

presents a sketch of the ascertained voyages of the Northmen which bear upon the subject, together with graphic extracts from their records. The paper is a very valuable contribution to the literature of the subject, and is of unusual interest not only to the scholar but to the general reader as well.

THE April number of the *New England Magazine* contains several interesting and timely papers. Like its competitors, it presents its readers with creditable stories and poems. What will most interest Canadian readers is Mr. Blackburn Harte's paper on "Canadian Art and Artists." It is, in some respects, commendable. At the same time he is not fair to Canadian taste. The very faults he ascribes to the people of the Dominion he will find in great abundance, possibly, in cultured Boston itself; and everywhere else where art is best appreciated. It needs education and cultivation to value art as it should be valued, and Canada is but young yet, and it is showing marked advances in this as in other respects. The love of art will grow and is growing in Canada. The photographic reproductions are fairly executed, and will serve to tone down some of the angularities of his criticism. Of course, in a paper of the kind, it is not easy to include, even in the brief paragraph of honourable mention, the names of all Canadian artists; but it is strange that some have been omitted—Foster, Sherwood, Judson and Creswell, for instance.

Greater Britain for March, 1891, is a sample copy of a new journal that aims to provide a common platform for the expressions of individual opinion upon Colonial and Indian events, a review of the developments of commerce, and an educating medium respecting the different parts and policies of the Empire. If the succeeding issues are up to sample, the new journal will prove beneficial. Its articles are in sympathy with and also opposed to Imperial Federation. Though believing that British rule in India has been a good thing for the Indian people, it admits a very lengthy communication from Wm. Digby, C.I.E., author of an "Open Letter to the House of Commons," who undertakes to prove the opposite. Rankine Dawson, of Montreal, contributes an article on the Canadian elections, which shows that he is perfectly in accord with Professor Weldon, M.P., in believing that the Mother Country must, even at some commercial sacrifice to herself, "stretch out a helping hand to her oldest and most important Colony in its hour of need." If this is not done, he believes that Canada cannot continue indefinitely the unequal commercial warfare with her gigantic Southern neighbour. He hopes that Britain "will face the stern facts of the case and realize that theories were made for man, not man for the theories." Altogether, *Greater Britain* promises to be a success. Messrs. Macmillan and Sir Charles Dilke waive the right to object to the title. The editor invites communications, addressed to 128 Palmerston Buildings, London, E.C., England.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

GEORGE DU MAURIER's novel, "Peter Ibbetson," will begin in *Harper's Magazine* for June. It will be illustrated by its artist-author.

GUSTAV FREYTAG, the German novelist, who is seventy-five years old, was married quite recently at Vienna to a Mme. Strakosch, who is separated from Herr Strakosch.

THE *Printing World* is the title of a new illustrated monthly journal devoted to the interests of the printing trade. Mr. John Bassett is proprietor and editor of the paper.

THE Cassell Publishing Company have in press a humorous and romantic book by John Bell Bouton. It is entitled "The Enchanted; an authentic account of the strange origin of the New Psychical Club."

A PAPER will be read at the meeting of the Canadian Institute on Saturday evening, 18th inst., by Mr. J. Castell Hopkins upon "British and Canadian Trade Relations." The topic is timely and should attract a good audience.

MACMILLAN AND COMPANY announce a new and cheaper edition, in two volumes, of Professor Bryce's now famous work on "The American Commonwealth." Also the eighth edition of "The Holy Roman Empire," by the same author.

CASSELL'S Blue Library will be inaugurated with a story by Mme. Bazan, called "A Christian Woman," which will have an introduction by Mr. Rollo Ogden, who, it is superfluous to say, is thoroughly versed in the literature of Spain.

MR. J. M. LE MOINE has one of his learned articles, entitled "Style of Travel of the High French Officials at Quebec in Olden Times," in the *Land We Live In*. Mr. Le Moine is doing good service to his country by his painstaking narratives and descriptions of the habits and customs of our forefathers.

AN illustration of the growing recognition of Canadian literary talent at home and abroad is found in the recent appointment of Mrs. Alfred Denison, the author of that clever book "A Happy Holiday," to an editorial position on the staff of *Saturday Night*; and the recent appointment of Mr. E. W. Sandys, Mrs. Denison's brother, as editor of the well-known sporting magazine *Outing*. Ability is not always confined to one member of a family.

Boston people read Ward McAllister's book according to the *Transcript*. But they edit as they read it. This is

proved by a copy from a Back Bay circulating library. The volume of "Society as I Have Found It" is well worn, but all the way through is corrected in pencil. His constant "world" is changed to "should"; his "such of which" is straightened out; in short, his McAllisterisms are translated by skilful and patient lovers of English.

IN Paris there is being prepared a work which promises to be very remarkable. It is an illustrated book on the capitals of the world, which will be described by various well-known authors. Paris itself is to be portrayed by the pen of M. Coppée, the famous poet; London by Sir Charles Dilke; Bucharest by the Queen of Roumania; Berlin by M. Antonin Proust; Tokio by "Judith Gautier"; Vienna by Madame Adam; St. Petersburg by Vicomte de Vogüé; and New York by the Comte de Kératry.

MESSRS. HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY announce the following publications: "Who Wrote the Bible," by Washington Gladden, D.D.; "Charles G. Finney," Vol. V. of American Religious Leaders, by Professor George F. Wright. President Finney was a remarkable leader of religious thought; "Excursions in Art and Letters," by W. W. Story, a delightful book by the great United States sculptor; "Noto: An Unexplored Corner of Japan," by Percival Lowell, and "A Satchel Guide" for the vacation tourist in Europe.

SIGNOR GIOVANNI MORELLI is dead. He expired at Milan a few days ago. He was a great authority on fine arts, and was especially learned in the history of the North Italian Schools, to the study of which he devoted himself with an ardour and fervour as indomitable as admirable. Although he wrote learnedly he was never dull, but, on the contrary, was gifted with a style both lively and entertaining, and did not consider, like so many authors, that because his subject was a serious one his treatment of it must be solemn and heavy.

THE many admirers of Honoré de Balzac will be glad to learn that M. Cahmann Lévy, of Paris, has begun the publication of a new cheap edition of the great novelist's works, carefully printed from new type on choice paper, and published at the low price of one franc per volume. The text is that of the *ne varietur* edition, which was revised by Balzac himself shortly before his death. Those masterpieces of fiction, viz.: "Eugène Grandet" and "Le Père Goriot" have just appeared, and the succeeding volumes will be issued at frequent intervals.

THE descendants of Frau Von Stein, to whom Goethe wrote such a quantity of letters, have decided finally to sell them. They are bound up in seven folio volumes, and all of them have already seen the light of print. The letters Goethe sent to her from Italy, by the way, are not included in this collection, but are probably in the archives of Goethe literature in Weimar. Frau Von Stein's own communications to the great poet were returned to her at her own request, and were carefully burnt by their shrewd writer, who had no wish for them to come before the public eye.

SCRIBNERS have just published a work of unusual interest, "Memoir of John Murray," by Samuel Smiles. It is the second John Murray, Byron's Murray, who is the hero of these two volumes. The whole story of his relations with Byron, Scott, Moore, Disraeli, Hallam, Lockhart, Campbell, Southey, De Staël, Canning and many other famous persons is here told with fulness. The same firm also have in press a promising work on "Church Union," by the rector of Grace Church, New York, Dr. W. R. Huntington, and the title is the "Peace of the Church." The author discusses thoroughly the practical methods for union, the relation of modern Biblical criticism to the question; the subject of creeds, etc., etc.

WE have observed the following interesting item in the *Ottawa Free Press*: "That our late Governor-General, Lord Lansdowne, continues to keep himself *en rapport* with Canadian public opinion is evidenced by the following note received by Mr. Morgan, of this city, some days since:—

"GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
"CALCUTTA, 28th Feb., 1891.

"DEAR MR. MORGAN,—I am very much obliged to you for your kind thought of sending me a copy of your memorial of Mr. William A. Foster. The book has a special interest for me in view of the present position of affairs in the Dominion, which I am watching as closely as I am able at such a distance.

"I am yours very truly,
"(Sd.) LANSDOWNE.

"HENRY J. MORGAN, Esq., Ottawa."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Barrie, J. M. A Window in Thrums. \$1.50. New York: Cassell Pub. Co.; Toronto: Hart & Co.

Barrie, J. M. My Lady Nicotine. \$1.50. New York: Cassell Pub. Co.; Toronto: Hart & Co.

Smith, Goldwin, D.C.L. Canada and the Canadian Question. London: Macmillan & Co.; Toronto: Rose Pub. Co.

THE largest clock in the world is the great Parliament House clock, and is usually called the Westminster clock. The dials are 22.2 feet in diameter. The depth of the well for the weights is 174 feet. Weight of the minute hand, 2 cwt.; length, 14 feet. Glass used in dials, 24 tons. The large bell is heard ten miles off; the small ones four to five.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

APRIL.

PALE season, watcher in unvexed suspense,
Still priestess of the patient middle day,
Betwixt wild March's humoured pestilence
And the warm wooing of green-kirtled May,
Maid month of sunny peace and sober grey,
Weaver of flowers in sunward glades that ring
With murmur of libation to the spring.

As memory of pain all past is peace,
And joy, dream-tasted, hath the deeper cheer.
So art thou sweetest of all months that lease
The twelve short spaces of the flying year.
The bloomless days are dead, and frozen fear
No more for many moons shall vex the earth,
Dreaming of summer and fruit-laden mirth.

The grey song-sparrows, full of spring, have sung
Their clear thin silvery tunes in leafless trees.
The robin hops and whistles, and among
The silver tasselled poplars, the brown bees
Murmur faint dreams of summer harvestries.
The creamy sun at even scatters down
A gold green mist across the murmuring town.

By the slow streams the frogs all day and night
Dream without thought of pain or heed of ill,
Watching the warm long hours take flight,
And ever with soft throats that pulse and thrill
From the pale weeded shallow trill and trill,
Tremulous sweet-voices, flute-like, answering
One to another glorying in the spring.

All day across the ever-cloven soil
Strong horses labour, steaming in the sun,
Down the long furrows with slow straining toil,
Turning the brown clean layers; and one by one
The crows gloom over them, till daylight done
Sends them asleep somewhere in dusky lines
Beyond the wheat-lands in the northern pines.

The old year's cloaking of brown leaves that bind
The forest floorways, plated close and true,
The last love's labour of the wearing wind,
Is broken with curled flower buds, white and blue,
In all the matted hollows, and speared through
With thousand serpent-spotted blades upsprung.
Yet bloomless, of the slender adder-tongue.

In the warm noon the south wind creeps and cools,
Where the red-budded stems of maples throw
Still tangled etchings on the amber pools,
Quite silent now, forgetful of the slow
Drip of the taps, the troughs, and trampled snow,
The keen March mornings and the silvering rime,
And mirthful labour of the sugar prime.

Ah, I have wandered with unwearied feet
All the long sweetness of an April day,
Lulled with cold murmurs and the drowsy heat
Of partridge wings in secret thickets grey,
The marriage hymns of all the birds at play.
The faces of sweet flowers, and easeful dreams
Beside slow reaches of frog-haunted streams;
Wandered with happy feet, and quite forgot
The shallow toil, the strife against the grain,
Near souls that hear us call, but answer not,—
The weariness, perplexity, and pain,
And high thoughts cantered with an earthly stain;
And now the long draught emptied to the lees,
I turn me homeward in slow-pacing ease.

Cleaving the cedar shadows and the thin
Mist of grey gnats, that cloud the river shore,
Sweet even choruses, that dance and spin
Soft tangles in the sunset, and once more
The city smites me with its dissonant roar;
To its hot heart I pass, untroubled yet,
Fed with calm hope without desire or fret.

So as to the year's first altar step I bring
Gifts of meek song, and make my spirit free
With the blind working of unanxious spring,
Careless with her whether the days that flee
Pale drouth or golden-fruited plenty see,
So that we toil, brothers, without distress
In calm-eyed peace and god-like blamelessness.

—From "Among The Millet," by Archibald Lampman.

BABOO ENGLISH AS 'TIS WRIT.

THE humours of editors who cannot collect their subscriptions, and who threaten to pillory defaulters in the next issue, and of papers which fail to appear because the editor wants "to take time to refresh his vigour," or because the staff is drunk, or the type cases upset, next receive attention. Then we come to the advertisements, mostly of quack medicines, in which the faith of the average Hindu is unlimited. There is one benefactor of his species who ought not to be allowed to hide his light under an Oriental bushel. "By the grace of Almighty Creator," he says, "I can cure any disease whatever without medicine and acceptance of any fee. The external disease can be cured within few minutes, and internal ones, of course, require one day per year." The value of testimonials is well understood. "This is to certify," says a grateful patient, "Mr. Joowaladutt Debidut he got