

excellent; his "Fra Diavolo" was much more conventional. The other principals had fair voices and moderately good training, both vocally and histrionically. Still their mediocrity was emphasized less of itself than by the excellence of their comrades.

THE ALBANI CONCERT.

MME. ALBANI-GYE long refused to acknowledge her Canadian origin, being annoyed by the lack of sympathy her maiden efforts met with in Montreal, but I fancy that the warmth of her reception in all the Canadian cities she has visited will have done much to reconcile her to her old home. She certainly had no cause to complain in Toronto, where her reception was of the warmest character, and where she will again appear on Monday evening. Unbounded applause was showered upon her, and many votive offerings of beautiful flowers were laid at her feet. Her voice has all the clear, liquid tone which was its charm of old, and if it has lost any of its beauty, it can only be that of ease of emission, and, perhaps, here and there a certain cloudiness of tone shows itself in her vocalization. This was most apparent in her *routades* and *cadenzas*. Still the great ease and certainty of all her florid singing was wonderful, especially in the ascending chromatic runs of the "Bird Song" from Handel's *Il Penseroso*. Her art in phrasing, shading and management of her voice was a treat such as we have not enjoyed here since Patti's visit, and not for many years before that. She has a great gift of retaining richness and resonance of tone, even in *pianissimo* passages, and every note still betrays the close and careful student. Her "Angels Ever Bright and Fair" and "Home, Sweet Home" delighted the audiences as all departures from Italian to the vernacular never fail to do. Her singing of "Ah! Fors'elui," and "Ombra Leggiera" and the "Elsa" scene were models of delivery and execution. Miss Damian, the contralto who supported her has a fine large voice, strong and brilliant in the chest register, and full and round in her upper notes, but her singing is somewhat marred by a jerky enunciation, which impairs the purity of tone. Both she and Mr. Barrington Foote show a certain reserve of delivery which makes their performance savour more of the cultivated amateur than of the seasoned professional. Her "Nobil Signor" from the *Huguenots* was her best effort, though, curiously enough, it was her other number that brought out a recall. Here again the love of our audiences for English singing manifested itself, as her second song was Cowen's "The Angel Came," and her encore song was "The Garden of Sleep." Mr. Foote possesses a noble baritone voice, so well trained and controlled that throughout its wide compass he sings with the utmost ease and freedom of delivery. All his selections, "Nazareth," "The Vicar of Bray," and the well-known German drinking song, were rendered extremely well, and he was certainly the favourite of the house among Mme. Albani's support. The tenor, Signor Massimi, was not so fortunate. He has a light voice, and his use of it often seemed strained and laboured, and though its compass was high and quite sufficient for his arias, his singing had an unpleasant appearance of effort. In Mr. Barrett, Mme. Albani had a most efficient support for the flute obligato in the "Bird song." He has a beautiful tone, and the greatest executive ease, and his "Romance and Tarantella" showed him to be a cultivated musician as well as a clever executant. Signor Bevnigani, one of the greatest conductors of Italian Opera in the world, played the accompaniments most excellently and contributed his share to one of the best concerts we have ever had in Toronto.

RHEA.

CHARMING Rhea has once again paid us a visit, short though it was, I was able to see her in Victorien Sardou's *Dangerous Game*, which, though played at her last visit, has lost none of its charm. Its alternations of bright comedy and almost tragic pathos, and its subtle dramatic situations were as striking and as engaging as ever. As the *ingenue* "Helene," Rhea finds a character so well adapted to her gifts and grace that those who have seen and heard her in this rôle must always think of her as "Helene," no matter what other plays she may have been heard in. This most charming, unsophisticated ebullition of nature possesses a strength not found in any of her other parts. There is no suspicion of Rhea in it; it is simply "Helene." She was ably supported by Mr. William Harris, whose crudities of manner and bearing soon lost their obtrusiveness in his intellectual power and the magnetism which he is richly endowed with. His "Baron de Trouville" was a fine, manly exposition of a jealous yet just husband. Miss Ida Waterman as the "Baroness de Trouville," displayed a strength of pathetic resource in the last act that was hardly to be expected from her rather conventional efforts in the earlier scenes. Mr. W. R. Owen, as "Henri Laverdier," was unsatisfactory and weak, and it was only his evident earnestness that saved him from being designated "a stick." The other members of the company filled their parts thoroughly well, and Mme. Rhea has good reason to congratulate herself on the general excellence of her support. *Much Ado About Nothing*, and the heart-rending "Adrienne Lecouvreur" were Rhea's other plays while in Toronto, and were received with equal favour.

B NATURAL.

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS.—The Canadian Literary Bureau, Authors' and Publishers' Agents reads manuscripts, revises and gives specific advice on all literary matter. Prospectus on application. Room 7, Romaine Buildings, King Street West.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

MR. RUSKIN is dangerously ill at Brentwood.

MR. COCKIN's volume of poems, *Gentleman Dick o' the Greys*, is dedicated to Mr. Goldwin Smith.

WILKIE COLLINS, so Mr. Labouchere cables from London, has nearly finished his new novel, *The Lord Harry*.

A TRANSLATION of *Through the Heart of Asia over the Pamir to India*, by Gabriel Bonvalot, with full-page engravings by Albert Pepin, will be issued very shortly by A. C. Armstrong & Son.

MR. ANDREW LANG is now engaged at St. Andrews, Edinburgh, on his biography of the late Lord Iddesleigh (Sir Stafford Northcote). He expects to get the book out this year.

MR. T. ARNOLD HAULTAIN, well known as a frequent contributor to THE WEEK, has been appointed Assistant Librarian at the Free Public Library. An excellent appointment.

"A LITTLE Journey in the World" is the title of Charles Dudley Warner's new serial to begin in the April number of *Harper's Magazine*.

CUPPLES & HURD, Boston, will soon begin to issue by subscription, *The Eggs of North American Birds*, by C. J. Maynard, with coloured plates drawn on stone by the author.

HENRY GEORGE's *Progress and Poverty*, and *Protection or Free Trade* have been translated into French.

A SERIES of papers on "The Art of Angling" will be published in *Scribner's* during the present year.

RUMOUR assigns to Sir Morell Mackenzie, to Mrs. Oliphant (in behalf of the Empress Frederick), to Sir Robert Morier, to Sir M. Grant Duff, to Lord Arthur Russell, and to Dr. Geffcken, as well as to others, the hostile article on "The Bismarck Dynasty," in the current *Contemporary Review*. The paper is being translated into various languages.

SCRIBNER & WELFORD are to bring out, within a few days, *Heraldry*, a profusely illustrated work by Charles Worthy—an epitome of English armory, showing how and by whom arms may be borne or acquired, and how pedigrees may be traced.

MACMILLAN & Co. will issue soon Part II. of Sir John Lubbock's *Pleasures of Life*; *General Gordon*, by Col. Sir William Butler (the first volume in the "English Men of Action" series); *Supernatural Religion*, by Bishop Lightfoot; the *Gifts for Ministry*, by Brooke Foss Westcott; *Reuben Sachs*, a study of Jewish life in London, by Amy Levy; and *The Bacteria in Asiatic Cholera*, by Dr. E. Klein.

A RECENT issue of the St. John (N.B.) *Progress* contains a reference to a forthcoming volume in terms following:—It is announced that Mr. Blackett Robinson, the well-known Toronto publisher; who, as proprietor of THE WEEK, has done so much for Canadian letters, will publish next month a volume of poems by Mr. H. K. Cockin. Mr. Cockin is editor of Toronto *Saturday Night*. His poems are of a popular character, easy in diction, full of swing and spirit, and concerned almost exclusively with human emotion and incident. From a knowledge of Mr. Cockin's work in the periodicals we are able to predict that his volume will appeal to a wide circle. Many of the poems are peculiarly adapted for public recitation.

THE regrets which are expressed so freely, and with so much sincerity, at the death of Mr. Laurence Oliphant are we think, well justified. Though he never did a great deal, or wrote a great book, or carried a great reform, he had a personality which accounted for the expectations that his friends never ceased to entertain. It was always on the cards during his earlier and middle life, that he might be a great explorer, a great diplomat, a great author, or the founder of a new and widely accepted creed. Exceptionally fearless by nature, accustomed from childhood to affairs, and an indefatigable traveller, Mr. Oliphant was possessed by a hungry curiosity which, as it was supported by adequate intelligence, made him, before reaching middle life, one of the best-informed Englishmen alive. He comprehended persons, too, readily, and this without experiencing difficulty from the obstacle of race—to many able men an insuperable obstacle,—and he exercised over inferiors a charm which, in the case of Orientals, often became an affectionate devotion. As he wrote well, talked well, and when in society was a man of society, familiar not only with the laws of that region, but its population, his gifts were recognized; and it is no wonder that he secured a multitude of friends, no one of whom could quite tell why he thought "Oliphant" so remarkable, yet no one of whom ever questioned that he was not quite like the rest.—*The Spectator*.

It appears from statements in the English papers that the Dutch Cocos, and the imitations of them, contain a considerable percentage of chemicals which are deleterious to health. They are introduced for the purpose of making the mixture more soluble and to give colour and apparent strength to the decoction. The use of chemicals can be readily detected by the peculiar odour from newly opened packages, and from a glass of water in which a small quantity of chemically treated cocoa has been placed and allowed to remain for several days. The Chocolate and Cocoa Preparations of Messrs. Walter Baker & Co. are absolutely pure and free from chemicals or other deleterious substances.

ENLARGED AND IMPROVED.

THE WEEK

Commences its SIXTH VOLUME with every prospect of a long and brilliant future.

PRESS OPINIONS IRRESPECTIVE OF PARTY.

A Thoroughly Home Enterprise.

Every Canadian must rejoice to see that a periodical so thoroughly a home enterprise as THE WEEK is, appears to be receiving that support which its past record and performances entitle it to ask. While it has been a good paper in the past, its enlargement makes it still more valuable, adding as it does very largely to the amount of matter each number contains, and it is to be hoped that THE WEEK will find such an appreciation of this fact from the people of Canada as will both justify this new evidence of the enterprise of its proprietors, and also disprove the statement that there is not sufficient patriotism in the Dominion to permit of even one Canadian periodical flourishing.—*Daily News-Advertiser, Vancouver*.

Will Rank with Similar Publications in the United States.

THE WEEK has entered on its sixth year in an enlarged and improved form. Editorially and typographically it is a credit to the higher type of Canadian Journalism and as such will rank with similar publications in the United States.—*Canadian Advance*.

Canada's Leading Literary Journal.

THE WEEK, Canada's leading literary journal, entered with its number for December 7th upon its sixth year of publication, enlarged so as to give its readers nearly one-half more reading matter each week than heretofore. Further improvements are foreshadowed in the future.—*Educational Journal*.

Has Become A Necessity.

There is no Canadian who will not rejoice at the evidences of increased prosperity which THE WEEK shows. This journal although it has not been so very long in existence has become a necessity to everyone wishing to keep himself in touch with the literary and political field of Canada. The paper is filled from cover to cover with the most interesting and important topics of the day written in the best manner.—*Bradford Telegram*.

It is an ably edited paper and neatly printed.—*York Herald*.

Commended to Thoughtful Readers.

THE WEEK is now one of the largest as well as one of the ablest literary journals published on the continent. We commend it to the attention of thoughtful readers.—*Huron News Record*.

The Best High Class Journal.

THE WEEK, the best high class literary journal of Canada, has entered its sixth year and been enlarged and improved.—*Durham Review*.

THE WEEK has entered on its sixth year greatly enlarged and improved, and its brilliant list of contributors added too, makes it by all odds the ablest literary and critical weekly journal in Canada. Its very successful publisher, Mr. C. Blackett Robinson, is one of the many Ontario County men who have made their mark at the provincial metropolis.—*Oshawa Vindicator*.

Long and Brilliant List of Writers.

THE WEEK signalizes its entry upon the sixth year of its existence by an enlargement to sixteen pages and other improvements, as well as adding to its long and brilliant list of writers, making it by far the ablest critical and literary journal in Canada.—*Port Perry Standard*.

A native of Ontario county, who has made a splendid success of the printing and publishing business in Toronto, is Mr. C. Blackett Robinson, from whose big establishment, amongst other fine periodicals, is issued THE WEEK, the ablest journal of its class in Canada.—*Pickering News*.

Belongs to the Higher Class of Canadian Journals.

THE WEEK, a Canadian journal of politics, literature, science and arts, published in Toronto, has entered on the sixth year of publication. It has been enlarged and improved in every respect. THE WEEK is a creditable publication in every respect. It belongs to the higher class of Canadian journals, and deserves general support.—*Woodstock Sentinel Review*.

Strong Corps of Able Writers.

THE WEEK has a strong corps of brilliant writers, whose treatment of the questions of the day are always worthy of attention.—*Pictou Times*.

Flattering Prospects of Increased Success.

THE WEEK enters upon its sixth year of publication with the most flattering prospects of increased success, and we are simply doing a pleasing duty when we recommend it to the favourable consideration of all.—*Pictou Gazette*.

THE WEEK, Canada's leading literary journal, has entered on its sixth year. It is as thoroughly independent in politics as ever, as ably conducted, and judging from its evident prosperity, as thoroughly appreciated by the public. It has recently been enlarged and improved generally.—*Milton Champion*.

One of the Ablest Edited Journals.

THE WEEK now appears in an enlarged form. THE WEEK is one of the ablest edited journals in Canada.—*Exeter Advocate*.

Only Journal of its Kind in Canada.

THE WEEK, with the number for December 7, began a new volume, and is considerably enlarged. We are glad to see these evidences of THE WEEK's prosperity. It is the only journal of its kind in Canada, and discharges very fairly its critical work.—*St. John Globe*.

Always Entitled to Respect.

We draw attention to the advertisement of this ably edited journal, which as a leader of public opinion takes much the same place as the *Saturday Review* in England. Though frequently differing from the views expressed in THE WEEK, its arguments are always entitled to respect.—*Perth Expositor*.

Largest Weekly of its Kind.

The Toronto literary and critical journal, THE WEEK, founded by Goldwin Smith, has been greatly enlarged and improved, and is now the largest weekly of its kind on the continent.—*World, Chatham, N.B.*