

ledged by masters and pupils to be the man amongst us who could draw. The position of the Slade in the days of which I speak was somewhat anomalous. Legros had revived the methods of chalk-drawing which were in vogue at the time of Michael Angelo and Leonardo da Vinci. The style was admirably simple. There was broad generalization: on one side of the figure was light, on the other, shade: accidental reflections which would disturb the large, general effect were ignored. The materials used were *Michalet* paper and natural Italian chalk; *i. e.*, chalk, straight from the quarries, cut into narrow sticks. The shading was done diagonally, downwards, from right to left. Strang drew from the method described until he attained a mastery which was the wonder and envy of his admiring followers; and the sureness of stroke which he acquired was the foundation for his subsequent success as an etcher. The Slade was, as I have said, a school for the doctrines of the Italian *Renaissance*; and Strang has been spoken of as a "belated old master." In the etching class of the school his early efforts were somewhat reminiscent of Millet, but he gradually imported into his work that awesome and gloomy quality which is so distinctively his own. Concurrently with his development as an etcher of subject plates, he established his fame as a master of the art of drawing a simple and masterly portrait in copper-plate. The sombre character of his subjects has often surprised me, for the physical "fitness" of the man would not, one would think, predispose him to morbidness. Perhaps his early discouragements account for it; or his long residence in the suicidal precincts of the University College. It was of this dreary region (once a gay one) that Ruskin spoke, in his rhetorical way, when, in describing the vanities of the last century he said they culminated "in pumps and periwigs, Gower Street and Gaspar Poussin."

Strang's etching, "The Sower," although unlike Millet's great picture in every detail of composition and treatment, yet indicates, to my mind, the influence of the Frenchman; an influence, which, at one time, was undoubtedly discernible in the work of the young etcher. The figure in this powerful design is an old man—a sort of old Saint Jerome; or a prophet, who, in the intervals of general denunciation, occupies himself with husbandry—this august personage strides impressively, in a manner more suggestive of approaching death than the sower of life, across a featureless landscape which is a fitting background, an appropriate generalization of rural nature. "The Salvation Army" was the theme for one melancholy plate; the gruesome "Coffin Maker" followed, with a whole series of sad designs, which, during the brief existence of the Society of Painter Etchers, were the thoughtful, deep undertones of an exhibition which was mainly composed of brilliant, airy trifles.

W. WYLY GRIER.

### Personal.

It has been reported that A. W. Ross, M.P. for Lisgar, Man., is to be appointed postmaster of Winnipeg.

Rev. Dr. Parsons, of Knox Church, in this city, has announced that the spire, recently destroyed by fire, will be rebuilt on account of its interest as an historic landmark.

His Holiness, the Pope, has given the world another proof of his good sense in expressing to the leader of the Austrian Anti-Semitic party his disapproval of "class and racial hatreds."

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The Hon. Dr. Montague has been selected as the Conservative candidate for the electoral district of Welland and Monck, which is represented in the present House of Commons by two members.

The Rev. J. W. Annis, pastor of one of the Methodist Churches in London, died a few days ago of brain disease. He held a deservedly high position in Canadian Methodism, and will be much missed.

Sir Charles Tupper, the High Commissioner for Canada, was summoned to Westminster a few days ago to attend a private meeting of members of the Ministry. It is supposed that the subject of conference was the Behring Sea fisheries claims.

At a late meeting of the University College Literary and Scientific Society, a vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to Vice-Chancellor Mulock for his generous offer of \$100 as a subscription to meet the expense of the recent *Conversazione*.

Li Hung Chang's ascendancy in the administration of Chinese affairs seems to be again complete. Probably the result of the war would have been different if he had not been deposed. He has to an exceptional extent the confidence of western statesmen.

The Associated Press has been informed by the Colonial office in London that there is no truth in the report that Major-General Herbert is about to resign the command of the Canadian militia in consequence of disagreements with the Canadian Government.

It has been announced that in order to avoid the necessity of resigning the Prime Ministership Lord Rosebery has been constrained by his physicians to take a month's rest. The belief seems to be general that this is but a prelude to his retirement from office.

In connection with the coming biography of the late Sir John Thompson the statement has been made public that when Mr. Dalton McCarthy was read out of the Ministerial party some months ago this treatment of him was the result of instructions given by the late Premier himself.

In reply to a deputation of temperance workers on the one hand and to one of brewers on the other Sir Oliver Mowat has announced that the Ontario Government will not propose any modification of the present Provincial License Law until the question of jurisdiction as to prohibition of the liquor traffic is settled by the Imperial Privy Council.

Sir Edward Arnold, in the *London Telegraph*, recently called attention to the fact that with the coming of the new year Mr. Gladstone's age would be 14 years greater than the united ages of five European sovereigns—the new Czar, aged 27, the eight-year-old King of Spain, the 10-year-old King of Servia, the six-year-old Queen of Holland, and the 20-year-old Khedive of Egypt.

In the first party division in the new Legislative Assembly the Mowat Government had a majority of 38, the Patrons voting solidly with the Ministry. The vote was taken on an amendment to the motion to go into Committee of Supply, the declaration in the amendment being to the effect that there should be a change made in the manner of remunerating registrars and other county officials.

The *Globe* of this city published a few days ago a cable despatch from Hon. Edward Blake, Chancellor of the University, stating that the published imputation on him touching University patronage was "wholly false." This has reference, no doubt, to the insinuation that he sought to have his son-in-law, the Rev. G. M. Wrong, appointed to a lectureship in History with a view to his early promotion to a professorship in the same subject.

Mr. G. W. Smalley, who has acted for many years as the London correspondent of the *New York Tribune* is about to return to New York to act there as the correspondent of the *London Times*. He gives as his reason for this step that he desires to live in the United States after his long exile, and that his experience in London has taught him how "American life ought to be represented in

order to interest the British public." This journalistic new departure will be watched with interest for some time to come.

Lady Florence Dixie, President of the "British Ladies' Football Club," writes strongly to the *Pall Mall Gazette* in advocacy of football as a feminine recreation—not the Rugby Union game, of course. The Club has fifty members, practices daily, and will soon give a public match if grounds can be procured on which to play it. The Surrey County Cricket Club has refused the use of those under its control.

The Speaker of the British House of Commons, Sir Arthur Wellesley Peel, has intimated to the leaders of the Liberal and Conservative parties in that chamber his intention to resign. He has filled the position so long and so well that it will be difficult to replace him in it. Sir Julian Goldsmid is said to be the favourite candidate, as Mr. Leonard Courtenay has incurred the dislike of the Radicals by his methods of promoting unionism.

Whatever the decision of the Dominion Privy Council may be in the Manitoba School case, there can be no two opinions about the ability with which the arguments pro and con were presented by Mr. Ewart and Mr. McCarthy, the counsel for the minority and the majority respectively. The application to the Council as a quasi-judicial body was novel, but for all future applications the precedent set in the treatment of it was quite appropriate.

Thomas Leopold Wilson, a young man who has made himself famous by the discovery of a cheap method of making a powerful illuminating gas from the decomposition of water, is a native of Princeton in Oxford County, Ontario, where he was born in 1860. He was educated in the Hamilton Collegiate Institute, and at the age of twenty-one he went to New York where he has lived ever since. He is already known as the inventor of an electrical lamp, of an aluminum process, of a new kind of cannon, and of other scientific appliances which have made him wealthy and distinguished. To all appearance he will rank with Edison and Bell among successful Canadian inventors.

The meeting called in the public hall of the Education Department to hear the address of Mr. W. A. Smith, the founder of the organization known as "The Boy's Brigade," was an exceptionally representative one, including Catholics as well as Protestants of all denominations. Lord Aberdeen presided, and of other public men there were present Lieut-Governor Kirkpatrick, Hon. G. W. Ross, Hon. J. M. Gibson, Hon. Wm. Hart, Hon. G. W. Allan and G. R. Cockburn, M.P. The audience was made up largely of clergymen and educationists. Bishop Sweetman and the Rev. Father O'Reilly expressed the opinion that the "Church Boys' Brigade" and the "Roman Catholic Boys' Brigade," respectively, might well be amalgamated with the general organization.

\* \* \*  
ICE.

When winter scourged the meadow and the hill,  
And in the withered leafage worked his will,  
The water shrank and shuddered, and stood still,  
Then built himself a magic house of glass,  
Iris'd with memories of flowers and grass,  
Wherein to sit and watch the fury pass.  
—CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS in *Lippincott's Magazine*.

The *Globe*: The man who has been made rich by the National Policy and the owner of the industry which cannot get along without protection are now discreetly silent.

The architect who was appointed to examine the condition of the public buildings in Athens and its neighbourhood has reported that some of them, including the Parthenon and the Temple of Theseus, are in great danger of falling to ruin, and an appeal will be made to the civilized world for contributions to aid in preserving them from destruction.