increased in size, strength and suppleness, the bony frame becomes more solid and fits itself more easily to all movements of the body; digestion and assimilation are active, the blood becomes richer, and carries to all parts of the body fuller life and gives a vigor to the mind which facilitates the development of the mental faculties. *Mens sana in corpore sano.* We hence see the importance of gymnastics in education, and the urgency that exists of giving them an important place if we wish to form robust bodies and healthy minds. I conceive that it is hardly possible, at least with our present system, to introduce gymnastics

into our primary schools. I think, however, that we should, as much as possible, make the children take some exercise, something that would tend to develop their physical forces and agility. But where gymnastics are indispensable is in our boarding-schools, in which children pass from eight to ten years of their life precisely at the time when their physical and mental organization is being formed. They are obliged to remain seated on a bench during long hours, nearly immovable. How can we expect that at this age, when everything in our nature tends to movement and activity, a similar proceeding should not enfeeble the child if we do not supplement this prolonged repose of the whole system by well ordered exercise, tending to develop and increase their physical strength?

I am aware that at the present day, somewhat more attention is bestowed upon this important subject; still much remains to be done, and I cannot too strongly urge upon the persons who control our educational establishments, to follow the course which nature itself points out. I say the persons in control, whether male or female, for gymnastic exercises are as essential to woman as to man.

There is no doubt that the numerous cases of pulmonary diseases and dyspepsia, which we meet with every day, are largely due to the fact, that in youth no attention has been paid to the forming of our organism after a normal manner.

In Europe, the most celebrated physicians, and all persons who are occupied with the well-being of humanity, supported by governments and by public opinion, have in many instances succeeded in introducing gymnastic exercises into schools, even into elementary ones. The good effects of the system will undoubtedly not fail to make themselves apparent on the public health, by rendering each better fitted for the state of life to which he is called.

Let us endeavor as soon as possible to follow the good example shown us in this respect by the Old World.—From the Annual Report of C. B. De Boucherville, Minister Pub. Inst.

BIBLES AT CHURCH.—We remember once being greatly interested in a service which we attended in Scotland. It was an ordinary service on Sunday afternoon. The church was a plain one, with galleries. We went early, and the sexton gave us a seat where we could see the whole congregation. About fifteen or twenty minutes before the time to commence the services, the people came pouring in in large numbers, and soon the building was filled in every part. There did not seem to be a single vacant seat. We were greatly surprised to see so many children, and at first thought the service was specially for the children. But it was not so. It was the regular afternoon service. We were pleased to see that the children sat with their parents, and not up in a gallery by themselves. For some minutes before the services commenced the people were all present and very quiet. Many were reading their Bibles. We noticed that all, old and young, had small Bibles. In due time the minister commenced. It was as it should be. The people were all ready—no coming in after that. The entire congregation of some twelve hundred persons united heartily in the services. It was almost amusing, certainly deeply interesting, to see the children—each holding his book—and to hear the little piping voices as they mingled with those of the grown people in the services. When the sermon came, all had their Bibles open and ready to read the text, and also to turn to any passages the preacher might call their attention to. The whole service lasted about an hour and a quarter, and throughout the interest was kept up—nobody seemed to be weary.—Exchange.