

Literature and Art.

MAX MARETZEK is of opinion that the day of Italian opera in America is over. After giving his reasons for this opinion he adds: "All this will lead to American opera, with American artists. The time is at hand when we will have American opera in America, German opera in Germany, and Italian in Italy, and so on. Why should we not have American opera? Have we no talent? The best proof that can be shown is that the best artists in Europe are Americans. There is an immense amount of dormant talent in America besides, which is only waiting for a change to be brought out."

The Danish poet GRUNDTVIG, in Mr. Gosse's opinion, is of foreign writers the one most near CARLYLE in temperament. He saw him in July, 1872, when he was the oldest poet then alive in Europe, and he seemed the oldest man he had ever looked upon. For one of ninety he could not be called infirm. He looked like a troll from some cave in Norway, and as if he might have been centuries old. Seen in the pulpit, for the poet was a preacher, too, he looked like some forgotten Druid that had survived from Mona, and could not die. The next day he took to his bed, "and in a month the grand old man was dead." Like CARLYLE's genius, his was destructive. Throughout his long life he gloried in opposing himself to conventional forms and conventional aspirations. In the mere act of fighting he found exhilaration.—*Ex.*

MARK TWAIN is writing a new book, and here is what he said about it to a *World* correspondent:

"It is a gossip volume of travel, and will be similar to the 'Innocents Abroad' in size, and similarly illustrated. I shall draw some of the pictures for it myself. However, that need not frighten anybody, for I shall draw only a few. I think the book will not be finished in time for the summer season, but will appear in the fall. I call it a gossip volume, and that is what it is. It talks about anything and everything, and always drops a subject the moment my interest in it begins to slacken. It is as discursive as a conversation; it has no more restraints or limitations than a fireside talk has. I have been drifting around on an idle, easy-going tramp—so to speak—for a year, stopping when I pleased, moving on when I got ready. My book has caught the complexion of the trip. In a word, it is a book written by one loafer for a brother loafer to read."

There is quite a rage in London for decorating rooms for receiving visits, like the studio of a painter. Velvets, stuffs, and silks of the last century, old tapestry, etc., are worth their weight in silver, and have become quite fashionable; it is found that dark dresses look well and gain brilliancy, or stand out well, as I believe artists say, on the ground of the rooms thus adorned. The rich faded old draperies and stuffs are adroitly hung over sofas, screens, pianos, and adapted to the walls; old china, vases, and everything in the way of what we call bibelots, or nick-nacks, are quite prominent features in the reception rooms. Pianos are now no longer placed against the wall, but turned into a corner, draped with old HENRI II. embroidered velvet, or LOUIS XV. silk, held up by a Japanese or China vase, and the person seated at the instrument faces the public. As this fashion has been gradually increasing for the last ten years, France, Italy and Spain have been ransacked of these old textures, and now the Lyons and Paris manufacturers are all composing imitations of old stuffs.

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And it has a larger circulation in England than any other American magazine. Every number contains about one hundred and fifty pages, and from fifty to seventy-five original wood-cut illustrations. Several illustrated articles descriptive of Canadian Sports and Scenery have recently appeared in its pages, and the magazine during the coming year will devote much space to matters of special interest to the Canadian public.

"HAWORTH'S" by Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, author of "That Lass o' Lowrie's." The scene of Mrs. Burnett's new novel is laid in Lancashire; the hero is a young inventor of American birth. "Haworth's" is the longest story Mrs. Burnett has yet written. It will run through twelve numbers of the Monthly, beginning with November, 1878, and will be profusely illustrated.

FALCONBERG, by H. H. Boyeson, author of "Gunnar," "The Man who Lost his Name," &c. In this romance the author graphically describes the peculiarities of Norse immigrant life in a Western settlement. Some of the incidents will be found of very curious interest, this being a study of a phase of life in the New World with which few Americans, even, are familiar. "Falconberg" began in the August number of 1878.

A STORY OF NEW ORLEANS, by George W. Cable. This story will exhibit the state of society in Creole Louisiana about the years 1803-45, the time of the Cession, and a period bearing a remarkable likeness to the present Reconstruction period.

PORTRAITS OF AMERICAN POETS. This series will be continued, that of Longfellow appearing in November. These portraits are drawn from life by Wyatt Eaton and engraved by T. Cole. They will be printed separately on tinted paper, as frontispieces of four different numbers. Illustrated sketches of the lives of the poets will accompany these portraits.

STUDIES IN THE SIERRAS.—A series of papers (mosty illustrated) by John P. Muir, the California naturalist. These are the most graphic and picturesque, and at the same time exact and trustworthy studies of "The California Alps" that have yet been made. The series will sketch the California Passes, Lakes, Meadows, Wind Storms and Forests.

A NEW VIEW OF BRAZIL. Mr. Herbert H. Smith, of Cornell University, a companion of the late Prof. Hartt, is now in Brazil, with Mr. J. Wells Champney (the artist who accompanied Mr. Edward King in his tour through "The Great South"), preparing for SCRIBNER a series of papers on the present condition, the cities, the rivers and general resources of the great empire of South America.

THE "JOHNNY REB" PAPERS, by an "ex-Confederate" soldier, will be among the rarest contributions to SCRIBNER during the coming year. They are written and illustrated by Mr. Allen C. Redwood, of Baltimore. The first of the series, "Johnny Reb at play," appears in the November number.

THE LEADING EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES. We are now having prepared, for SCRIBNER, articles on the leading Universities of Europe. They will be written by an American College Professor, Mr. H. H. Boyeson, of Cornell (author of "Falconberg," &c.), and will include sketches of the leading men in each of the most important Universities of Great Britain and the Continent, their methods of teaching, &c.

Among the additional series of papers to appear may be mentioned those on *How Shall We Spell* (two papers by Prof. LOUSSIERY), *The New South, Lawn-Planting for Small Places* (by SAMUEL PARSONS, of Flushing), *Canada of To-day, American Art and Artists, American Archaeology, Modern Inventors*; also *Papers of Travel, History, Physical Science, Studies in Literature, Political and Social Science, Stories, Poems*; "Topics of the Time," by Dr. J. G. Holland; record of *New Inventions and Mechanical Improvements*; *Papers on Education, Decoration, &c.*; *Book Reviews*; fresh bits of *Wit and Humor, &c., &c., &c.*

Terms, 4.00 a year in advance; 35 cents a number.

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Subscriptions received at GRIP Office.

Stage Whispers.

MODJESKA sailed for Europe May 24. A ticket for twelve nights of opera in 'Frisco costs \$60.

ADELAIDE NELSON appears at Booth's, New York, Oct. 6.

LOTTA is said to be 32. Those who haven't seen her believe it.

PATTI and NICOLINI open in Brussels the 29th for a short period.

WILHELM, the violinist, played in Buffalo on Friday of last week.

Mr. N. C. GOODWIN can imitate a dozen familiar actors to the life.

Miss MARY ANDERSON is said to have cleared \$85,000 this season.

Mrs. D. P. BOWENS is domiciled at her home in Manchester-by-the-Sea for the summer.

BYRON's new play, *The Girls*, successor to *Our Boys*, has been bought by LESTER WALLACK.

FRANZ RUMMEL, the pianist, returns to Europe towards the close of the current month.

FLORENCE DAVENPORT has gone with her sister FANNY to California. FLORENCE does not act.

The juvenile *Pinafore* company has made a great success at WALLACK'S, New York, and the engagement is likely to be prolonged.

MARY ANDERSON desires it to be distinctly understood that she has "shook" all her former pieces, and deals in nothing but t-r-a-g-e-d-y!

Miss ADELAIDE NELSON feels able to play only four nights a week in the part of "Julia" in *The Hunchback*, at the London Adelphi Theatre.

LOUISE POMEROY denies the report that her company had disbanded. She has assumed the entire management, and reports business in the South very satisfactory.

HENRY RUSSELL, the singer of the "Life on the Ocean Wave," the "Maniac," the "Ship on Fire," "Cheer, Boys, Cheer," and other songs universally popular upwards of thirty years ago, is still alive and hearty, and appeared on the stage of the Haymarket on the occasion of Mr. LAMAN BLANCHARD'S benefit.

LEVY, the cornetist, received a great welcome in Montreal, the serenade given to him, at his hotel, ending in a perfect ovation, fully 5,000 people having assembled to do honor to the occasion. After repeated calls for LEVY! LEVY! he appeared at one of the windows of the hotel, and was met by a perfect shower of long and enthusiastic applause.

The play of *Diplomacy* has not proved fortunate to professionals on this side of the Atlantic. First, MONTAGUE died; then GRANGER fell sick; then GEORGIE DREW BARRYMORE'S ill-health caused her retirement; and finally its stage-manager, B. C. POTTER, was assassinated, and the leading actor, BARRYMORE, dangerously wounded. The London *Figaro* says: "It is to be hoped that the English Ambassador will keep a keen watch over the case. Mr. MAURICE BARRYMORE, whose wounds were expected to prove fatal, is an English gentleman and a graduate of Cambridge, where, until he—on his marriage with the daughter of Mrs. JOHN DREW, of Philadelphia—adopted the profession of the stage, acted as a tutor.