

united province; whereas the moment that balance was destroyed, a larger representation given to one portion of the province, than to the other, the virtue departed, and one section became bound neck and heel to the will of the greater for ever."

Chapter XVI. describes in Mr. Collins' best manner the final deadlock between parties and the unexpected adhesion of Mr. George Brown, which set the ministry upon its legs and gave sudden facility to the union scheme then in hand. Of Mr. Brown's action in this matter, he says, while questioning the reformers motives and his subsequent conduct, "what he did do we shall endeavour to regard as a bright spot in a career of noisy and unscrupulous ambition and peace-disturbing damogogism." In the same connection we find the following observations upon Sir John's conduct in this as in other cases, "Not alone in his attitude toward this great question, but to many other important political events, the birth of his time, in which he has felt the deepest interest, has he been regarded hostile. * * * The truth is Mr. Macdonald has not pretended to be wiser than his time or sought to move faster than the people. He showed then, as ever since, that he regarded it to be his duty in the governing place, not to create but to obey public opinion. * * *

This has been Mr. John A. Macdonald's pre-eminence. * * * Brown's proposal of a coalition he saw was a favourable turn to the tide, which had up to that hour set adversely. Because his efforts for union before would only have been energy wasted, and a defeat tarnish on the project, he had, up to that hour, held aloof, because his exertions now could be turned to triumph, he not alone joined hands with the unionists, but with heart and head became the leader of the movement, halting not, or flagging not, as we shall see, till his ideal victory had been won." Mr. Collins' account of the meetings of confederation delegates at Charlottetown and Quebec is rendered the more interesting to us from his intimate acquaintance with the maritime provinces and their political aspirations. He is able to give some delightful touches of sectional feeling and character, as he describes the impassioned speeches that were made and the vanity of sentiment with which the all-absorbing topic was regarded. The reception of the Hon. Ambrose Shea in his Newfoundland constituency after his unpopular connection with the famous conference, Mr. Collins describes with a humour, which the solemnity of history does not always enable him to restrain. The anecdote serves as an indication of the violence of feeling, with which this "solitary virgin out in those cold Atlantic waters resented the proposal for political wedlock."

It would be impossible to speak too highly, from a literary point of view, of the admirable chapter "The First Dominion Cabinet," in which Mr. Collins draws a brilliant set of portraits of the distinguished statesmen, who are still most of them living, and fresh in our hearts. Of George Cartier, who so indefatigably supported the Union in Quebec, he draws a strong picture, which, however, as it is somewhat heterodox, we shall leave without comment in the hands of our readers. Mr. Cartier had many faults; for some of these, however, he was not responsible, as they were the inheritances of his birth. * * * He had an unbounded ambition, a profusion of nervous force, an unflagging perseverance, an activity as restless as the winds of heaven; and, to crown these invincible tools in the hands of a man who sits excelsior for his motto, he had an aggressiveness that pushed wide obstacles and all-opposing pretensions, and a capacity for organization that always astonished and sometimes bewildered those who are not given to analysis, but who are charmed by flash. No political leader could ignore M. Cartier, for he would prefer being matched against half a dozen strong men, to feeling that they had arrayed against them a tireless energy that never slept, never paused, that drilled on and would work its way through iron walls till it reached its end." Mr. Collins places Sir H. Langevin above Cartier as a statesman.

After this the narrative passes on to the Red River troubles, which are discussed with our author's usual clearness and vigor, the fisheries question and the great Pacific scandal. Mr. Collins tells this last story in his own way, with admirable skill and gives us vivid pictures of the peculiar scenes in the House, during the first disclosures. The administration of Mr. Mackenzie as pass rapidly over and the political character of that leader thus briefly described, "We differ from Mr. Mackenzie in our view of many public questions * * * but nevertheless we do not hesitate to say that his influence upon the political life of Canada has been good; that he was faithful to his trust and strove to do his duty. We should like to be able to say that he was a popular administrator; but we cannot. He was, and is, out of sympathy with the spirit of our time; and the robust judgment of the young country is against him. Cast-iron theories always hedged him in and set bounds to his every impulse and plan; at last they grew so narrow as to become his coffin." Mr. Collins is an admirer, warm and at the same time regretful, of Mr. Blake whom he calls: "Opportunity in ruins" and considers "intellectually as great an orator as Gladstone" and superior to him "in showing cold indifference to petty annoyance."

Before finishing his book, Mr. Collins introduces a long chapter on the "Thought and Literature" of the time, which to us is the most interesting part of the work; for here he appears to us peculiarly at home, and as he passes in re-

view the scanty ranks of our past and present authors, he is master of his subject; his criticism is warmly appreciative, and almost always just. A great part of the chapter is devoted to glowing and masterly examination of the works of the two first of Canadian singers, Roberts and Frechette, in his unbounded admiration of whom we entirely agree. In this chapter will be found what charms us most in the whole work, the author's perfect and loving patriotism—patriotism, as we understand it, devoted wholly to Canada, which regards Canada no longer as a child in leading strings, but as the apportioned home of a people who have accumulated a peculiar feeling and character of their own, who are in truth rapidly becoming one of the distinct upon earth, self-dependent, jealous of their manhood. There is a feature in Mr. Collins' writing which will doubtless and on good grounds be unacceptable to most of his readers, but which we must state here as it is the key note of his whole work, and that is his earnest advocacy of Canadian independence—a principle which he urges with an energy and eloquence, which whether we agree with him or not, cannot fail to impress us. The book closes with a warm and genial picture of Sir John's home and family.

A. LAMPMAN.

"THE IMPERIAL DICTIONARY."

Half a century has elapsed since Noah Webster frightened the British Isle from its propriety by publishing "An American Dictionary of the English Language" (first American edition, 1828; first English, 1832). In spite of English conservatism and the strong prejudice of literary magnates in favor of Dr. Johnson's authority, the substantial merits of the new work secured for it wide acceptance and popular appreciation. Strenuous efforts were made by Todd, Latham, and others, to furnish up Dr. Johnson's work for modern use; but no work of equal merit and success was produced until Dr. John Ogilvie prepared the first edition of "The Imperial Dictionary" (1847-55). In this he followed in the main the example of Webster, but added a new feature in the liberal introduction of illustrations in aid of definitions—a practice which has since been adopted by all dictionaries that make any pretensions to completeness. In other respects the work was a good exemplification of that peculiar talent of the Scotch for arranging, condensing and imparting information which has made Edinburgh a publishing centre for dictionaries and encyclopedias. Down to the present time "The Imperial Dictionary" has passed through four complete revisions, the last being by Charles Annandale, A. M. It has now reached such a stage of perfection that it is justly presented to the American public by The Century Company of New York as the complete standard English dictionary.

It is issued in four imperial octave volumes. Its external appearance is indeed prepossessing, and on opening it the eye is refreshed by the excellence of the paper and the clearness of the print. Each word defined is printed in bold-faced type which readily catches attention as we glance down the page. The illustrations, already referred to, are superior in finish to those found in our American dictionaries, and their usefulness and frequency can be judged from the fact that we find on one page illustrations of the "farthingale" of Queen Elizabeth's time, the "fascies" of the Roman consuls, the "fasciculate" root of a plant, and the "fascine" of military art. It will thus be seen how serviceable pictorial presentations are in many historical terms, in botany, in zoology, in architecture, and the various arts and sciences. Definitions are often made more clear in this way than they could be by whole pages of text.

In justification of the claim of "The Imperial Dictionary" on American patronage as the most complete and accurate dictionary of the English language, our attention is first called to the number of words defined, amounting to one hundred and thirty thousand. Compound words have been omitted wherever the meaning is obvious from the simple parts; but this rule is not so construed as to exclude such words as "boot-jack" or "crush-hat" which are here in their proper places. The aim has been to give the words of every author of prominence in English literature, from Chaucer down to the present day. In addition to the words used by standard English and American authors, the Scottish words which are found in Burns' poems and Sir Walter Scott's novels are properly included. Through the influence of recent poets and popular novelists, the use of such words is rapidly extending in general English literature. For instance, the word "eerie," for which De Quincey pleaded, though he acknowledged it to be provincial, is here quoted from Tennyson without any limitation in its use being marked. The lighter literature, and especially the realistic novels of the present day, admit colloquial expressions and slang so freely that there is a necessity to have such terms defined; and we are pleased to find this want sufficiently supplied. "Americanisms" are also given as fully and explained as correctly as in works devoted especially to that department of our language. It is a pleasure, indeed, to find sometimes words that are commonly regarded as American or provincial here given without any indication that their use or special meaning is confined to the United States. Among these we may instance "vest," and "switch" (in connection with railroads), which is given as both noun and verb; while "shunt," the so-called Eng-

lish equivalent, is given as a verb only. The peculiar verb, "to telescope," is treated in the same way. For the word, "bottoms," denoting alluvial lands, we find Addison cited as authority. The phrase, "let slide," is referred to Shakespeare; "let on," is pronounced Scotch and American. "Poker" is defined as "a favorite game of cards in the United States," and again as "any frightful object, especially in the dark; a bugbear (colloquial U. S.)." Among the terms marked as American, we find "bob-o-link," "bushelman" (said to be derived from "bush," a thimble), "bush-whacker" (for which Washington Irving is quoted), "bunkum, or buncombe," "checkers" (for draughts), "cuss," "darn" (for something stronger), "Greaser," "lily-pad," "section" of land, "stoop" (noun, with quotation from J. F. Cooper). Among these which are missing, perhaps as of too recent introduction, are "beegum," "blizzard," "boom," "bunko," "cuspidor," "illiterate" (as a noun) "tony" (though we find "tonish, or tonnish," with the same meaning). Of political terms, "repeater" and "bull-dozing" are here; but "Stalwart" is missing, and the definition of "Federal" is defective. With the exception of these Americanisms, we have missed no word of common occurrence, or even of recent introduction. As an instance of its completeness, we mention that it has the geographical term, "versant," in its proper place; whereas it is found only in the appendix of "Worcester," and not at all in "Webster."

Attention is called to the wide range of authors from whom illustrative quotations are cited. The list is given in the fourth volume, and comprises more than fifteen hundred authors, whose special department and date are also given. The quotations also have been selected with much care, and in this respect "The Imperial Dictionary" is superior to any other since Richardson's. The extracts often supply important information concerning the use and meaning of the word, and are sometimes full definitions from competent authorities. For an example of the former, see the word "colleghouse," and of the latter the word, "corral."

The department of etymology also receives the special care which the recent advances in philology have required. The labors of Latham, Wedgwood and Skeat, and the contributions of scores of others, have been duly examined and the merits of each suggestion weighed. That there has been independence of judgment, is evident from a comparison of the etymologies given by Skeat with those in "The Imperial Dictionary." Some venerable errors are here corrected, one of which is making "calumet" an Indian word; whereas it is French, derived from the Latin "calamus," and is a parallel form with "chalumeau." See also, "beef-eater," the derivation of which "buffetier" is properly pronounced fanciful.

The special feature which distinguishes this dictionary from all others is its encyclopedic character. Terms including a sufficiently wide range, instead of being dismissed with a brief statement of their meaning, receive also a statement of their relations and associations. Historical references are supplied wherever necessary, and abundant information is given under the terms of arts, sciences, philosophy, theology and law. Something similar is found occasionally in other dictionaries; but it is here used to such an extent that the editors and publishers are justified in claiming it as the new and distinguishing characteristic of "The Imperial Dictionary." In regard to this they have anticipated the needs, not only of general readers, but of students; for science is now so mingled with current literature that readers of all classes are compelled to resort to books of reference frequently, and it is desirable often, in order to understand fully a particular passage, to have more than a mere statement that the word in question is a term of a certain science.

We are pleased to learn that all controversy as to the copyright of any part of the dictionary which is founded on the work of American scholars has been happily avoided, as the publishers have taken care to make liberal arrangements with the holders of American copyright. It is also announced that a further revision and extension of this work has been commenced, under the direction of the eminent philologist, Professor W. D. Whitney, of Yale College; but as the labor involved will probably require years for its completion "The Imperial Dictionary" in its present form will continue to be offered for American patronage.

NEW YORK'S FREE PUBLIC BATHS.

The free public baths which were opened at New York last week have proved a source of infinite enjoyment to multitudes of people—especially to younger persons of both sexes. At the Battery swimming-bath, where there are sixty-three dressing-rooms, as many as 400 persons an hour were accommodated during the hot days of the past week, and in one instance there were more than 5,000 bathers between sunrise and sunset. The street Arabs find the baths especially attractive, and the scenes in the swimming-tanks, when crowded with bathers of this class, are picturesque and lively in the extreme. The bathers of both sexes wear costumes of all sorts and sizes—some of the smaller boys and girls sometimes appearing in garments evidently belonging to their parents, which are far too large for them, while in some cases the dresses are almost as scant as that worn by the first occupants of the Garden.

PERSONAL.

MISS CLARA LOUISE KELLOGG has taken passage in the *Germanic*, which sails from Liverpool on the twenty-eighth. Miss Kellogg has rented a house at New Hartford, her favorite country resort, for the summer. It is a pretty place, built by a Russian gentleman on the side of a mountain and fitted up as conveniently as a city house. Later in the season Miss Kellogg will go for a while to Saratoga and Long Branch.

A LARGE monument of gray granite is to be placed by Queen Victoria over the grave of John Brown in the kirkyard of Crathie. A cairn is to be erected to his memory somewhere near Balmoral—probably on one of the neighboring mountains. In addition to a brass in the Prince Consort's mausoleum at Frogmore, it is understood that Brown will be commemorated by a tablet which it is proposed to place in the nave of St. George's Chapel.

GEORGE W. CARLE, the novelist, is a very quiet little man, who was formerly a clerk. His life has been spent in New Orleans. He is a pious man, who attends largely to the official business of religious corporations. He does not read French novels, although one might, from his style, think that he does; and he has never attended a theatre. He is about forty-two years old, and he does not think that he writes novels when he is describing Creole life. He does not know what alcoholic liquors taste like.

THE Marquis of Lansdowne, the new Governor-General of Canada, is the representative of a family which has been distinguished for generations both for ability and liberality. He himself has held several offices under liberal ministries, but being a large landowner in Ireland, where he is said to own one hundred and twenty-five thousand acres, he has declined to support what he probably considers measures of confiscation, although he has on general policy adhered to the Government of Mr. Gladstone.

CHARLES GOUNOD, the composer, is sixty-five years old. He is a man of full medium size, stout and vigorous. His face is pale, his eyes large and luminous, his hair gray and the top of his head entirely bald, as it has been for many years. His broad forehead is furrowed with many wrinkles, his eyebrows are heavy but well formed, his grey beard thick and long, and his lips pale but heavy and sensual. He lives in the Place Malesherbes, Paris, close to the home of Bernhardt.

THE Christian life, says Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, may be compared to a system of railroads. Some are broad-gauge and some are narrow-gauge. Some run parallel and near to each other, some diverge and follow what seem to others needle-s roundabout ways. But all lead to the celestial city. The churches are so many stations. These have walls which inclose a certain number who want their protection, and wide projecting eaves which shelter a great many more who wish to be near the track, but must have plenty of air at any rate. Two churches have the broadest eaves of all. I will not name them, but this I will say, that they spread their eaves so far out toward each other that a poor sinner can slip from one station to that of the neighboring track without getting very wet in the worst theological weather.

MARIE VAN ZANDT.—Lucy Hooper writes from Paris regarding the famous American prima donna, Marie Van Zandt. Everybody calls her "la petite," though she is in reality of the full average height of American womanhood. But the slender form is very slight, and graceful as a reed, the small, delicate featured face, overflowing with fun and brightness and intelligence, seems scarce larger than the palm of one's hand, and the tiny feet and hands and the slender wrists and ankles help out an ensemble of apparent fragility, which is apparent only, for the little girl is in vigorous health, can stand twice as much fatigue as women of a heavier build, and as one of the comrades of Sarah Bernhardt once said of the great actress, she is made of wire. The small, bright, changing face is illuminated by a pair of great sea-blue eyes, which on the stage darken and deepen till they seem positively black.

A SCION of the English nobility was visiting, not long ago, in this city, says the Boston *Transcript*, one of the most honored representatives of Mayflower aristocracy; a dinner party was given in the visitor's honor, but when the guests arrived, and the dinner was about to be served, the Englishman sauntered into view in the same attire he had worn all day, not apparently deeming Americans worthy the trouble of dressing for, as he would feel obliged to dress on a similar occasion in his own country. The host was naturally deeply annoyed, but his guest being a young man he turned the matter over to his son. The latter walked over, took out his watch, glanced at it, and looking the Englishman in the eye, said, "It lacks five minutes of our dinner-hour; if you can dress in that time, come to table, if not we will dine without you." The rebuke was effective. The Englishman performed the feat, and perhaps learned the lesson that an American gentleman will not brook an insolence that might be overlooked by an American snob.

BRIGHT'S DISEASE, DIABETES, KIDNEY, LIVER OR URINARY DISEASES.

Have no fear of any of these diseases if you use Hop Bitters, as they will prevent and cure the worst cases, even when you have been made worse by some great pulled up pretended cure.