

read them rightly; they help to impress the world with the sense that human nature is capable of being improved, that not perfected; and that upon change of idea, and not otherwise, can be established a state of society where peace and good-will shall prevail.

Book Chat, for March, well justifies its title.

"THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONVALESCENT HOME AT MURRAY BAY" presents a short though satisfactory review of the past year's work of this deserving institution.

EMILY A. THACKRAY has a contribution to the literature of "The Sonnet," in the *Writer* for March, which contains complimentary references to two of our contributors, "Sarepta" and Mr. Archibald Lampman.

MR. W. D. LIGHTHALL's graceful tribute to the late John Talon L'Esperance and the "Facsimile of a page of 'Punch in Canada,' October 20th, 1849," are noticeable features of the *Dominion Illustrated* of 21st inst.

THE first number of the *Musical News* presents a creditable appearance and its contents warrant us in anticipating for it a long and successful career under its present able editors, Messrs. E. H. Turpin and T. L. Southgate.

PROFESSOR FREEMAN's article, in *Macmillan*, for March, on "Compulsory Greek," will warm the heart of many an old Grecian who will gleefully chuckle over the exhortation of the "Ambitious pedagogues" in the last page. "The Contrasts of English and French Literature," by George Saintsbury, is, as might be expected, charming and clever. H. L. Havel's scholarly article on "The Great Discovery," Aristotle's priceless MS., ends the number.

Two contributions comprise the March and April number of the *Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science*—"The History of University Education in Maryland," as treated by Bernard C. Steiner, A.M., is useful as an interesting comparative study to Canadian collegians, and the able and lucid sketch of "The Johns Hopkins University (1876-91)," by Dr. Gilman, the learned President of that distinguished University, is well worth reading by every one interested in higher education.

"THE HISTORY, THEORY AND TECHNIQUE OF STATISTICS," by August Meitzen, Ph.D., translated by Roland P. Faulkner, Ph.D., and published as a supplement to the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, for March, is, without doubt, one of the most learned and exhaustive treatises that has been written upon this subject—a subject of increasing importance. Part First presents an historical review treated in detail under the headings: (a) "Empirical Statistics in the Classical and Mediæval World;" (b) "From the Beginnings of Scientific Statistics to the Year 1750;" (c) "Development of Uniform Scientific Statistics;" (d) "The Development and Predominance of the Statistical Method." Professor Meitzen's work is one which should be in the library of every student of statistics and the *Academy* deserves praise for its competent translation and popular reproduction.

THE *Nineteenth Century* for last month is of immediate value in the political and sociological realms inasmuch as it contains H. H. Champion's article, "The Crushing Defeat of Trades Unionism in Australia," and the Hon. Reginald H. Brett's paper on "The Tyranny of the Non-conformist Conscience." The former clearly illustrates how the most powerful combination of workmen came to grief in an attempt to dominate the business of a country and play the arrogant part that landlords and masters played aforetime. Mr. Brett's admirable article should be carefully pondered by the rash people who propose to apply to politicians the standards of Miss Tickletoy's Academy for Young Ladies. Mr. Gladstone's article, "Professor Huxley and the Swine-miracle," appears to destroy some of the professor's objections to that remarkable occurrence, and Mr. Leslie Stephen's examination of "Cardinal Newman's Scepticism" deepens one of the impressions that most men derive from the *Apologia pro vita qua*—the impression that the Cardinal became a Romanist by deliberately preferring to Reason, that, which he saw with extraordinary clearness to be Unreason.

THE *Political Science Quarterly*, New York, Ginn and Company, 743 Broadway, is a publication always conducted with sound knowledge and in that right "bystander" spirit too often artfully affected by persons true to nothing except a desire to excite discontent. In the March number the Rev. Wm. C. Langdon's article, "The Case of The Negro," appeals to northern common sense against the foolish persons who desire to give the Southern States over to the control of a population recently enfranchised; commonly far more ignorant than the lower classes of whites; proved incapable by their whole race history of elevating themselves socially and politically except under white, brown, or yellow direction; and, at this moment, rapidly losing in many parts of the South, as in Liberia, Hayti, Jamaica and the West Indies generally, the civilization their forbears bred in servitude, had attained. Mr. Langdon has observed that the advancing negroes of the South are commonly brown men, probably more or less of Arab blood; while the pure black negro, where not influenced by a numerous population of intelligent whites, fails to make that progress which was hoped for by the emancipationists. The whole article assents to impress a sense of the enormous difficulties and dangers of the negro problem from which Canada is so happily dis-

sociated. Professor Ashley, of Toronto University, has in this number an admirable paper on "Cunningham's Growth of English Industry," and a short review of "Gomme's Village Community." An article on "School-Book Legislation," by Professor J. W. Jenks, possesses interest for Ontario people because of its bearing on matters much discussed during the late provincial campaign. The other contents of the number are "Political Ideas of the Puritans," by Professor H. L. Osgood; "Compulsory Insurance in Germany," Mr. B. W. Wells; "Railroad Problems in the West," Professor A. G. Warner; "Marshall's Principles of Economics," Professor J. B. Clark, and numerous short reviews of recent historical, political and sociological books.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

BIRGE HARRISON (the American artist, now in Australia) describes a kangaroo hunt in the *April Scribner*.

BRANDER MATTHEWS' article on the "Women Writers of America" in the *March Cosmopolitan* is ably and critically written.

The first volume of the much talked of "Talleyrand Memoirs" will soon be ready from the press of G. P. Putnam's Sons.

GRAHAM R. TOMSON, the English poet, whose lines have often been admired, is a woman, and her name is Miss Frances Wynne.

EDWARD EGGLESTONE has gone to Ireland to "write up" the famine districts for the *New York World*. His daughter accompanies him, and will make sketches to illustrate his articles.

THE *Art Amateur* for March, 1891, is the largest yet issued. The article on Meissonier has sixteen illustrations, including specially good reproductions of "Piquet" and "The Chess Players."

"THE BEHRING SEA CONTROVERSY" will be discussed in the April number of *Harper's Magazine*, in a paper prepared by the Hon. E. J. Phelps, late United States Minister to the Court of St. James.

HARPER AND BROTHERS are about to bring out new editions of Mr. Howells' two latest novels, "Annie Kilburn" and "A Hazard of New Fortunes," in an attractive form, in the "Franklin Square Library."

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY will shortly bring out a new edition, at a reduced price, of Prof. Langley's remarkable book on "The New Astronomy," which both in the text and illustrations is peculiarly attractive.

MESSRS. G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS will publish at an early date a very important volume containing a comprehensive and exhaustive presentation of matter relating to "The Question of Copyright," which is the title of the book.

IN the death of Dr. Windthorst the political element in the Roman Church in Germany has sustained the loss of its foremost champion, and the Reichstag mourns a statesman of whom his country could well afford to be proud.

MR. LORETTUS S. METCALF has resigned the editorship of the *Forum*, after fifteen years of close confinement to review work. He is to be succeeded by Mr. Walter H. Page, an experienced newspaper man, who has been the *Forum's* business manager.

WE are glad to note that Dr. T. O'Hagan has been promoted to the editorial chair of the *Duluth Sunday Tribune*, and are confident that literature and theology will be happily combined and ably presented in the columns of that well-known journal by its new editor-in-chief.

THE statue of Burns at Ayr is expected to be unveiled next summer, but about \$1,500 are still required to complete the work. The death is noted of Mrs. John Thomson, wife of the wine-merchant in Glasgow and granddaughter of the poet Burns. She was in the seventy-sixth year of her age.

"THE ODYSSEY OF HOMER: Translated into English Rhythmic Verse," by George H. Palmer, Professor in Harvard University, and a "Handbook of Christian Symbols and Stories of the Saints" in illustrated, edited by Katherine E. Conway, are announced by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin and Company.

THE curious relations between Wordsworth and De Quincey are the subject of a paper by De Quincey's biographer in the forthcoming (*April Century*)—the most striking feature of the paper being unpublished letters of the two friends. A letter of Wordsworth's is a very frank piece of moral advice to his young admirer.

"THE FIDALGOS OF CASA MOURISCA," which has been so ably translated by Miss R. L. Dabney, of Fayal, Azores, is a modern Portuguese story, and gives a vivid picture of the progress of modern ideas in that, till recently, conservative corner of Europe, and a charming book of "Stories of the Land of Evangeline," by Grace Dean McLeod, are in the press of D. Lothrop Company.

IT is with no little pleasure that the Cassell Publishing Company announce that they have just concluded arrangements whereby they become the authorized publishers of the writings of Mr. J. M. Barrie in the United States. They will issue at once "A Window in Thrums," a story known as yet to but few American readers, but which has won the most enthusiastic praise of the English critics.

THE author of "A Dead Man's Diary" is Mr. Coulson Kernahan, who recently collaborated with Mr. Frederick

Locker-Lampson, the author of "London Lyrics," in editing the New Edition of "Lyra Elegantiarum." Mr. Kernahan is a contributor to many English and American Magazines, and has a paper on "Rossetti and the Moralists" in the current number of the *Fortnightly Review*.

FORTUNE DU BOISGOBEY, a French novelist of the Gaboriau school, is dead, at the age of sixty-seven. He served as paymaster in the army of France through several African campaigns. In literature he did not begin until 1868, and for twenty years he furnished feuilletons to Paris journals, and published complete novels of great intricacy of plot and vivacity of action, but none of these of a nature to live after him. Some of his stories have been dramatized.

THE Scribners have just imported an edition of a new work by Charles Godfrey Leland entitled "Gypsy Sorcery and Fortune-telling, Illustrated by Numerous Incantations, Specimens of Medical Magic, Anecdotes and Tales." They have also just issued a new volume on the Famous Women of the French Court, translated from the French of Imbert de Saint Amand. It is entitled "Marie Louise and the Invasion of 1814," and takes the reader from 1814 to Napoleon's departure for Elba.

THE American Baptist Publication Society of Philadelphia has just purchased another book from Mr. J. Macdonald Oxley, of Ottawa, being the fourth accepted by it from this author within the past two years. Two of these, viz., "Bert Lloyd's Boyhood" and "Up Among the Ice Floes," have already appeared and have been reviewed in *THE WEEK*; the other two may be expected during the year. A long serial from Mr. Oxley's pen entitled "Archie of Athabasca" will shortly begin its course in the *Young Canadian*.

WILLIAM MORRIS, the poet and house decorator, intends in future, it is said, to be his own printer, and has established a press in a cottage near his Hammersmith residence. He has long been preparing a new font of type modelled upon that of an early Italian work which has caught his fancy. Mr. Morris, by the way, thinks he has nearly exhausted all that he has to say on social topics, and will gradually give up the lecturing at which he has been so indefatigable during the last few years.

THE ECONOMIC JOURNAL will be issued under the auspices of the British Economic Association, a society which numbers among its members, Professor R. M. Smith, of Columbia College; Professor Taussig, of Harvard University; Professor Alfred Marshall, Professor Henry Sidgwick, and many other names equally well known. It will be published by Macmillan and Company, who will also shortly be issuing Landor's "Imaginary Conversations," in six volumes. The edition is by Mr. C. G. Crump, who edited the "Pericles and Aspasia." The text will be a reprint from the complete edition of Landor's works published in 1876, compared with previous editions. There will be short explanatory notes.

MR. G. MERCER ADAM delivered a lecture on "Vers de Societé" in the school-room of St. George's Church, on Tuesday evening, the 17th inst. Mr. Adam showed a thorough familiarity with his subject and a nice appreciation of its serious as well as ludicrous features, both of which were appropriately exemplified. The leading exponents of this class of poetry were mentioned, and the lecturer touched with discriminating criticism upon the varying forms and features of society verse as presented by its individual authors, and also of the character and tendency of such poetry as a whole. We commend Mr. Adam for addressing himself to a task which required not only culture but also light and graceful treatment, and congratulate him on his excellent lecture.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE SILVER QUESTION AS IT IS.

THE present law (act of July 14, 1890) requires the purchase monthly, at the market price, of four and a half million ounces of silver, of which two million ounces shall be coined monthly, for the period of one year, into silver dollars; after that date only such silver dollars need be coined as may be required for the redemption of the treasury notes issued in payment for the silver purchased. The silver dollars coined under these various acts since 1878, although not containing a dollar's worth of silver, have been maintained in domestic circulation at par with gold by causes not necessary now to be considered. The silver question, as it now presents itself, means "free coinage of silver" in the United States concurrently with the free coinage of gold, at the ratio in coinage of 1 to 16 (exactly 1 to 15.988); that is, that individuals may take every 371½ grains stamped, free of charge, into a dollar, which dollar shall be a full legal tender, for its face value, in the payment of debts and obligations of all kinds in the United States. This is the right as to gold, why not as to silver? There is an important difference. The minting of gold adds nothing to the value of the metal contained in the coin. It is simply a certificate to the public of the weight and purity of the piece. As a matter of fact, fine gold bars sell in New York at a slight premium above full-weight gold coin, being preferred for shipment and industrial uses. How is it with silver? The commercial or bullion value of the silver contained in the silver dollar is to-day 80 cents. Here, then, is an important difference