

LITERARY NOTICE.

RECOLLECTIONS OF ETON; by an Etonian; New York, Harper and Bros.; Montreal, Dawson Bros.

Mr. Hughes seems to have set a fashion in his "Tom Brown's School-days," which bids fair to become exceedingly popular. Since the publication of that very interesting and well-written history of school-life, numberless works have appeared descriptive of the way and doings at the principal English public schools. None of those that have passed under our notice can claim the same freshness and attraction that have won for Mr. Hughes so wide a reputation, though all of them are faithful descriptions of the life they claim to illustrate. The "Recollections of Eton" approach nearest to the original. The Book is written in a peculiar style, that, at first glance, is apt to be misunderstood and condemned as utterly worthless, though a more careful examination will satisfy the reader that the contrary is the case. The Etonian, in his "Recollections," has preserved intact, not only the distinctive public-school-idiom, but the very style that a moderately intelligent school-boy might be supposed to employ in reciting his adventures. In fact, the work throughout reminds one irresistibly of a fifth-form boy's letters.

Apart from the question of style and idiom, this little work recommends itself as an interesting *exposé* of public-school doings; which to many native Canadians will have the additional advantage of being entirely new. To those who have received a public-school education it would be needless to recommend it.

SCOTTISH SONG.—The inexhaustible wealth of pleasure and amusement to be extracted from the song lore of "Auld Scotland," has received a new illustration by Mr. Angus Fairbairn and the Misses Bennett, who have, for the first time in Canada, appeared in public in this city. The Jacobite ballads, the songs of Burns, of Lady Nairn, and of a host of unknown authors, have often found talented and truthful interpreters on the stage; but never has it been our lot to hear these offsprings of national or sentimental feeling more faithfully or more pathetically interpreted than at Mr. Fairbairn's concerts. This gentleman comes from the old world highly and very justly recommended, and we bespeak for him an enthusiastic reception in the western cities which he designs soon to visit.

BOUND VOLUMES OF THE "C. I. NEWS."—Messrs. Dawson Bros. advertise that they are prepared to bind the *Canadian Illustrated News* at \$1.50 or \$2 per volume, according to style. Our country subscribers may, if they find it more convenient than sending directly to Messrs. Dawson, forward their papers through our local agents, who will undertake their delivery and return when bound. Missing numbers of the *News*, to complete the set, may be obtained at this office, on application directly, or to our agents, or the Messrs. Dawson.

BOOKS RECEIVED FROM MESSRS. DAWSON BROTHERS, MONTREAL; HARPER BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS, NEW YORK:

CHARLES DICKENS. The Story of his Life: by the author of the life of Thackeray.

VERONICA: A novel, by the author of "Aunt Margaret's Trouble," &c.

We learn that M. Uriarte, the Consul General of Spain in this city for North America, is replaced by Don Joaquim de Sastretequi.

THE WAR NEWS.

During the past few days the situation of the two contending armies has been completely changed, and in such a manner as to seriously affect, not only the Government, but the ruling dynasty of France. McMahon, being dangerously wounded, was succeeded by Gen. Wimpfen, who, not being able to withstand the Prussians, with his beaten and shattered army, capitulated. The Emperor, by surrendering himself to the King, has only hastened what appeared to be an inevitable calamity, resulting in the overthrow of his dynasty and the proclamation of the Republic throughout France.

The battle of the 30th ult., at Beaumont, resulted in the withdrawal of McMahon beyond the Meuse, in the direction of Montmédy. The despatches announcing the engagement are so contradictory that it is difficult to make out the truth. A despatch to the Bavarian ministers, dated Beaumont, states that the Prussians were victorious, and the French were driven over the Meuse. Another account, from Belgian sources, says that the battle resulted disastrously for the French, who retreated on Mézières. On the other hand, according to the official statement of the Minister of War, the French at first retrograded before the Prussian attack, but afterwards took the offensive again, and after nightfall crossed the Meuse east of Mézières. The truth appears to be that McMahon was caught with half his army across the Meuse, attacked by superior forces and beaten. Finding the enemy on his flank and his communications threatened, he attacked wherever he could, and afterwards withdrew entirely across the Meuse. On the following day, the 31st, the Prussians resumed the offensive. They attacked the French army, under McMahon and the Emperor, at Carignan. Again the victory remained doubtful, the French claiming that McMahon defeated the left and centre of the enemy, and forced the left wing to retreat. It is certain, however, that after the battle, McMahon withdrew to Sedan, where, on the following day, the decisive engagement of the week took place. We have no accounts of this engagement beyond what is given in King William's despatch to Berlin: "Sept. 1, 1.30 p.m.—A battle has raged since half-past eight o'clock this morning. Our forces have advanced victoriously. The 4th, 5th, and 7th Bavarians were engaged. The enemy was almost entirely driven into the

city." It would appear from subsequent events that McMahon was seriously wounded, and that the French were utterly routed, for 13,000 French troops crossed the Belgian frontier, were disarmed and conducted into the interior.

On Friday, the 2nd inst., Gen. Wimpfen, who replaced McMahon at Sedan, capitulated with his whole army, and the Emperor surrendered to King William. A despatch, dated the 3rd, stated in addition that Marshal Bazaine, with the entire force in occupation of Metz, had surrendered to the besieging army on receiving the news of the Emperor's surrender. This intelligence, however, has since been contradicted, and it has been announced that, on the contrary, Bazaine had defeated the besieging force at Concreville, and driven them northwards.

After his surrender the Emperor had an interview with King William, who assigned to him Wilhelmshaus, near Cassel, as his future residence. On Sunday, accompanied by the Count de Choiseul, he crossed the Belgian frontier, and proceeded to Cassel by way of Bouillon and Verviers. The whereabouts of the Prince Imperial and the Empress were for a time not exactly known. One account states that they will rejoin the Emperor at Cassel; while another affirms that they have both escaped into Belgium, and will thence make their way to England. The Emperor, who, a week ago, was reported to be dead, is probably getting better, as it is now said that he is only seriously ill. It is certain, however, that Dr. Nelaton and an English physician, Dr. Hewitt, have been in constant attendance upon him.

The news of the capitulation of McMahon's army and the Emperor's surrender was announced in Paris on Sunday by the following proclamation:—

"TO THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE.

A great misfortune has come upon the country. After the three days' heroic struggles sustained by the army of Marshal McMahon against three hundred thousand of the enemy, forty thousand men have been made prisoners. General DeWimpfen, who took command of the army in place of McMahon, who was badly wounded, signed the capitulation. This cruel reverse will not shake our courage. Paris is to-day in a complete state of defence. The military forces of the country will be organized in a few days, a new army will be under the walls of Paris, another army is forming on the banks of the Loire; your patriotism, your union, your energy, will save France. The Emperor has been made prisoner in the struggle. Government, in accord with the public powers, will take all measures required by gravity of events.

(Signed) COUNTESS DE PALIKAO, And the Council of Ministers."

The excitement on the announcement of this intelligence was intense. The story of the capture of the Emperor was freely circulated, but was not credited. A report was also spread that McMahon was dead. Large crowds surrounded the Corps Legislatif, where the deputies were sitting, and it was generally reported that a secret session was being held, and that a Dictatorship would be announced. On the afternoon of Monday the deputies met again to deliberate on the advisability of declaring the Empire forfeited. At five o'clock the vote was taken on the *déchéance* question, resulting in a unanimous vote in its favour. On the publication of this result in the city the people went wild with excitement. Crowds paraded the streets, bearing placards with the vote of the Corps Legislatif inscribed thereon. Shouts of "Vive la République" were heard on all sides. The regiments passing into the city sang "Mourir pour la Patrie," and were received with cries of "Vive la Ligne," "Vive la République." As the afternoon wore on the enthusiasm took another turn, and the people began to vent their anger against the Emperor. They began by tearing down the Imperial arms over the fronts of shops, and by evening all the Imperial insignia that could be found had been defaced or destroyed. Even the word "Imperial" over the Theatres was not allowed to remain. In the Chamber, after the vote of *Déchéance*, the majority retired, and the members of the Left and Left Centre, who remained, constituted a Provisional Government. On the evening of the 5th the following proclamation was made by the new "Government of the French Republic":

"The *Déchéance* has been pronounced in the Corps Legislatif. The Republic has been proclaimed at the Hôtel de Ville. A Government of National Defence, composed of 11 members of all the Deputies of Paris has been constituted and ratified by popular acclamation. Gen. Trochu will at the same time continue in the exercise of the powers of Governor of Paris, and is appointed Minister of War in the place of Gen. Palikao. Please placard immediately, and, if necessary, have proclaimed by the public crier this proclamation.

"For the Government of National Defence, the Minister of the Interior.

(Signed)—Leon Gambetta."

The following were appointed members of the new cabinet: Leon Gambetta, Minister of the Interior; Jules Favre, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Pierre Magne, Finance; Jules Simon, Public Instruction; Crémieux, Justice; Gen. Trochu, War; Grévy, President of the Council; Lavertigne, Secretary. The Provisional Government took possession of the offices without the slightest disorder. All the Ministers are acting with energy. Orders for the immediate formation of colossal armies have been issued. Over 200,000 men are now ready to take the field. The Government Superintendent of Telegraphs has announced to all the departments the events in Paris. The Senate is suppressed, and the Corps Legislatif dissolved. An important faction of the Chamber have met at President Schneider's residence, and seemed disposed to act independently of the Provisional Government, to whom, however, they have sent delegations. The officers and soldiers fraternize with the people, and accept the orders of the Government, which is in permanent session at the Hotel de Ville, under the Presidency of Gen. Trochu.

It is understood that the Government urges the nation to make an unyielding defence, and declares the dismemberment of France impossible. The King of Prussia, they say, proclaimed that he was warring only against Napoleon. If it now becomes evident that he is warring against the French people the struggle must be one of extermination. The fleet is to be ordered to treat the seaports of Germany as the Prussian armies treated the towns of Alsace and Lorraine; and the enemy made to feel what united Republican France can accomplish. All Frenchmen must bear arms.

With the proclamation of the Republic an amnesty has been granted to political offenders. The doors of the Press prison at Mazas have been thrown open, and hundreds who

had sought refuge in foreign countries have returned to France. Among these latter are Ledru Rollin, Victor Hugo, the Count de Paris, the Prince de Joinville, the Duc de Chartres, and the Duc d'Aumale. On the other hand, it is stated that Palikao and Chevreau have fled to Belgium. It appears that it is the intention of the Government to go on with the war, although it is said that Favre has already made peace propositions to Prussia, the basis being the withdrawal of German troops from France, and the abolition of the French standing army. A despatch from Prussian quarters states that, the Emperor having declared that his captivity prevents him from negotiating for peace, the war will be continued. And, in fact, immediately after the surrender of McMahon's army, the Crown Prince continued his march on Paris, leaving behind him Strasburg, Metz, Montmédy, and Longwy in a state of siege. With the exception of these four places, the whole of the country east of a line drawn between Mézières and Chaumont is in the hands of the Prussians.

SCIENCE AND ART.

An important artistic discovery has just been made at Reichenbach, in Silesia. A portrait of Luther has been found, buried under a heap of rubbish, in the passage leading from the school to the Lutheran church. The canvas is in a perfect state of preservation, and has been recognized by a burgomaster, a well-informed amateur, as the work of Louis Cranach.

The *Bulletin Scientifique et Historique du Nord*, of France, says that an interesting discovery has been made at Esquermes by M. Rigaux fils, a young archaeologist of Lille. It consists of objects of the period of Constantine, eight vases, one of which is supposed to be a cinerary urn, a pitcher, a bowl with saucer, drinking cups, and vases for offerings, fibulae, &c. During the excavations made in pursuit of this discovery a fine polished flint axe was also found.

OAKUM A SUBSTITUTE FOR LINT.—Mr. H. Pownall has submitted to Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay's Committee a sample of fine-picked oakum, which has been used in some of the London Hospitals as a substitute for lint in dressing wounds. Should the war last for any considerable time, the labours of the unions and prisons may be directed to supplying this store to the armies of the two countries now engaged in hostilities.

DEATH TESTS.—At the recent meeting of the Academy of Medicine of Paris Dr. Laborde read a paper on the above subject. The author says:—"If a highly-polished steel needle be thrust to a sufficient depth into the tissues of a living man or animal, the needle after a short time will have lost its polish, and be in fact oxidized. If, on the other hand, a needle of the same kind be introduced into the muscles of a dead subject, and left between twenty minutes and an hour, it will not turn dull." M. Laborde infers that the oxidation of the needle and the electrical and thermic phenomena connected with this oxidation are signs of apparent death; whereas the complete absence of oxidation and of the concomitant phenomena is a sign of real death. A committee, composed of Messrs. Gavarret, Bédard, and Vulpian, have been appointed to report upon this paper.

Lord Bury, M. P., is gazetted a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

The Marquis of Hertford, who has just died at Paris, it is rumoured has left a large portion of his personal property to the Prince Imperial.

The Brehon Law Commissioners have in press the second volume of "The Ancient Laws and Institutes of Ireland," it will contain the remaining portion of the "Senchus Mor" and "The Book of Aicill," a work on Irish Criminal Law.

The New York *Army and Navy Journal* tells the following anecdote:—"Two years ago, a distinguished American soldier called upon Gen. Von Moltke at the War Office in Berlin, where he found the great Prussian strategist poring over his maps of the Rhine frontier. 'If you will permit me, Gen. Von Moltke,' said our friend, 'I should like to ask an impertinent question, which you must answer or not as you think best.' 'Certainly,' replied the General; 'ask it.' Laying his hand upon the open map with significant gesture, he enquired, 'Are you ready?' 'Yes,' was the answer; 'only we cannot, in case of a war with France, hope for such good fortune as attended us in the campaign against Austria. The great difficulty is that our King cannot be persuaded to declare war, and thus give us the benefit of the initiative.'

A Californian contracted with a Chinaman for building him fourteen houses. The Chinaman hired a carpenter to build the first one, carefully watched every movement made, then discharged his employee, and built the rest himself.

Temperature in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1870, observed by John Underhill, Optician to the Medical Faculty of McGill University, 299 Notre Dame Street.

		9 A. M.	1 P. M.	6 P. M.
We'nesday,	Aug. 31.....	68°	73°	69°
Thursday,	Sept. 1.....	68°	75°	71°
Friday,	" 2.....	68°	75°	69°
Saturday,	" 3.....	62°	68°	64°
Sunday,	" 4.....	60°	68°	64°
Monday,	" 5.....	58°	69°	65°
Tuesday,	" 6.....	56°	65°	61°
		MAX.	MIN.	MEAN.
We'nesday,	Aug. 31.....	77°	54°	65° 5
Thursday,	Sept. 1.....	75°	53°	64°
Friday,	" 2.....	75°	54°	64° 5
Saturday,	" 3.....	70°	55°	62° 5
Sunday,	" 4.....	71°	55°	63°
Monday,	" 5.....	63°	52°	60° 5
Tuesday,	" 6.....	66°	45°	55° 6

Aneroid Barometer compensated and corrected.

		9 A. M.	1 P. M.	6 P. M.
We'nesday,	Aug. 31.....	30.08	30.05	30.05
Thursday,	Sept. 1.....	30.20	30.18	30.10
Friday,	" 2.....	30.11	30.09	30.06
Saturday,	" 3.....	30.10	30.06	29.96
Sunday,	" 4.....	29.83	29.83	29.80
Monday,	" 5.....	29.90	30.07	30.14
Tuesday,	" 6.....	30.28	30.33	30.32