

THE *Art Amateur* for August contains two beautiful fac-simile sketches in water colour, after the originals by Rhoda Holmes Nicholls. The first, "The Willow Pool," is a sketch of foliage, grass and water; the second, "White Clouds," is a clever study of clouds and the sea; beautiful in itself and invaluable as reference, and for guidance in securing the fleeting effect that needs a master to portray. The third colour plate is an effective arrangement of ferns for china painting. The number also includes an illustrated article upon the English artist, Fred. Walker, with reproductions of seven of his most important works. The second paper on the St. Louis Art School is illustrated with some exquisite drawings by the late F. W. Lippelt. The subjects, "China Painting," "Tapestry Painters," and "Flowers now in Season," are each continued in practical instructions freely illustrated and full of useful hints and instructions. Designs for a "Folding Screen and Arm Chair" should also be quoted as novel and artistic in idea. The supplement is rich in designs for china-painting, embroidery, metal work and other decorative arts.

THE frontispiece in the September number of the *Magazine of Art*, "The Morning After the Ball," is used by the editor to illustrate his argument that one of the most notable characteristics of American figure-painters is the capacity for imitation and absorption of foreign methods and foreign feeling: "originally, perhaps, a virtue, but, in result, disastrous to its American individualism." Though the pupil of M. Bonnat and of Cabanel, Mr. Anderson, the painter of "The Morning After the Ball," is a lineal descendant of Greuze, and the follower of not one of his countrymen. "Delicacy of touch and daintiness of detail" are combined in this picture, which is etched by Eugène Champollion. "Longleat, the seat of the Marquis of Bath," is described in a very interesting paper by Percy Fitzgerald, accompanied by illustrations showing the exterior and bits of the interior of this gorgeous country-seat. "The Dragon of Mythology, Legend, and Art" is the subject of a paper that will interest decorative artists. "Our Artists and our Universities" is the subject of an article by M. H. Spielmann, in which he sets forth that the universities of England do not sufficiently honour the profession of Art, in which we do not fully agree with him. The second paper on "The Maddocks Collection at Bradford" is given, with engraved reproductions of the more striking pictures. "The English School of Miniature Painting" is again under discussion, and we are given some charming reproductions of this apparently lost art. "The Potteries of Aller Vale" is a descriptive article by Cosmo Monkhouse. Lionel Cust contributes a valuable paper on the Flemish painter and poet of Ghent, Lucas D'Heere, who painted portraits of such old-time worthies as Queen Elizabeth, Henry VIII., and Queen Mary, as well as other less famous people.

INTERESTING and attractive, and full of good articles as usual, is the August issue of the *Cosmopolitan*. That clever authoress, Amélie Rives, contributes the opening paper in the shape of a story entitled "According to St. John," of which the continuation is announced to appear in the October number. It also contains a contribution from the pen of General Adam Badeau, called "Gambling in High Life," in which the author exhibits great ignorance of the habits of English society. But the fact is he has had no experience of it, so how can he know? We observe, in a note at the foot of the first page of the article, it is stated that "in 1869 he was sent as Secretary of Legation to the Court of St. James"—but he never acted. The late Honourable Benjamin Moran was then Secretary of the United States Legation at London, and continued to fill the position for many years afterwards. General Badeau acted only as United States Consul in London, and in that capacity was ineligible to be received in court circles, and never was! How strange it is that men will write about the habits of good society in England, men who were never in it, and who are incompetent to recognize it if ever they got there. Again our author draws on his imagination for his facts when he says that political enemies of the administration under which the late General Robert C. Schenck served as Minister to the Court of St. James, caused his downfall, owing to General Schenck having obtained reputation as a player of draw poker, and from having supplied material for a pamphlet published by Lady Waldegrave on the rules of the game. The real cause of General Schenck's recall and subsequent retirement into private life was the circumstance of his having received a bribe of £10,000 sterling from the notorious "Emma Mine" swindlers—Trenor William Park, William M. Stewart (now senator from Nevada), H. Horace Baxter, of Vermont, et al. The Congressional records at Washington establish this beyond all cavil.

Blackwood's Magazine is always welcome. The August number opens with a timely and sympathetic paper from the able pen of Mr. Martin J. Griffin on the late "Sir John Macdonald." Mr. Griffin handles his subject with a master hand. He concludes his admirable little essay with the following words: "The main characteristic of Sir John Macdonald's mind, especially as he grew to be an old, a confessed old man, was his personal devotion to the Queen and the Empire. He was no sycophant, as more than one colonial minister could tell; but he had a passion of loyalty, and a great desire to advance the imperial interests. The imperial character of the Intercolonial Railway; the imperial character of the Pacific Railway; the usefulness of the great North-West as an abiding place for future generations of British subjects—

these things were always in his mind. He could pardon no man who stood between him and the ultimate accomplishment of his plans of making these great public properties useful to the empire at large. He looked forward to the time when for trade purposes, and for defence purposes, at least, there would be a closer union of the colonies with the United Kingdom. He was particularly opposed to the insane policy of allowing any of the North American colonies to make trade treaties with foreign countries without regard to the interests of neighbouring colonies, and particularly without reference to British interests. Now he has passed away; and as he has left behind him no man who can sway at will the various political forces which yielded such constant obedience to his will, so, it is to be feared, he has left behind no one who will have opportunity and power to carry forward his imperial views. We, who mourn for him as for a father or dear friend, feel a keen sense of personal loss; but the country has suffered a loss at present irreparable. The spirit of wisdom would perhaps whisper, 'No man is indispensable; parties rise and fall; statesmen come and go; Pitt and Fox, Castlereagh and Canning, Melbourne and Peel, Russell and Beaconsfield, have all passed away; and when each one went, men said, "Where shall we find another such?" and another such came and carried on the work, and passed away in his turn; and so it will ever be, for power, too, is vanity.' But our grief is too recent for that consolation, and our sense of loss too great to find comfort in it; and all over Canada there exists to-day the pathetic feeling—we shall look upon his like no more!"

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

A FIFTH edition of Mrs. Oliphant's "Life of Laurence Oliphant" has been called for, and Mrs. Sutherland Orr's "Life and Letters of Robert Browning" has reached a second edition.

MR. HENRY B. WHEATLEY has expanded the late Mr. Peter Cunningham's "Handbook of London: Past and Present" (Murray) into three bulky volumes, constituting what is practically a cyclopædia of the metropolis.

LORD MOUNT-STEPHEN (Sir George Stephen) recently took the oath and his seat in the House of Lords. He was introduced by Lord Elphinstone and Lord Poltimore. A number of personal friends of the new peer witnessed the ceremony from the galleries.

PROF. TYNDALL's health is improving to such an extent that he is preparing for the press a volume of essays, addresses and reviews, to be issued under the title "Fragments of Science." Sir John Lubbock also is about to send another book to the printers.

MESSRS. D. APPLETON AND COMPANY announce not only Mr. Herbert Spencer's new work, "Justice," but a new edition of his "Essays: Scientific, Political and Speculative," in three volumes, comprising most of the miscellaneous writings heretofore published separately, together with several new essays.

MR. WILLIAM T. JAMES, of this city, is engaged on the revision of the MS. of a forthcoming book of verse, which he intends to publish some time during the autumn. Its contents will comprise poems contributed to THE WEEK, the *Dominion Illustrated* and other Canadian and American periodicals, as well as many others which have not yet come before the public eye in printer's ink.

A NEW book on William Blake is to be published in two volumes by Bernard Quaritch of London. The first volume will contain a key to the mystical poems of Blake. The second volume will give "The Book of Vala," printed from the original manuscript. Many of the poet's illustrations will be given, and also more than one hundred and fifty pages of fac-similes from poems engraved by Blake.—*America*.

IN a letter to a contemporary Mrs. Orr describes Robert Browning's views of the poems of Matthew Arnold, desiring to satisfy Mr. Andrew Lang's curiosity in the matter. Browning, she writes, "loved Mr. Arnold's poems, and made at least one other person love them. I think 'The Gypsy-scholar' was that which most appealed to him. . . . But he fully appreciated 'Empedocles,' as, indeed, its author knew; and in their order of merit all the other poems. I think there can be no unkindness in saying that Mr. Arnold was less just towards him."

MANY publishers are now announcing the arrangements they have been quietly making for some time past in recognition of the establishment of International Copyright in America. Among others, Messrs. Cassell and Company have arranged for the simultaneous publication on both sides of the Atlantic of a series of books by popular authors, among whom are included Mr. R. L. Stevenson, Mr. Clark Russell, Mr. Conan Doyle, Mr. Quiller-couch, Mr. J. M. Barrie, Mr. Stanley Weyman, Mr. Frank Stockton, Miss Phelps, Mrs. L. Molesworth, Mrs. Parr, Mrs. Alexander, and Mrs. L. T. Meade.

IT is amusing to read a complaint in the *Western Book-seller*, well summed up as follows: "We are fastidious, have no confidence in our own authors until they are taken up in London." Coming from confident Chicago this is indeed to be wondered at, and so, too, is the judgment that "New England novels are written as though all were intended for a Sunday School library." But as the author ascribes everything that is bad to the pirating which has so long flourished unchecked, he is in hopes that better days are now in store, and that young America will

no longer remain dependent upon England and France for all its mental pabulum.

REVIEWING Mr. Dempster Sherman's latest book, the *Athenæum* remarks of the author: "He is one of the still small but rapidly increasing number of lyriists who, seeking independence from the prevailing fashions of Victorian literature, betake themselves to a simpler, though not less artificial, school, and briskly set themselves for task to evolve quaintnesses and prettinesses and delicate love-lays, half-jest, half-earnest, arranged in stiffly graceful short-lined metres, in the manner of pre-Popean days. 'Lyrics for a Lute' is pleasant—very much because what it imitates is pleasant, but yet with merit of its own. As a specimen of the author's poetical intention and success, 'Heliotype' is typical."

THE Geological Society of America will hold its summer meeting on Monday and Tuesday, August 24 and 25, in Columbian University. Mr. Baily Willis, United States Geological Survey, is chairman of the local committee of arrangements for the society, and Professor H. L. Fairchild, of Rochester, N. Y., is secretary of the society. These gentlemen will give further information on application. The International Congress of Geologists will begin its meeting at ten o'clock on Wednesday, August 26, in the Columbian University, and will continue with daily sessions until Tuesday, September 1. On Wednesday, August 26, a reception will be given to the International Congress by the Geological Society of America.

A FEW years ago it was reported that Sir John Macdonald was to be appointed Governor-General of Canada, and this gave the astute old statesman an opportunity of expressing his opinion of the general subject of such an innovation. The rumour was an absurd one, of course, and Sir John held the belief very strongly that it would be the greatest possible mistake to alter the existing system. Under this the Governor-General has no direct personal connection with local politics, and can therefore hold a balance between the parties. Sir John's attitude on this point was sensible and praiseworthy. It would be interesting to see what Sir Henry Parkes would say if he were offered the Governorship of New South Wales, or rather the Governor-Generalship of the Australasian Commonwealth.—*Col. of India*.

AMONG the names of the registered proprietors of the *Times* newspaper are those of Alice Henrietta Shildrick and Mary Lawson, of Kamloops (B.C.); Henry Irwin, of New Westminster (B.C.); Henry Mortimer Innes, of the Bank of British North America (B.C.); Ella Clarke Innes, of Her Majesty's Dockyard, Esquimalt (Vancouver's Island); John Walters, of 65 St. James Street, St. John's (N.B.); Julia Lydia Murray, 1 Custom House Square, Montreal; Alfred Lawson Wright, of Magog, Quebec; Louisa Charlotte Hall, of Magog, Quebec. The proprietors number seventy in all, so that twelve is a fair proportion for the Colonies and India. The distribution is decidedly faulty, however, as out of the twelve Canada holds nine, while Malta and India have but one each, and the great Antipodean Colonies are represented by a solitary Parramatta lady.

MR. HENRY IRVING has addressed to a correspondent in the North of England the following letter, which refers to the recently published observations of Dr. Westcott, Bishop of Durham, on the subject of the stage and the dramatic profession: "Dear Sir,—I have read the Bishop's letter with great interest, and am glad to find that his attitude towards the theatre is not hostile, though the general tenor of his letter is rather vague. I have known bishops who regard the stage with a much more positive sympathy, and it is within my personal knowledge that two great dignitaries of the Church—Dr. Tait and Dr. Thomson—entertained the most liberal views about the helpfulness of the drama. But for some time past I have made it a rule to enter into no public controversy on this subject, for I do not admit that the moral influence of the stage is any more debateable than that of literature."

THE Edinburgh Town Council has agreed to recommend the Corporation to confer the Freedom of the City on Sir Daniel Wilson, President of the Toronto University, who is now on a visit to Scotland. Sir Daniel was born in Edinburgh seventy-five years ago, and no one could be prouder of his birthplace than is the genial President of Toronto University. His "Memories of Edinburgh in the Olden Time," published in 1847, is a lasting monument to his affection for the Scotch capital. The University, over the destinies of which Sir Daniel has presided for the past eleven years, has well been termed the crowning glory of Canada's educational system. It was founded as far back as 1827 by Royal Charter, under the name King's College, and endowed with a large tract of land, the enhanced value of which has enabled Sir Daniel and his fellow-workers on the governing body to do great things for Canadian higher education. It is now over forty years since the University threw off the trammels of sectarianism.—*Canadian Gazette*.

HAVE people an honest right to keep up appearances? Are you justified in starving your dinner-table in order to keep a carriage?—*Thackeray*.

WE may come to look upon the death of our enemies and adversaries, even long after it has occurred, with just as much regret as we feel for that of our friends, viz., when we miss them as witnesses of our brilliant success.—*Schopenhauer*.