

other. From the moment the daughter of the banished duke loves *Orlando* for his valour in the wrestling match, to the period where his brother recounts to her enraptured ear the encounter with a lioness in the woods, *Rosalind* is the wayward, loving, *chic*, true woman—full of *abandon* as *Ganymede*, charged with exquisite tenderness as *Rosalind*. Not a word, not a gesture, not a look but is in consonance with the part played, and never for one moment betraying the consciousness of the individual. Madame Modjeska's *Juliet* is one of her finest conceptions, many of her intonations reminding one of Neilson. The infinite pathos with which she wailingly grieves, "Wherefore art thou Romeo?" is the very acme of art. The scene in which she in her impatience first offends and then artfully conciliates her *Nurse* by her irresistible coaxing, left nothing to be desired. In Mr. H. M. Barrymore Madame Modjeska has an actor of no small parts, and who well acquitted himself in the characters assigned to him. Miss Mary Shaw, Mr. Ian Robertson, Mr. McManus, and others contributed in no small degree to the smooth running of the performance. On the whole it is an excellently balanced company. The *mise en scene*, as is usual in this house, was all that could be desired.

CAMPANINI's voice is reported hopelessly broken.

SIR MICHAEL COSTA has had a second stroke of paralysis. He is now speechless and there is no hope of his recovery.

GOUNOD has completed a new work, an oratorio, which is entitled "Mors et Vita," and is a sequel to the "Redemption."

A COMPLIMENTARY concert to Mr. Sims Richards will be given this (Thursday) evening in the Lecture Hall of Jarvis street Baptist Church, Toronto.

SATISFACTORY progress is said to have been made by the Toronto Choral Society with the "Creation," which is in preparation for the Semi-Centennial celebration.

It is expected that about 600 voices will take part in the Buffalo Musical Festival on June 15th, 16th, and 21st. Several star vocalists have been engaged to take part in a very strong programme.

A MUSICAL treat is expected at the Toronto Grand Opera House on Saturday, when the Lablache Concert Company will give the last two acts of Verdi's ever-fresh "Trovatore," and a miscellaneous selection.

THE operetta "Hans and Gretel," at the Opera House to-night (Thursday) ought to be well patronized. The receipts go to the Toronto Relief Society. The Home for Incurables is to have the proceeds of Friday night's performance of the amateurs in "Used Up." Both entertainments are under the patronage of the Government House party.

MR. SIMS REEVES, when a boy, was known as "Jack," and the town boys used to mock him for the dreadful grimaces he made in singing; but his father, who is said to have been a sergeant, and clerk of the barracks church, told them that "his son's voice would be worth a guinea a minute to him some day." The prophet even understated its value.

MR. DAVENPORT KERRISON delivered the fourth of his series of lectures on classical composers in the Toronto College of Music on Friday night. Hummel and Cherubini were the masters whose works were commented upon, and Mr. Kerrison's sketch of their history was of great interest. For the illustrative recital Mr. Kerrison selected Hummel's "Return to London" and Cherubini's "Overture to Anacreon," the secondo to the latter selection being played by Miss Lily Smith. The next lecture will be on Dussek and Wolff.

It would have reflected anything but credit upon Torontonians if they had not availed themselves of the opportunity of hearing the charming and *petite cantatrice* Madame Trebelli Bettini, who is engaged, we understand, to sing in the Pavilion on May 15th. Referring to a recent performance of this brilliant singer the *New York World* said:—"There were two or three things which never were sung better, and the principal among them was the drinking song from 'Lucrezia' by Trebelli. There were richness, method, and the most perfect power of pleasing both the cultured and the uncultured. They all joined in a salvo of applause that shook the house."

### BOOK NOTICES.

#### PROCEEDINGS AND TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA FOR 1882-3.\*

THIS ponderous volume in black (why was it not bound in royal blue?), which we have been permitted to see, is the gift of the Crown to the Eighty "immortals" nominated by Lord Lorne to sit on the pedestal of Canadian fame. It is late in the day now to take exception to the inauguration of a Canadian Academy of Letters—an institution, as we think, of doubtful benefit to literature, and one that can be of small service in calling forth native talent, or in sowing the seeds of patriotism. Measured by its \$5,000 cost to the taxpayers of the country, we should say that the Society was a "culpable luxury," and that its product, so far, at least, as English literature is concerned, gives us but little for our money. To the members, or, as we believe we ought to designate them, Fellows of the Society, the presentation at the public expense of a printed copy of their proceedings in the courtly capital of the Dominion must be a gratifying incident. But as a souvenir of a pilgrimage to the literary Mecca, the volume comes not to all of the members of the Society, for at neither gathering, it seems, has there by any means been a full muster. Not a few, indeed, have yet to put in a first appearance at the place hallowed by the meetings of the Society, so doubtful, we presume, are they of the benefits of State patron-

age of letters or of the advantage of taking from the public the right of determining, and of honouring, merit. It is well, however, that such defaulters should be reminded of an ordinance of the Society, which provides that "any member failing to attend *three* years in succession without presenting a paper, or assigning reasons in writing satisfactory to the Society, shall be considered to have resigned." As the Society has ventured upon the experiment of calling itself into being, it would be a pity that disintegration, from the failure of a sufficient number of its members to answer to the roll call, should prevent the experiment from being put to the test of time, and the equally practical test of existence without the artificial stimulus of Court favour.

As we thought would be the case, the literary section of the Society is overweighted by the scientific. In this fact, which the volume before us brings into relief, we see some justification, as we previously admitted, for the creation of a Canadian Institute of Science, to consolidate, if necessary, the various local organizations already in existence for furthering scientific research. But we see little or no justification for founding an Academy of Letters, or in allying literature with science, especially where literature in Canada, to gain anything by union, has to pit itself against those who speak and write an alien tongue. The rivalries of race and language, it may be said, are likely to be beneficial to both literatures; but, on the other hand, the consciousness of being overmatched may have a depressing, if not fatal, effect. In the volume before us this sense of inferiority is more than apparent, for if we set aside the two addresses of the president of the English literature section, which, by the way, deal with archæology rather than with literature, we shall find the English matter quite overlaid by the French. The knowledge of this fact will give a bad quarter-of-an-hour to those who are fond of boasting that English is one day to become the dominant language. But a more unpalatable fact has yet to be stated. Not only in volume, but in quality and interest, does the French department tower above the English. The French literature section fairly teems with literary productiveness; and in most of the contributions there is a grace and style of diction peculiarly Gallic, and without parallel in the corresponding English section. Nothing in the volume is more noticeable than this, and the disparity brings into unpleasant prominence the weakness of our English section in both men and matter. One feels at once that the French members not only have more intellectual vivacity, but that they are moved by a high intellectual ambition, and, moreover, have the insuperable advantage of possessing what the English section has not: a history and a literature to inspire them in their work. The latter circumstance, of course, is an accident of history, for which the English members of the Society are not responsible. Only partiality, however, can excuse what they are responsible for—the failure to put that strength and enthusiasm in their work which distinguish the contributions of their French compatriots. Even in volume, as we have already said, the English contributions are far outscaled by the French. This will be readily seen by enumerating the papers in both sections, leaving out of account the inauguration addresses of Principals Dawson and Wilson in the one department, and those of MM. Chauveau and Faucher de St. Maurice in the other. The English literature contributions, which do not exceed *five* papers (three brief abstracts by Dr. Clark Murray belong to the department of Psychology, and are therefore not here counted), are as follows: On "Free Public Libraries," by the late Dr. Alpheus Todd; on "Language and Conquest," by Mr. John Reade; on "Pre-Aryan American Man," by Prof. Wilson; "The Literature of French Canada," by Mr. John Lesperance; and "Some Old Forts by the Sea," by Mr. Bourinot. It is only fair to say that to this department belong four other papers, which, however, the Printing Committee of the Society have not deemed it expedient, or had permission, to print.

Against this meagre showing in the English section we have *fifteen* papers in the Department of French Literature, which are as follows: Two papers entitled "Les Archives du Canada," and "Nos Quatre Historiens Modernes," from the pen of Mr. J. M. Le Moine; two papers, "Familles Canadiennes," and "Etude sur les Noms," par l'Abbé Tanguay; two papers, "Les Interprètes du Temps de Champlain," and "Premiers Seigneurs du Canada," par M. Benj. Sulte; with the following single contributions: l'Abbé Casgrain on "Notre Passé Littéraire et nos Deux Historiens;" M. Faucher de St. Maurice on "Louis Turcotte;" l'Abbé Verreault on "Les Fondateurs de Montréal;" M. Chauveau "Sur les Commencements de la Poésie Française au Canada;" besides contributions in verse by MM. Fréchette, LeMay, and F. G. Marchand.

Again, if we compare the literature sections with the scientific, a like disparity, in matter at least, is manifest—the latter doing duty as an enormous tail to a very small kite. Into the importance and merit of the science transactions we have left ourselves no space to enter, nor can we now even enumerate the papers. That they form the more worthy portion of this portly volume, even a cursory inspection will readily disclose. As an exchange for the transactions of other societies the science section must be depended upon to make the work acceptable. In English literature, at least, it has little to commend it to favour, nor, we fear, can there be better promise for the future until the section is strengthened by new material or (shall we be pardoned for saying it?) until the old is rebaptized in Helicon.

But we must take leave, for the present, of the volume, hoping that literature may do more for the Royal Society than we have any expectation the Royal Society will do for literature. We have noticed a number of errors in its pages, which sit as a blemish on the work: even the roll of members for both years has omissions which it is not easy to account for, and is as difficult to excuse.

G. M. A.