

taken down. The beam, which consisted of four planks 12 x 2 inches in section, spiked together, had been considered sufficiently strong and safe for all requirements; but the weight of the crowd and the jarring and stamping proved too much for it, and it broke in two, precipitating the floor and its load of humanity into the space below. The consequence was twenty people lost their lives, among whom were well-known citizens; and a hundred or so received more or less severe injuries to which a number may yet succumb, but the latest reports are hopeful. We extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved and the suffering, and wish them the truest consolation and speedy recovery. Her Majesty the Queen, the Earl of Derby, the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain and others across the Atlantic, have cabled terms of sincerest sympathy. The Governor-General and the Countess of Aberdeen also sent telegrams expressing sympathy and solicitude for the sufferers. Other similar communications have come in from many quarters. The city and country are deeply moved, and thousands assembled to view the wreck. An inquest is being held.

By this dire calamity we are once more reminded very forcibly, but not more so than we ought to be by the numerous accidents and other causes of sudden death of which we read day by day, that the Church teaches us in her Litany to pray that the Good Lord may deliver us from sudden death. And we may take it that we are to pray not so much that such calamities are to be averted by our prayers as that no form or mode of death shall find us unprepared to meet our Maker and Redeemer; that whilst we pray that He may comfort and succour all them who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity, we may also bless His Holy Name for all His servants departed this life in His faith and fear. So would that such might include all those who are called away without warning, and that we might pray for them as St. Paul did for his friend Onesiphorus, "The Lord have mercy on them in that day!" "For as the tree falleth, so it lieth." These sudden deaths are now so common that all need to be reminded of their warning voice, and to heed it and be prepared against the day of calamity, whensoever it may come.

#### HUMOURS OF '37\*

Those who may remember the cordial commendation which we bestowed upon a previous work of these gifted ladies ("In the days of the Canada Company") will rejoice that the success of that first experiment has been so great as to induce them to come before the public again. It is not easy to exaggerate the importance of such works as the one now before us. There is no book-making: there is not even an attempt to work up the excellent material of the book, so as to produce the highest literary or other effect; and yet, to our

\*Humours of '37: Grave, Gay, and Grim: Rebellion Times in the Canadas: By Robina and Kathleen Lizars. Price \$1.50. Toronto: Wm. Briggs, 1897.

taste, the effect is the better and the greater for this very reason. The whole book is pervaded by what we may call a feeling of spontaneity, the incidents being linked together in a natural manner, and the different stories told without effort or elaboration. Another good quality of the book is that the reader may dip into it almost at any page and read on ad libitum.

"The humours," quote the authors, "are commonly the most important and most variable parts of the animal body;" and so they give this name to the "grave, gay, and grim" incidents and characters of the time of the rebellion of 1837; and they certainly make these events more vivid to us than they appear in ordinary history. It is not so much that these ladies alter the general verdict of history; but here and there they dwell upon incidents which the historian must be content to mention; and, by side-lights and illustrative anecdotes, make the story more intelligible to us. Sometimes, indeed, they are pretty slashing in their descriptions and denunciations; for example, Sir Francis Bond Head catches it, and if terrestrial matters are communicated to the departed, we may hope that Aristotle is right in supposing that they reach them in a modified degree. Even-handed justice seems to be dealt to rebels and those who occasioned rebellion alike; and if Lyon Mackenzie's weaknesses and defects are set forth, those of the members of the Family Compact are not forgotten. It is useless here to comment on the ill-contrived scheme; but anyone can see how much more serious the matter might have been—likely enough, in different hands, to have resulted in the annexation of Canada to the North American Republic, or in a war between Great Britain and the United States. It would be wrong to forget or neglect to mention that the admirable Dr. Dunlop (Tiger Dunlop), whose Will edified the readers of the previous volume, is here at his best in denouncing the members of the Commissariat Staff, although, as a contemporaneous editor remarked, it was hardly fair for one six feet high and proportionately broad across the shoulders to propose to inflict physical chastisement upon one who is described as "an aged and feeble man, past the prime of life." But, for all that, Dunlop was a good fellow, and his wrath against the chief commissary was more on account of his men, "farmers and farmers' sons, in the habit of being well fed and well found in their ain hames." But we must refer to the volume for further details. No one will regret the time spent over this most entertaining book.

#### DILLMANN ON GENESIS.\*

It is a great satisfaction to students of the Old Testament to have Dillmann's work in such an excellent English translation, and presented in a form so attractive—leaving nothing to desire in regard of paper, type, and general getting up. As regards the commentary itself, there is no longer any controversy. It stands, along with the latest form

\*Genesis Critically and Exegetically Expounded. By Dr. A. Dillmann. 2 volumes. Price 18s. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark; Toronto: Revell, 1897.

of Delitzsch (his "new commentary on Genesis") at the head of all the expositions of the first book of the Old Testament. The point of view is, of course, different. Although Delitzsch, in his last edition, came nearer to the theories of Dillmann, Wellhausen, and Kuenen, yet to the last he maintained a clear recognition of the supernatural element in the Scriptures, which is not found in the other writers. Yet it must be acknowledged that, in regard to the religious significance of the book and its contents, Dillmann is hardly behind him. This will be apparent to anyone who reads carefully the passage on the Creation, still more that on the Fall. Even those who are indisposed to accept the commentator's general principles will find edification in his remarks on this subject. His comments on the Blessings or Farewells of Jacob to his children are a good specimen of his work. On the one hand, he recognizes the antiquity of the contents—shown by the presence of words which afterwards fell out of use. Yet he would deny that these are either the actual utterances of Jacob, or even a poetical embodiment of his thoughts. Frankly, he regards the predictions of future incidents as soothsaying, from which we may judge of his attitude to prophecy. In all this, however, we recognize a deeply religious spirit. In two respects the book is supreme—in the fineness of its criticism and the thoroughness of its scholarship. It is obvious that no student of Hebrew literature will dispense with these precious volumes.

#### REVIEWS.

Magazines.—McClure's leading article by Norman Hapgood, with illustrations, is "A Painter of Children—Boutet de Monvel." "An American at Karlsbad, by Cy. Warman, is very clever. "The Life of the Railroad Man," by Herbert E. Hamblen, is full of interest, narrating as it does his own experience of fifteen years. Robert Barr furnishes another of his glorious stories of the redoubtable Archbishop Baldwin of Treves, even more interesting than his last, and also a character sketch of Mark Twain. The second installment of Anthony Hope's sequel to the "Prisoner of Zenda" appears, with page illustration by Chas. Dana Gibson. Dana's third paper on "Men and Events of the Civil War," describes life in the trenches at Vicksburg and the men in command. "Sairy Spencer's Revolt," by Carrie Blake Morgan, and "Accordin' to Solomon," by Mary M. Mears, are two short stories, and "Reminiscences of Jno. Brown," by Daniel B. Hadley, complete the number.

The leading features in Harper's for January are the first installment of "Roden's Corner," a serial by Henry Seaton Merriman, "A Group of Players," by Lawrence Hutton, illustrated from unpublished portraits, "The Blazing Hen Coop," an amusing sketch of an experiment in chicken farming, by Octave Thanet. "Frescoes of Runkelstein," by W. D. McCracken, richly illustrated, "Massai's Crooked Trail," by Frederick Remington, illustrated by the author, "The King of Beaver," by Mary Martwell Catherwood. "The Sixth Sense," by Margaret Sutton Briscoe; "Stuttgart, the Ancient City," by Elise J. Allen, and "The New Northwest," by J. A. Wheeler, editor of the "Pioneer Press," of St. Paul, Minn.

On opening Scribner's this month one feels the loss of Walter A. Wyckoff's great papers on "The Workers," but we are promised the