

At the same time the author does not particularly care about posterity himself. If he could infuse into his reception just a little more of the public's attitude towards a favourite performer he would be glad. He is by no means sure of that after-recognition, and, should it come, he will not be here to see it. On the whole, he harbours just the smallest grain of envy. It is a pretty idea, that of leaving part of yourself behind in tangible forms such as novels and epics and dictionaries, still it by no means satisfies the living man as four thousand dollars a night would. You cannot run up big bills and charge them to posterity—some people do, but not authors—half as easily as you can go and buy everything you want with ready cash in your pocket to the amount of a quarter of a million.

Mr. Alfred Austin was very quick indeed with his Laureatish poem on the death of the Duke of Clarence. It has a fine ring—I append three stanzas—and is perhaps significant in its quickness, since the writer's name has been freely associated with the honourable but *difficile* rôle of Court Poet. The poem was printed in the *Times* of January 15; the death occurred the day before.

O, if She could exchange her lot,
And now were free to choose,
With one who in some whitewashed cot
Over her baby coos,
And tend the humblest hearth that burns,
To whose awaiting smile the cherished one returns!

We weep with her. We weep with You,
No less, loved, widowed Queen,
Who nurse a loss for ever new,
A wound for ever green.
Your brow august is crowned with care,
So take Her to Your breast, and hush her anguish there!

And you, Sir, who for long, lone years
Have stood beside the Throne,
And now would stem a Mother's tears,
Forgetful of your own.
For you we mourn, we mourn for her,
All of us at your side, by His sad sepulchre,

In 1885 Mr. Gladstone wrote to the young Duke as follows:—

"There lies before your Royal Highness in prospect the occupation—I trust at a distant date—of a throne which, to me at least, appears the most illustrious in the world, from its history and associations, from its legal basis, from the weight of the cares it brings, from the loyal love of the people, and from the unparalleled opportunities it gives, in so many ways, and in so many regions, of doing good to the almost countless numbers whom the Almighty has placed beneath the sceptre of England. I fervently desire and pray, and there cannot be a more animating prayer, that your Royal Highness may ever grow in the principles of conduct, and may be adorned with all the qualities which correspond with this great and noble vocation.

"And, Sir, if sovereignty has been relieved by our modern institutions of some of its burdens, it still, I believe, remains true that there has been no period of the world's history at which successors to the Monarchy could more efficaciously contribute to the stability of a great historic system, dependent even more upon love than upon strength, by devotion to their duties, and by a bright example to the country. This result we have happily been permitted to see, and other generations will, I trust, witness it anew."

These are noble words and true, and it is worth while remembering them. No suspicion of mere Jingoism or fustian can attach itself to them—they are the words of a Man, not a Metaphorist.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DISHORNING OF CATTLE.

To the Editor of THE WEEK:

SIR,—Upon reading the paragraph on the dishorning of cattle in your issue of the 8th ult., I am constrained to call attention to the absolute illegality of the cruel, inhuman and inhumane practice. Chapter 172, Revised Statutes of Canada, Sec. 2, covers the case. The wording of that section is substantially the same as that in an earlier English Act relating to cruelty to animals, and under this latter the defendant in the case of *Ford vs. Wiley L. Reps.* Q. B. Div., Vol. 23, p. 203, was in 1889 convicted. The Court (Lord Chief Justice Coleridge and Mr. Justice Hawkins) holding "that the operation of dishorning caused extreme pain without adequate and reasonable object, and was unnecessary abuse of the animal, and, therefore, unjustifiable." It is gratifying to learn from the case that dishorning is not practised in other counties of England; this case was from Norfolk, and had long been discontinued in that county where it had then only recently been revived. Probably the practice has, since the decision mentioned, been entirely discontinued. As is pointed out by one of the judges, "if a man wishes for polled cattle he can buy naturally-polled animals." The evidence of distinguished veterinary surgeons shows that dishorning causes excruciating pain of long duration. I take it no one can disagree with Mr. Justice Hawkins when he says that: "Constant familiarity with unnecessary torture to and abuse of dumb animals cannot fail by degrees to brutalize and harden all who are concerned in or witness the miseries of the sufferers, a consequence to be scrupulously avoided in the best interests of civilized society."

Edmonton, N.-W.T.

ROBT. STRACHAN.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE GRAND.

"KEPPLER'S FORTUNES" might be termed a "one man comedy," serving as it does chiefly to bring out the eccentricities, singing qualities and humorous proclivities of Gus Williams, a Dutch comedian of good parts, who keeps his audience thoroughly amused. Friday and Saturday the local Lacrosse Club Minstrels hold the boards at the Grand. Next week, Monday, February 8, will witness the arrival of Frohman's New York Company in the comedy drama "Jane," than which, it is said, no more amusing play can be well conceived.

THE ACADEMY.

"NIOBE" has again sent the patrons of the Academy wild with furious hilarity, Miss Cary in the little rôle proving herself to be a clever actress as also a beautiful woman, and Mr. Melville, as *Peter Amos*, gave a humorous portrayal of the unhappy husband; the rest of the Company were excellent, good houses being the natural sequence.

HARMONY CLUB.

"THE Beggar Student," Millocker's sparkling comic opera, will be presented by the Toronto Harmony Club, Thursday and Friday of next week, February 12 and 13. The plot is very interesting, and the music contains gems of song and bright harmonic strains, in all of which the local club will without doubt maintain their former standard of excellence. The audiences will be large judging from the great interest that is taken in this perennial event.

LACROSSE CLUB MINSTRELS.

ALL the arrangements for the local "Nigger Show" are of a complete character. The end men aver that their "squibs and crackers" are veritably novel; this element of itself should be sufficient to commend the "show" to all lovers of the black art. Why even it is whispered that some of our young athletes are already budding *prime donne*, of the male persuasion. A bumper house for the boys!

THE GREAT POLISH PIANIST.

PADEREWSKI's staying powers have been tested severely throughout his triumphant tour in America; he has been playing incessantly and retaining all his wonted vigour and wonderful power. The American press has exhausted all the adjectives in their vocabulary in his praise, finally dubbing him the prince of pianists. The plan of the Pavilion opens at Suckling's, Friday morning. Concert on the 12th, a week later.

THE Q. O. R. BUGLE CORPS.

THE Buglers of the Queen's Own Rifles, for whom arrangements are being completed to visit the World's Fair at Chicago next year, will perform at the Academy of Music, this Friday and Saturday, with the Toronto Lacrosse Club Minstrels. They will give five introductory movements out of the twenty-four included in the Grand March to be given at the Fair, and which is pronounced by military authorities to be the finest on record.

MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

THERE is a strangely large amount of "fuss and feathers" flying off at tangents from musical literary pens, sent to the various "dailies" and "weeklies." Have a festival by all means and under a duly recognized and qualified foreign conductor, who could weld together local *materiel*, and let the net proceeds all go to a deserving charity or charities.

"No greater mistake is made," says the *New York Times*, "than that committed by most parents in regard to their children's musical education. 'Until my daughter knows a good deal of music,' a mother will say, 'any teacher will do; later she can be polished by some high-priced professor.' Only yesterday a woman, a friend of mine, who was discussing her little girl's music with me, said: 'I cannot afford to have ——— begin with you, but she shall have a year or two at the end to finish her course.' And I told her if she could afford only a year of my tuition, to let it be the first year. In that year the pupil can form habits, if properly taught, which no amount of good teaching can do away with. It is so foolish to bring a girl at the end of ten years' unskilful teaching and wrong practising, to somebody, and expect him in a year or two years, or ever, indeed, to turn out an accomplished musician. A pupil should be well taught at the beginning, at least—in my opinion she should be well taught all the way through. Girls who have any music in them are worth it, and girls who haven't ought never to approach the piano."—*Musical News*.

THE most elaborate, and at the same time the most beautiful, of modern flags is that of the Dominion of Canada. Heraldically it is in perfect taste and it tells a complete story, is, in fact, a summary of its country's history, as all national flags should be. The various provinces are arranged according to precedence, and at the same time in a manner that gratifies the artistic tastes of the spectators, while over all is the British coat of arms, typifying the connection of the country with Great Britain, a connection of which Canada and Britain are justly and equally proud.—*Scottish American*.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

HOW TO READ THE PROPHETS. By Rev. Buchanan Blake, B.D. Price 4s. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark; Toronto: Presbyterian News Company. 1892.

Some time ago the author of this handy volume published a useful treatise on "How to Read Isaiah," which has been already widely circulated. He has, therefore, returned to the same theme, extending his studies to the other prophets. In the present volume he takes up the greater number of the Minor Prophets, leaving the remaining ones and Jeremiah for a concluding volume. As regards the necessity for a volume of this kind there can be no question. The Minor Prophets, as regards their historical place and meaning, are a sealed book to most readers of the Bible, and this fact must tend to diminish their value as teachers of spiritual truth. Mr. Blake pursues the same method as in his treatise on Isaiah. He gives the prophets in their chronological order, as far as that can be ascertained, and he puts along with them those passages of the historical books which refer to the times and the appearance of the prophecies, so as to make their allusions intelligible. In this part there is condensation, but no addition to the words of Scripture. In the second part he gives fifteen chapters of historical comment in elucidation of the fifteen chapters of extracts given in the first Division. We do not think it possible to have a better introduction to the intelligent and edifying study of these great writings.

THE CORPORATION PROBLEM. By William W. Cook, of the New York Bar, author of "A Treatise on Stock and Stockholders and General Corporation Law." New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons; Toronto: Williamson and Company. 1891.

Mr. Cook writes upon a subject of commanding interest. The extraordinary growth of corporations in recent years is occasion for serious concern, because of the evils which easily grow out of them. Perhaps it is partly because of their great possibilities of use that the dangers of abuse are also great. Any man, or body of men, by circumstances or ability placed in a position to serve society is sure to be able to harm society. Great advantages have come from the growth of corporations; the cost of production has been diminished; vast enterprises for the development of natural resources have been carried forward; and the means of transit and of the transmission of news have been brought to a degree of perfection which could not have been realized without that great massing of capital which the corporation plan makes possible. But great abuses have appeared also. The fraud of "watered" stock has been perpetrated frequently; small corporations have been ruined deliberately by powerful rivals; unjust discriminations have been made; the rights of individuals have been disregarded; monopolies have been strengthened; and legislation favourable to the corporation has been obtained by bribery again and again. These things are dealt with frankly by our author, who then discusses remedies, taking up profit sharing, state socialism, regulation by the state, etc. The conclusion of this writer is that, while corporations are certainly dangerous, they will not be able to interfere permanently and largely with the welfare of the people, who have the power to unmake as well as make them. The book is valuable as a compendious statement of the case, rather than as a sufficient treatment of the problems involved.

St. Nicholas for February has reached the Library Table and is bright and original as ever. The proportion of sense and nonsense—nonsense after the manner of "Alice in Wonderland"—is agreeably proportioned for the "young folks" to whom Mary Mapes Dodge caters.

THE Western favourite, the *Overland Monthly*, comes to us bright with its new gilt ornamentation. From cover to cover the eastern reader will find matter of interest relating to western life, scenery, literature, and customs. The very first article, "Mission Bells," with its quaint and appropriate illustrations and its distinctive western flavour, gives the reader a warm welcome on the threshold, which the remaining articles, poems, etc., by no means diminish.

APPARENTLY the supposedly strong piece in the current *Cosmopolitan* is Sir Edwin Arnold's "Love and Marriage in Japan," for this title incarnadines, in huge red ink letters, the top of an otherwise not inartistic cover. The article itself, it is needless to say, is intensely interesting. Sir Edwin writes from as full a heart as mind on the subject of Japan. The frontispiece is a portrait of Mr. W. D. Howells who takes his seat on the editorial chair next month.

THE current number of the *Methodist Magazine* (Toronto: Wm. Briggs), from the liberal space devoted to subjects purely literary, historical, or scientific, makes one think that it must be a fortunate body that it represents. Few are the church papers which are not oftener than pleasant arenas for theological or ecclesiastical controversy. But the noise of strife is far away from the *Methodist Magazine*, whose pages contain matter interesting to all. It is singularly fortunate in its editor.

A FINE intellectual face is that of Professor Elias Loomis, which forms the frontispiece of the *Popular Science Monthly* for January. This is an excellent number. The very ably written articles are on subjects of public or scientific interest, and in their variety and excellence form an inviting treat for thoughtful and studious readers.