

drawing its annual income of \$400 from the Government, bearing the name of the Montreal Historical Society, so that in 1866 the members assumed the name of "Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal," and, in 1870, an Act of Incorporation was obtained. In 1869, Mr. Alfred Sandham, the then Secretary of the Association, collated the information already obtained by the Society, and published a very creditable history of "Coins, Tokens and Medals of the Dominion of Canada," with a supplement, issued in 1872. This work certainly astonished the people of Canada, as to their medallic history. Many of the pieces there mentioned and illustrated in fac-simile, though struck for circulation in Canada, were hitherto unknown, and though existing in the cabinets of collectors, were of such undeniable rarity that many of them were not to be found in the country at all, and have only since been obtained by Canadian collectors at what would be considered fabulous prices, and yet all of them had some historical reference, or, more properly speaking, local significance. In this category the present minutes show several Canadian pieces, that are said to be almost unique specimens, and from time to time many such have been exhibited, or descriptions given of them. Perhaps the most interesting of these has been the recent discovery of a small silver coin, issued by LOUIS XIV. in 1670, equal in size and value to our current five-cent piece, but which is not quite so common, as only six or seven specimens of the piece are known to this Society, or indeed recorded as existing. This has led to a knowledge of a prior issue of French-Canadian coins, viz., in 1658, not one specimen of which can now be found. This is much to be regretted, for as well as we have sceptics doubting the very existence of such men as NAPOLEON and WELLINGTON, we will soon have many who will question whether Canada ever formed part of the French dominions; but so long as we have such records of it as the actual coins then used, we can treat with contempt and pity all remarks having such little affinity to rationalism. Documents, parchments, paintings, all can be fabricated and doubted, but a "coin and medal" will bear the test of the keenest scrutiny; for in every forgery thus far of them, there is an indescribable something which at once arrests the eye, and detects the spurious from the genuine, which a numismatist can at once define. We shall take an early opportunity of presenting a page of fac-simile specimens of the more valuable and interesting Canadian coins and medals, and will therefore curtail our remarks relating to them at present. In addition to this work, compiled by Mr. SANDHAM, through the medium of the Society, he was enabled to gather the materials for his "History of Montreal—past and present," "Prince of Wales Medals," "Fortifications of Montreal," &c., and the Society has since published quarterly "The Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal," which is now in its sixth year. Altogether, the Society has been the means of preserving to Canada not a few items of general historical interest, which would have been entirely forgotten were it not for the researches of these gentlemen.

The Society has held under its auspices several lectures on instructive subjects, which were free to the public, and crowned its efforts in this year by an exhibition of books, which would have done honour to many an older nation, and, in fact, compares most favourably in its every detail with the one held in London, celebrating the same event.

Under its present officers we are sure this Society is destined to a long and useful career; its membership has been much increased during the present year; but as we should like to see the Society enabled by its own resources to continue the many public benefits it has already granted, and which we know from the heartiness with which its members carry through all their undertakings, they would

multiply in the future, were they in a position to do so, we would suggest that they should open a class of membership as associates, which, being open to all comers at a nominal sum, would place the Society in funds to meet the cost of such public entertainments as they may desire to hold.

We are presumptuous enough to express our doubts of the utility of party picnics, either as reliable signs of wholesome political instruction. There are followers enough of both parties in almost every county of Canada to mount a celebration in honour of their respective chiefs, and the accessories which may make one demonstration appear more effective than another, are largely due to the weather and to the managerial skill which can devise attractions for neutral sight-seers, especially females. As to the average of the picnic speeches—we trace, of course, a wide margin of reserve—they are neither creditable to the men who utter them, nor at all complimentary to the intelligence of the listeners. And the remark applies to the very highest men in both parties. One or two extra-Parliamentary discourses, according to English practice, exhaustive in argument and complete in narrative information, would be worthy of our principal public men, and would serve the purposes of each better than any other mode of public appeal. We apprehend that the single pamphlet of Senator MACPHERSON has done more to injure the Government, on the one hand, and the single Teeswater speech of Mr. BLAKE more to retrieve it, on the other, than all the picnic harangues that have beaten the patient air during the whole summer.

THERE appears to be a needless tempest of controversy in the French press, respecting certain words of Hon. Mr. CHAPLEAU, lately spoken at St. Lin. The Provincial Secretary is reported to have said that the Government, of which he forms a distinguished part, is a Government of progress, but not of party, and he thereupon advocated a union of all French Canadians. When he called the present Provincial Administration a Government of progress, he affirmed what his political friends are, of course, disposed to endorse, but when he denominated it an unpartisan Government, he evidently wished to be understood in a Pickwickian sense. It is, it has been, and it will be a Government of party, as all institutions of the kind have ever been in Canada, where it would seem that the chief merit of a Government, and its principal pillar of support, is strict partisanship. There is no country in the world, except, notably, the United States, where party rules so exclusively and so mercilessly as in Canada. With regard to the union of his countrymen, Mr. CHAPLEAU spoke words of wisdom which ought to be heeded, especially in purely Provincial matters; but we have no hope whatever that they will prove other than "a voice and nothing more."

HAVING had opportunity for a hasty glance at Sir JULIUS VOVEL's ideas of Imperial Confederation, as given in an article that has been republished in the *Canadian Monthly*, we may say that we believe it to be the nearest approach which has yet been made to a hypothetical solution of a by no means simple problem. So soon as the Empire generally might feel itself bound to take advanced measures for insuring the health and safety of its citizens—without distinction of rank or class, although with due attention to all particular claims—the way to the desired consummation will have been greatly cleared, and the general future of the great Confederacy made far more hopeful. We can see no political economy in the destruction of life and property that is constantly going on from preventable causes, and while admitting that some

beginning has been made in the work, there does not seem as yet to be an amount of progress that can be greatly boasted of.

PETITIONS favouring the abolition of the United States Presidency and the reorganization of the administration to a Council of State, are receiving signatures in sixty-four cities in the Union. This is more significant than may, at first sight, appear. It is an attack on the centralization which has been creeping into the governmental machinery since the war. The late railway strikes, however, and the impending invasion of tramps, seem to show that more than ever a strong central power is required in the United States, with a large standing army which shall fill the functions of the constabulary and *gendarmerie* of the old countries.

IN obedience to our tastes, and to the known habits of this journal, we have avoided referring editorially to Mr. CAUCHON so long as he was a member of the Administration. But now that, according to seemingly authentic rumor, he is about to leave the Cabinet for a Lieutenant-Governorship, we feel it our duty to put the following question, to which we should like to have an answer: If Mr. CAUCHON is judged unfit to be Minister, by the same token he is unfit to be Lieutenant-Governor, and if he is forced from the Cabinet by public opinion, how can he be thrust upon a Province where public opinion is no less against him? This is not a question of politics, but of public morality.

REVIEW AND CRITICISM.

The October number of *Belford's Magazine* is out in good time, as it should be, and presents more than usual interest from the excellence and variety of its contents. The illustrated article "Up the Thames," of which the second paper is given, contains in brief a mass of very useful and entertaining information. Dr. Holland's serial, "Nicholas Minturn," is closed, and has, we believe, already appeared in book form. There are as many as three poems from as many well-known Montreal pens. The magazine is now verging toward the close of its first year, and we are pleased to notice that it shows signs of progress and stability. All literary ventures of the kind should meet with encouragement from Canadians.

We have received the Collections of the Wisconsin Historical Society, replete with useful matter, chief among which is a translation of a very important historical paper on the pioneer of Wisconsin, Charles de Langlade, from the pen of Mr. Joseph Tassé, of Ottawa. This paper forms one of a series which Mr. Tassé has been writing, during the past ten years, on the famous Canadians who have done so much toward colonization in the great Western States, and which, we are happy to learn, he is about publishing in two volumes, under the title of "Les Canadiens de L'Ouest." We shall look forward to this work with much interest, and shall give it the notice which it deserves when it makes its appearance.

When the Americans have for so long been flooding our markets with their reprints of the popular productions of the day, it is some satisfaction to find that there is enterprise enough among some of our Canadian publishers to enter the same field and furnish us with cheap copies of these same works. This Belford Brothers, of Toronto, have begun to do in the republication of Ouida's complete works, three or four volumes of which have already appeared. Our Canadian editions are just as neat as the American, and they are sold as cheaply. They should therefore have at least an equal chance with the numerous class of readers in Canada who fancy this kind of literature.

We are by no means a partisan of the scepticism and the advanced opinions on religious matters which distinguish the *Fortnightly Review*, but in this age of freedom of thought and expression, we cannot help admiring the ability which the writers for this periodical evince. The September number of the Canadian edition, just issued by the Belfords, contains a rich series of papers, chief among which is "The Scepticism of Believers," by Leslie Stephen, and "Authentic Fallacies," by F. H. Hill. An article on Heine discusses his views of religion and politics. There is an exhaustive study of Chopin, who is at length becoming widely known, and Anthony Trollope has an interesting study of Cicero as a Man of Letters.

As a rule, there appears no need to publish sermons—any more, in fact, than any other mental production—unless they are of clear excellence or treat of some special subject of current interest. The sermons of Mr. Rainsford fulfil neither of these conditions, but inasmuch as they are intended as a memorial of the mission of an earnest and devoted young minister in Toronto and other parts of Ontario, they will

prove pleasing to his friends and admirers. Mr. Rainsford has no recourse to theological controversy, and no pretensions to literary distinction, but his aim is to go straight to the hearts of his hearers through the medium of exhortation and the citation of apt examples. His readers will be equally impressed with these qualities in perusing the present little volume.

We regard it as a boon that we have one man in Canada whose scientific discoveries and writings have given him both an American and European reputation, because his name alone does as much to keep the Dominion before a certain portion of the most elevated class, as the acts of any of our public men, in their different spheres. It is for this reason that we welcome the new work of Dr. Dawson on "The Origin of the World," just published in a very handsome volume by Dawson Brothers, of this city. The author informs us that the volume is based upon his "Archæia," which appeared in 1860, but a perusal of its pages has convinced us that it is substantially a new work, much fuller in illustration, much broader in argument, and brought down to the requirements of the great controversy as it stands in our day. The bulk of the book consists rather of theological and biblical research than of scientific reasoning, and therein precisely appears, in the clearest light, the advantage of having an author who, although a layman, is thoroughly conversant with the spiritual aspects of his subject, and, as a layman, thus acquiring an authority for moderation of views and impartiality of statement which no clergyman could lay claim to. If, on the one hand, it is a sorry spectacle that of a clergyman declaiming against the advance of modern sciences, while betraying his ignorance of these sciences at every step, it is gratifying, on the other, to have a scientific layman using his vast and unchallenged knowledge to prop up and defend the scriptural argument. These are the qualifications of Dr. Dawson for his task, and in this consists the charm of conviction with which we read his learned chapters. For while, as we have said, the Bible is kept primarily in view, the scientific complement of reasoning is constantly handled with an ease and steadiness denoting the master. The work of Dr. Dawson covers the whole ground of the origin of nature, and we apprehend that the book, or perhaps an abridgment of it, should be used in all academies as the most simple and comprehensive treatise of cosmogony which our young men could study. The ordination of the material is admirable. The author treats first of the mystery of origins in general, and of the objects to be attained by a revelation of origins. He then enters upon a graduated study of the creation—The Beginning—The Descent—The Light of Creative Days—The Atmosphere—The Day Land and the First Plants—The Luminaries—The Lower Animals—The Higher Animals and Man—The Rest of the Creator. Two chapters are consecrated to the Unity and Antiquity of Man, which go, of course, to the very heart of the controversy, and the concluding chapter contains a splendid parallelism of Genesis and Physical Science. In the Appendices, the geologist comes more prominently to the front, and, for us, these eleven articles are the best part of the book, because they are the most scientific. Others, of course, may prefer the quasi-historical chapters which form the substance of the volume. In the Appendices, the whole theory of evolution is sharply outlined, and its principal deductions are clearly discussed. We have always thought that evolution could never stand the purely metaphysical test, quite outside of natural science, and our belief still is that if the philosophy of the old schoolmen were studied and understood in our colleges, as it is not, the pretensions of Darwin and his colleagues would long since have been exploded. But Dr. Dawson shows us that even on scientific grounds the new theories of Life and Creation can be successfully combated. To comprehend the whole vast subject, and to obtain correct notions about it, the student need not travel beyond Dr. Dawson's work, and for that reason we warmly recommend it to all persons who wish to keep abreast of the thoughts of the day.

We are glad again to see upon our table *The Winter's Miscellany*, of St. John, N.B., enlarged in size, as it seems to us, and certainly more than ever furnished with interesting matter for members of the craft. The *Miscellany* is a Canadian enterprise, and thereby excites our sympathies. It has entered upon the first number of its second volume, and we trust it may go on increasing in prosperity and usefulness.

ARTISTIC.

GUSTAVE DORE will illustrate the great English poets, commencing with Shakespeare.

Appropos of the stolen Gainsborough, to which the evidence at Bow Street has again attracted attention, it is said that the London police have new fresh hopes of being able to recover the picture.

M. GAMBETTA, we hear, gave a fitting M. Legros the other day. The portrait, no doubt, will in all probability be issued before long with the usual number of impressions habitual with work that is destined to be rare.

The last photograph of Thiers was taken by an enterprising artist who ambuscaded him as he was enjoying his morning walk. With great good nature the old statesman stood still, and gave the artist a chance to take him as he stood leaning against a railing with a stout cane in his hand and wearing his traditional black coat buttoned to the throat and a straw hat.

The models employed for the picture which Mr. Holman Hunt has in hand at Jerusalem took it into their heads that they suffered from effects of the "evil eye," and, pending recovery, declined to sit again. A new set of models has been engaged, and so the work goes on without much delay. Mr. Hunt has suffered from attacks of fever. These incidents have delayed his return to England for a few weeks.