

has many things in her favor, and, unless spoiled by the graces taught in the schools, will yet excel Mrs. Siddons, not only as a reader, but also as a pleasure-giving performer.

ONE of the great wants of our day is a man to write selections suitable for public reading. What a chestnut the average professional's programme is! Graduates of certain schools of elocution and pupils of certain teachers are easily known by their choice of selections. Who, that is interested in this subject, has not been bored with time-honored selections, repeated in the same hall by pupils of the same school. Years ago we got "Brutus" and "Mark Antony," with an occasional "Spartacus" or "Rienzi." Then came "The Curfew," "The Creed of the Bells," "The Last Hymn," "The Maniac," etc. These are still served up if the bill of fare is meagre, and some people seem to relish them notwithstanding their mustiness. Now-a-days we get a few of the old-timers, and are certain of a tune on "Rubenstein's Piano." This crazy old yarn has been told so often that a good many Toronto people could wish that the celebrated pianist had never known the difference between a piano and a straw-cutter. "Ruby" is the Philadelphia trademark. Their sample orators are nearly all stamped with it. This parrot-like drill on certain selections has been the ruination of many students of elocution.

DR. SEXTON is doing Canada again. The country papers contain notices of his brilliant oratorical feats and his great victories over one-eyed infidels. The doctor is so well known in the large cities, especially in Toronto, that ministers and churches give him a wide berth. He came here from England several years ago with a loud flourish of trumpets as the great defender of truth, and, Goliath-like, defied the mightiest men in the ranks of the enemy. He knocked out Spencer, Huxley, Darwin, Stuart Mill, one by one, to the astonishment of the gaping crowd and the amusement or disgust of those who knew anything about science and philosophy. But knocking down men of straw soon became a tame show, and the doctor now seeks applause and lucre in the country villages and cross-roads. His new wrinkle is a public debate with Charles Watts, a would-be agnostic. An alleged theologico-scientist of uncertain ability and orthodoxy, and an alleged infidel of the wind-bag stripe, disputing about a subject which neither of them understands, should be nearly as entertaining as a good dog-fight in a backyard. The interest of orthodox theology would be advanced were Dr. Sexton boxed up with all his degrees and titles and medals and all his "eloquent and brilliant lectures" and shipped back to England, all expenses paid by the shippers. Canada has done her share in supporting him.