

REVIEWS.

The *CONTEMPORARY REVIEW* keeps up its reputation for excellence. One of the most important political problems just now for the world, as well as for England, is the relation of the latter to Egypt. This is discussed in an admirable spirit, and with great intelligence, in a lecture which forms the first number in the December number of the *Review*. The lecturer is John Westlake, Q.C., and his scheme for the settlement of the Egyptian question may be summed up as comprehending (1) security for the bondholders who, under existing treaty rights, have advanced money for carrying on the administration; (2) British control in the future management of Egyptian finances; (3) satisfaction to the other European powers by the withdrawal of British troops, and the guarantee of the Egyptian debt; (4) depriving the Porte of the last vestige of control over the country; and (5) allowing the Egyptians, under an independent sovereign and British protection, an opportunity of working out for themselves the problem of self-government. This seems a reasonable programme, especially when to it is added the contention that the present exemption from taxation enjoyed by Europeans in Egypt should cease, and that all Europeans, instead of being left under consular jurisdiction only, should be made subject to the regular courts. In close connection with this premonition of the separation of Egypt from Turkey should be read Principal Fairbairn's paper on "The Primitive Polity of Islam," in which the conclusion of the whole matter is thus stated: "The Sultan of Turkey may indulge in Panislamic dreams, but he will never realize them. The world of Islam is too deeply divided about him to be unified and vivified by him. His Caliphate is to the sections most radically opposed, alike to those most loyal to the prophet and to those most loyal to the people, to the men who most love the Holy Book, and the men who most love the Holy Land, a deep offence, and an act of the worst usurpation." If this is a correct description of the Sultan's relation to Mohammedanism, then indeed may the "sick man's" days be regarded as numbered. The fear of a Mohammedan uprising in India has long brooded like a nightmare over the British foreign office, which may yet find itself in the position of the man who, having fallen over a precipice, and hung for hours by a bush caught in his descent, discovered by letting himself drop that his feet had all the time been nearly touching the ground. An exceedingly suggestive paper is the one on "Impersonality and Evolution in Music," by Mr. Vernon Lee, and another is a short account, by Mr. Phil Robinson, of the present standing and requirements of professional war correspondents.

The frontispiece of the *CENTURY MAGAZINE* for January is a beautiful full-length portrait of the great natural philosopher, Charles Darwin, and one of the best papers is a finely illustrated one on the "Debt of Science" to him. The *pièce de résistance*, in the shape of an illustrated paper, is "Hydraulic Mining in California." The wild scenery of the mountains and wilder life of the miners, the peculiar character of their appliances for breaking up the rock and washing out the precious metal, and the novelty of the whole subject, make it a good one for the exercise of the illustrative designer's art, and of course the *Century* has made the most of it. Another staple article is entitled "Who are the Creoles?" This question is answered at some length by a description of their local *habitat* in Louisiana, illustrated by engravings, and also by a sketch of their history and their social peculiarities; it is also answered briefly in the statement that the Creoles of Louisiana are "the French-speaking, native, ruling class." The old serials, Mrs. F. H. Burnett's "Through One Administration," and "The Christian League of Connecticut," are continued, and an interesting new one, "The Planting of New England," is begun. The last is profusely illustrated by engravings of old historical landmarks and relics, and the name of the author, Edward Eggleston, is a guarantee of the literary excellence of the letter-press. The other papers, too numerous to be specified, are up to the *Century's* high average.

In *THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY* for January that veteran contributor, Oliver Wendell Holmes, discourses pleasantly in "An After-Breakfast Talk" of the inconveniences to which fame subjects authors. From it we quote the following interesting piece of autobiographical chit-chat: "The men of my birth-year are so painfully industrious at

this very time that one of the same date hardly dares to be idle. I look across the Atlantic, and see Mr. Gladstone, only four months younger than myself, standing erect with Patrick's grievances on one shoulder and Pharaoh's pyramids on the other,—an Atlas whose intervals of repose are paroxysms of learned labor. I listen to Tennyson, another birth of the same year, filling the air with melody long after the singing months of life's summer are over. I come nearer home, and here is my very dear friend and college class-mate, so certain to be in every good movement with voice, or pen, or both, that where two or three are gathered together for useful ends, if James Freeman Clarke is not there, it is because he is busy with a book or a discourse meant for a larger audience. I glance at the placard on the blank wall I am passing, and there I see the colossal head of Barnum, the untiring, inexhaustible, insuperable, ever triumphant and jubilant Barnum, who came to his atmospheric life less than a year after I began breathing the fatal mixture, and still wages Titanic battle with his own past superlatives. How can one dare to sit down inactive with such examples before him?" It is curious in this connexion to notice how large a part of the contents of this number is the work of men who were born before Mr. Holmes. He and Gladstone date back to 1809; Tennyson and Barnum to 1810. But John Greenleaf Whittier, whose poem, "A Summer Pilgrimage," just precedes Mr. Holmes' article, was born in 1807; while Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, born in the same year, posthumously contributes the first part of "Michael Angelo," and Nathaniel Hawthorne born in 1804, and long since dead, furnishes the second part of "The Ancestral Footsteps." Charles Dudley Warner writes an account of "Wagner's Parsifal" as he heard it at Baireuth; there is an interesting instalment of "Studies in the South;" "Chance Days in Oregon" is very readable; and "A Stranger yet at Home" is a capital short story. Reviews, poems, and other matter complete the number.

Announcements

ONTARIO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

PROGRAMME OF THE ANNUAL CONVENTION FOR AUGUST, 1883.

The following subjects will be discussed at the next annual meeting of the Ontario Provincial Teachers' Association:—

1. School curriculum.
2. Literature in schools.
3. The advisability of a change in the administration of the school law, by the appointment of a Chief Superintendent of Education, and a Council of Public Instruction, in lieu of a Minister of Education.
4. Licensing of teachers.
5. Moral education.
6. Examinations and examiners.

The subjects for discussion in the public school section are:

1. Text books.
2. Revision of programme.
3. High school entrance examination.
4. Hygiene in public schools.

The subjects to be brought before the public school inspectors, and high school sections, as well as the names of the essayists and prelectors, will be announced hereafter.

The great end to be attained in all moral teaching is to lead the child to act from principle, to do a thing because it is right, and avoid doing or saying a certain thing because it is wrong.—*Professor Huxley.*

THE INFALLIBLE TEACHER.—A bright child asks a question that a gray-headed philosopher would be cautious in answering; yet a teacher of limited learning and less sincerity gives a glib reply to keep the child from doubting his scholarship. He wishes the pupil to think that all knowledge worth having has been attained in a few years by one person, namely, himself. Between devotion to text-books and the careless dogmatism of such teachers, children leave our schools with the conceit that they have compassed the universe and settled all the problems of existence.—*Education.*

A CITIZEN'S COMPLAINT.—"Now, if the teacher would teach, what a task would be spared to at least one unfortunate father, who, every night, jaded and tired with a hard day's work, gathers his children together and patiently teaches them the interminable lessons that should have been explained at school! What a blessing it would be to many a household if this system could be only reversed, and the children could be taught at school, and then learn their lessons, and recite them at home! But, no! To the parent is delegated the task of instruction while the teacher has only to hear recitation!