

WALL PAPER AND DECORATIONS—Cont'd.

yellow becoming orange or green, blue becoming green or violet.

"The harshness of color combinations may be made agreeable by a little judgment, for instance, put white between blue and red and the colors will be purer, and a good effect produced.

"Colors on grounds Celadon green, the tint of a duck's egg-shell, is a capital ground, and harmonizes well with soft, delicate shades and tints. For contrasts, the following list will give every satisfaction.

Black and warm brown.
Violet and pale green.
Violet and light rose.
Deep blue and golden brown.
Chocolate and bright blue.
Maroon and warm green.
Deep blue and pink.
Chocolate and pea green.
Maroon and deep blue.
Claret and buff.
Black and warm green, etc.

"Colors which are found difficult to harmonize may, with the aid of one thread of black or white between, afford a combination of great delicacy and beauty."

A GOOD IDEA OF STAUNTON'S.

Not every wall paper dealer is fortunate enough to be able to meet the various requirements of the different customers whose tastes he is called upon to cater to from day to day. As a solution of the difficulty which so often presents itself he has only to drop a card to M. Staunton & Co., Toronto, and the return mail will see him provided with samples, from which it will be an easy matter to make a selection pleasing to the buyer and gratifying to the seller, and which will insure further and extended dealings between the two.

When writing for samples state particularly the price limit and what apartment is to be papered.

To be of assistance to their customers in special jobs, M. Staunton & Co. have made up a supply of their most popular papers in ingrain, gilt, embossed, tapestries, etc., in the higher-priced lines.

M. Staunton & Co. will take pleasure in forwarding samples on request.

NEW BOOK REVIEWED.

THE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD—By Harold E. Gorst, cloth, 332 pp., 2s. 6d., Blackie & Son, London; Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. There has been no biography of Disraeli issued since Froude's, over ten years ago, and the want of a favorable and condensed review of the dead statesman's career has been felt. This volume—one of the

Victorian Era series—is a favorable review of the whole of Lord Beaconsfield's wonderful life, from the day when he, the son of a Jewish scholar recluse, began to study law in London, until his death as ex Prime Minister in 1881. It will be very acceptable to all admirers of Disraeli, the founder of modern Imperialism, while it is not conceived in a hostile spirit to the Liberal party. Mr. Gorst's father is a member of Lord Salisbury's Administration.

PLAYING CARDS.

IN the social life of the eighteenth century nothing is more curious than the extraordinary infatuation displayed by all classes of society for cards; and it may be said with certainty that at no other period have so many women made them the one engrossing occupation of their lives. The long hours which they constantly spend at the card-table now seems well nigh incredible. A Mr. Prynne, in a volume of reminiscences, says: "My mother went annually on a visit to a lady in Nottingham. On one of two occasions there were six ladies of the party, and for three days she played at quadrille, commencing after breakfast, without ceasing. Four were occupied with the card-table and two were at liberty; but they took turns to go in as the others came out."

In all the social functions of the day cards reigned supreme. Conversation was sometimes entirely tabooed, and even refreshments were not always provided, cards by themselves being considered a sufficient entertainment.

Together, no doubt, with much innocent card-playing, an immense amount of gambling went on, and this passion for gambling was as common among women as among men. Lady Elizabeth Stuart, who died at the age of 83, only a year before her death lost \$2,350 in one night at cards. A writer in *The Annual Register* for 1766 states that a lady a week before had lost \$15,000 at a sitting.

To the forthcoming volume of Alexander McLachlan's poems, Rev. Dr. Dewar has contributed an introduction, and Dr. Alex. Hamilton—a nephew of the poet—a biographical sketch. Dr. Hamilton also has written a most interesting series of notes on the text. A glossary of Scottish words is being prepared by Mr. David Boyle. An index of the first lines will be a helpful feature of the book, which is bound to be a favorite on Canadian bookshelves. Two portraits of Mr. McLachlan (one of which is shown herewith), and views of his farm residence in Amaranth township, sketched by Arthur Cox, A.R.C.A., will embellish the volume.

The old Norris mills, in St. Catharines, have become the property of a \$100,000 syndicate, headed by L. P. Snyder, who was secretary treasurer of The Imperial Paper Co., of Sturgeon Falls. The price paid for the property is \$21,000. The place will be used as a paper mill, for the manufacture of book and high grade writing papers.

The first Canadian edition of FitzPatrick's "The Transvaal From Within," sold out within a few days of issue. A second edition is on the press and about ready. To this has been added an introduction by the author, dealing with the causes leading up to the present war, particularly the ambition of the Boer leaders to establish a united Dutch South-African confederacy.

An interesting experiment in publishing is to be made with a new novel by Sir Walter Besant. This is his story of East and West in London life, "The Alabaster Box," which has been appearing serially in one of the magazines. Mr. Burleigh, following the continental method with fiction, is to publish it right away at the easy price of half-a-crown. The volume runs to over 250 pages; it will be bound in cloth, not paper as in France.

Another volume in Messrs. Kegan, Paul's British Empire Series is just coming out. It deals with British America, meaning the Dominion of Canada, Newfoundland, the West Indies, and our possessions in Central and South America. Mr. J. G. Colmer, of the Canadian office, London, writes an introduction, wherein he draws a picture of the Dominion as a whole. Then there are Canadian articles by, among others, Lord Strathcona and Sir John Bourinot. The contributors to the other sections of the work include Mrs. Ernest Hart and Dr. Emil Reich. The British Empire Series originated from a course of lectures on Greater Britain delivered at the South-place Institute.

The export book trade to India, in common with the book trade in England, says a correspondent, has suffered from the war. So an authority on this matter tells us, and he explains just what has happened. Many officers have been drawn away from India, so disturbing the reading community there. Then the general excitement and unrest attending the anxious waiting upon war news, has been as keen in Anglo-India as here. The demand for literature by subscribers to the many book clubs scattered over India has thus gone slack, with a necessary effect upon the call for new works from England. It is interesting to know that the Parses are large readers of English literature.