

been the occasion would have been less voluminous and more useful. Mill's greatest single work is by common consent his *Principles of Political Economy*. Like Smith's *Wealth of Nations* it is an epoch-making book in the history of the science of which it treats. Between Smith and Mill come Malthus and Ricardo, each of whom made important contributions to Political Economy, the former by his suggestion of the celebrated law of population, the latter by his formulation of the equally celebrated law of rent. But neither Malthus nor Ricardo can rank with either Smith or Mill as a writer of a great work, and neither of them is honoured by a place amongst authors of text-books on economic science. Mill's *Political Economy* is the last great treatise on the whole subject, and it is likely to remain so. Since 1848 the widening of its scope, to which he gave the impulse by his mode of treatment, has gone on with even increasing rapidity, so that the fashion of recent times is the production of manuals and monographs, the former degenerating into summary, and the latter into partial expositions. Many writers have since Mill's work appeared thrown new and useful light on aspects of economic science, but no one has produced, or is likely hereafter to produce, in a single treatise a view of the science at once novel and helpful. This is not the place for a discussion of either Mill's standpoint or his method. It is useless for any modern thinker or student to cling obstinately to the former or to follow blindly the latter. Mill himself would not have done so, in fact did not do so, and those who regard him as having settled for all time the principles of his science do injustice to the man and hinder the work to which he devoted so much of his time and thought. This much, however, may safely be said: when one thinks of the ability, the candour, the learning, and the patience which Mill brought to the study of his subject, he is not likely to give much heed to the flippant criticisms that have become so common of late, especially in the mouths and from the pens of those who delight in calling themselves the disciples of Henry George. Mr. George himself is more respectful, but he is to some extent responsible for the pragmatic conceit with which his writings have inoculated a band of very partially educated enthusiasts who have never read any but his. It cannot be safely assumed that Henry George, any more than John Stuart Mill, has written the last word on economic science, or that Smith, Malthus, Ricardo, Mill and Senior wandered far astray in their search for truth, while George has found it pure and whole for the picking up. Henry George has, like the others, contributed to the body of opinion which future ages will recognize as truth, but his contribution has not been as great in amount or as valuable in scientific character as those of Smith, Ricardo or Mill. Passing over Mill's valuable treatises on various branches of philosophy and sociology, we come to one of the most interesting aspects of this very interesting man. His father, James Mill, took the utmost possible care that his son should grow up without any religious prejudices. In early life John Stuart Mill was the intimate of men and women who were extreme rationalists and radicals, in religion as well as in politics, but he gradually drifted away so far from their point of view that most of them came to look upon him as an apostate. Not till the posthumous publication of his *Autobiography*, and of his *Essays on Religion*, was the world made aware of the true state of his mind on religious subjects, and on this point Mr. Courtney has done him as much justice as limited space would permit. The following sentences from his essay on *Theism*, must have been quite as startling to his orthodox opponents as to his heterodox friends:—"Whatever else may be taken away from us by rational criticism, Christ is still left; a unique figure not more unlike all His precursors than all His followers, even those who had the direct benefit of His personal teaching. It is of no use to say that Christ, as exhibited in the Gospels, is not historical, and that we know not how much of what is admirable has been superadded by the tradition of His followers. The tradition of followers suffices to insert any number of marvels, but who among His disciples or among their proselytes was capable of inventing the sayings ascribed to Jesus, or of imagining the life and character revealed in the Gospels?" We take leave of Mr. Courtney's interesting monograph with a reference to Mr. Mill's plea for the Canadian "rebels" of 1837. This is contained in an article on "Lord Durham and the Canadians," contributed to the *Westminster Review* for 1838. Without endorsing all that he says about the causes of the rebellion and of the policy that should be adopted towards the then subdued provinces it is highly interesting to read in the light of recent history such an appeal as the following: "To the people thus calumniated it will now be for Lord Durham to do justice. He has the power. A more enviable position than he now enjoys, if his soul is on a level with his opportunities, has been filled by no statesman of our era. The whole institutions of two great provinces are before him. Canada is a *tabula rasa* upon which it rests with him to inscribe what characters he pleases. The immediate pacification of the colony depends upon him alone; the institutions by which it is to be hereafter governed, upon Parliament, guided almost implicitly by his advice. . . . We entreat Lord Durham, as he values the successful issues of the solemn trust he has undertaken, and as he values also that high reputation to which the applause of all parties on his nomination is so glorious a tribute, and those prospects of a brilliant career as a British statesman, which he will most assuredly either make or mar by his conduct in this emergency; by all these considerations we entreat him so to act upon his declared resolution of knowing no distinctions of opinion, party, or race, as to provide, if

provision be needful, for the interests of a minority—not by putting them over the heads of the majority—but either by the rigid exercise of the veto of the mother country, or, if that will not content them, by separating the two races and giving to each of them a legislature apart." It is no less interesting to notice that in the same article Mr. Mill, adopting a suggestion thrown out by Mr. Roebuck, describes by anticipation in a single sentence our present federal constitution. "The principle of separating the internal legislation and administration of each colony from the control of the interests common to the different colonies has received the sanction of the highest authorities on both sides." He elsewhere applies the term "federal" to such a system as he here describes.

THE "Portrait of a Lawyer"—of an olden type—is the frontispiece of the *English Illustrated Magazine* for February. The illustrated articles are "Moated Houses" by W. W. Fenn, and "Dordt" by Reginald T. Bloomfield, M.A. "Coridon's Song" from Walton's *Complete Angler* is also reproduced with excellent illustrations. Mr. H. D. Trail in his "Et Cetera" treats of many interesting subjects.

Outing, which comes to us with annoying irregularity, has in its February number many excellent descriptive articles. Among those not embellished with illustrations is one entitled "On a Canadian farm in midwinter," by W. Blackburn Harte. The title of this sketch is misleading and does injustice to Canada and to Canadian farmers. The typical Canadian farm is not such as Mr. Harte describes, yet that is the impression he apparently wishes to leave on the reader's mind.

REV. DR. SCADDING, who has already done so much to preserve the local and literary memorials of early Canadian history has recently reprinted the *Journal written by Edward Baker Littlehales*. Major Littlehales, afterwards Sir. Edward Baker Littlehales, was secretary of Lieut.-Gov. Simcoe and tells in this *Journal* of "an exploratory tour, partly in sleighs, but chiefly on foot, from Navy Hall, Niagara, to Detroit, made in the months of February and March, A.D. 1793, by His Excellency Lieut.-Gov. Simcoe;" and Dr. Scadding's object is to commend to the Ontario Government and the public the desirableness of placing in front of the new parliament buildings, now in course of erection in the Queen's Park, a statue of that Governor, who was the founder and organizer of the Province of Upper Canada, now the Province of Ontario. The *Journal* was first printed in the *Canadian Literary Journal* published here in 1883, by John Kent.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

John Ward, Preacher, has reached its twenty-second thousand.

A PORTRAIT of Wilkie Collins will be the frontispiece to the February *Book Buyer*. A description of how the novelist writes his stories in his own words will also be given.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH will review Mr. Bryce's *American Commonwealth* in *Macmillan's Magazine*.

THE following English authors who died during the past year were possessed of personal estates of the sums named: Bonamy Price, \$58,500; Leone Levi, \$44,000; J. Cotter Morrison, \$30,000; Matthew Arnold, \$5,200.

PROF. T. F. MAHAFFY, of Trinity College, Dublin, author of *A Manual of Greek Literature*, *The Art of Conversation*, etc., will visit the United States the coming summer as the guest of the Chautauqua Assembly. He will pass two weeks in August at Chautauqua delivering a course of lectures. He may possibly also lecture at other places.

E. S. WERNER, editor and proprietor of *The Voice*, a journal of expression, has changed its name to *Werner's Voice Magazine*, in order to avoid confusion resulting from the organ of the Prohibitionists having the same name.

The Life of Charles Kingsley will be written by Cosmo Monkhouse for the *Great Writers* series. The volume next to be published in this series is the *Life of Schiller* (W. J. Gage & Co., Toronto).

THE REV. CUTHBERT SOUTHEY, who died recently at Askham, near Penrith, was the last surviving son of the poet. He was the author of a *Life* of his father, which, with correspondence, runs to six volumes.

JAMES THOMSON, who died at Hawick, Scotland, recently, was a native of Bowden, in Roxburghshire, but had passed the last thirty years of his life in the border burgh. He was pre-eminently the border poet of his time, and the two volumes of verse which he published have had a ready sale. Mr. Thomson was in his sixty-first year, and, like Scotia's immortal bard, was one of the people.

ALTHOUGH the privilege of reprinting in book form the series of papers on *Authors at Home*, which appeared in *The Critic*, was requested by a number of publishing houses, it was the fortune of Cassell & Co. to secure it. These articles are not mere gossiping sketches. While they are bright and interesting they have the advantage of authorization as to facts of biography, as each author selected the person to write of him, or gave his approval where the selection was made by the editors. Messrs. Cassell & Co. wish to call attention to the fact that they intend to issue three editions of this book, a thing unusual in the book trade. The first will be a regular library edition at \$1.50, while the other two will be "limited" to one hundred copies each. One of these will be an *édition*

de luxe, on heavy paper with generous margin and handsomely bound, while the other will be on large paper especially prepared for "extra illustrating."

MESSRS. T. Y. CROWELL & Co. have in preparation for the use of schools an abridged translation of Duruy's *Histoire de France*, under the charge of Prof. J. F. Jamieson of Brown University.

CARDINAL MANNING's silver jubilee, although it should not come off till 1890, will be celebrated this year. It is to take the form of freeing from debt his pro-cathedral at Kensington. The encumbrance amounts to \$55,000.

"CARMEN SYLVA," Queen of Roumania, is engaged in translating into English and German blank-verse an assortment of Roumanian folk-songs. One of her Maids of Honour collected these songs among the villages of the country. The book will appear in Europe very soon.

SCRIBNER & WELFORD have already sold over 10,000 copies of Prof. Drummond's *Tropical Africa*, a work which has repeated the success of his *Natural Law in the Spiritual World*.

The Eggs of North American Birds, by C. J. Maynard, will be published in a few days by Cupples & Hurd.

LADY BRASSEY's posthumous work has just appeared in England. An introduction is furnished by her husband. Longmans, Green & Co. announce the book.

THE *Open Court* Publishing Co., of Chicago, announce a work from the pen of the French scientist, Alfred Binet, entitled *The Psychic Life of Micro-organisms*.

MACMILLAN & Co. will issue at once F. Marion Crawford's *Greifenstein*, and A. R. Wallace's treatise on *Darwinism*, a systematic exposition of the theory of natural selection, with some of its applications.

A NEW *History of Mathematics* by Mr. W. W. Rouse Bell, recently published by Macmillan & Co., gives in its opening chapter some account of the oldest treatise on mathematics that is known. This was the work of an Egyptian priest named Ahmes, and dates somewhere between the years 1700 B. C. and 1100 B. C. This places the work at least 500 years before Thales, the first Greek mathematician. Besides its ancient date, Ahmes's production is interesting in other ways. A part of the algebraic notation employed was as follows: "The unknown quantity is represented by a symbol which means a heap; addition is represented by a pair of legs walking forwards; subtraction by a pair of legs walking backwards, or by a flight of arrows." Our own *plus* and *minus* signs first appeared in *Widman's Arithmetic*, published at Leipzig, in 1489.

CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC ITEMS.—At the Conservatory of Music, corner of Yonge Street and Wilton Avenue, the following interesting "coming events" are bulletined: Thursday evening next a lecture on "The Basis of a Musical Education," by Mr. S. H. Preston, and a course of lectures on "Acoustics," by Professor London, at University College. Saturday afternoon, the 9th inst., a "Matinee Musicale," and on the following Saturday a "quarterly" concert at the Horticultural Pavilion. Mr. J. W. F. Harrison is also to deliver two lectures shortly, one on the "Evolution of Instrumental Music," and another on the "Growth and Development of Vocal Music." These are all free to Conservatory pupils.

NORTH AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.—The annual meeting of the North American Life Insurance Company held on the 29th ult., at its Head Office in this city, was interesting to those who were present, and the report of it, which appears elsewhere, must be gratifying to the large and increasing number of people who are materially interested in the Company's business and management. The Directors' report shows that the business of the Company is increasing, that its resources are carefully husbanded and its assets safely invested. The speech of the President, Hon. Alex. Mackenzie, was not only an able exposition of sound systems of life insurance, but was so charged with hopeful augury for the future of Canada that many will read it with a pleasure and gratitude which speeches at business meetings seldom evoke. The Vice-President, Hon. Alex. Morris, spoke with suggestiveness and that practical good sense that characterizes him. These speeches are worth perusing and pondering, and we commend them to our readers. From them and the Managing Director's Financial statement we gather these material facts: the new business of the year amounted to \$2,464,500, the premium income to \$244,038.31, and the Reserve Fund has now reached the sum of \$542,694.32.

CANADA PERMANENT LOAN AND SAVINGS COMPANY.—Mr. Edward Hooper, who has attained the advanced age of eighty years, has thought it advisable in his own interests, as well as in the interests of the company, to resign the position of president, which he has occupied for the past five years. Mr. Hooper will continue to discharge many of the duties which he has hitherto performed as president of the company in the position of vice-president, which Mr. Samuel Nordheimer, who is one of the largest shareholders of the company, courteously resigns in order to its being filled by Mr. Hooper. The directors have unanimously elected Mr. J. Herbert Mason, who has been the manager of the company from its inception, to the position of president. We understand that it is proposed to make such changes in and additions to the staff of the office as will relieve Mr. Mason from some of the minor duties, and strengthen the general management of the company. Alterations in the by-laws, with a view to the accomplishment of these objects, will be submitted to the shareholders of the company at the next annual meeting, on the 20th inst.