

stanzas of real strength, but strength is by no means characteristic of this verse, which too often fails to rise above common-place, and is seldom crisp, firm or incisive. Metrical grace and ease are the rule with Lord Lorne's work. Without definiteness of vision he is sometimes sympathetically picturesque, even imaginative.

"When day  
Lights the pale torture of the gulf profound—"

is a strong utterance from the very far from feeble sonnet on Niagara. The following from "Quebec" is a fine, resonant, colourful stanza:—

"And when afar the forests flushed  
In falling swathes of fire, there soared  
Dark clouds where muttering thunder roared,  
And mounting vapours lurid rushed  
While a metallic lustre flew  
Upon the vivid verdure's hue,  
Before the blasts and rain forth poured,  
And slow o'er mighty landscapes drew  
The grandest pageant of the Lord."

Two stanzas from the pleasant "River Rhymes" will serve as an instance of excellence and defect. The italicized lines are imaginative. The whole extract is suggestive; but the last line is inadequate and out of tune:—

"Plunged the salmon, waging feud  
'Gainst the jewelled insect-brood;  
*From aerial solitude*  
*An eagle's shadow crossed the wood.*

Flapped the heron, and the grey  
Haleon talked from cedar's spray,  
Drummed the partridge far away;—  
Ah! could we choose to live as they!"

Lord Lorne has little aptness of epithet; and judging from the above quotation he has failed to observe that the peculiar reverberating notes of the king-fisher are not uttered when the bird is perching, but when he is on the wing.

FROM MESSRS. T. B. Peterson & Bros., Philadelphia, we receive a volume of Hawley Smart's "Two Kisses." The story is one which aims to be snappy and lively at all hazards. It succeeds in this aim fairly well. It is perhaps fortunate that the author had not a higher ambition, as he gives no evidence that could lead us to suspect he would ever have attained it.

It is a delightfully fair and substantial little volume which comes to us from Messrs. Anson D. F. Randolph & Co. under the title of "Hymns and Spiritual Songs for Every Day." The collection has been made by the Rev. J. C. Ryle, D.D., Bishop of Liverpool. Its poetical quality is not quite as high as that of other volumes of devotional verse issued by this firm, but its religious fervour is simple and natural. Here, as in most of the devotional verse of the day, religious fervour has to compensate for lack of almost all other qualities desirable in song.

### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

MISS MARGARET MATHER, judged by her performances at Toronto is a graceful, sweet and altogether pleasing actress. More or less it would not be just to say. Her part in "As You Like It" is better suited to her powers than one of high passion. At the Saturday matinée she drew, in spite of adverse criticism, a house so full that many had to stand, and their restlessness made it difficult to hear at a short distance from the stage. *Touchstone* managed to make his good things heard. Anyone who has the part of *Jacques* is rather to be pitied. Shakspeare was a great poet in the general sense as well as a great dramatist, and occasionally he recedes, as it were, into pure poetry. He does this in "Hamlet," whose character is one of reflection rather than of action, and one which he who has sensibility enough to feel, would hardly have nerve enough to represent. The character of *Jacques* belongs to the same class. The soliloquy in "Hamlet" ought to be *thought*, not declaimed, as it almost always is; and the same thing may be said of the musings of *Jacques*. The thoughts and language of Shakspeare, however, are such that, provided the actor speaks clearly, you may be pleased although you shut your eyes.

It is said that Madame Patti's boudoir-car is to cost \$63,000.

THE Abbé Liszt has been engaged for years in the preparation of a great work on the technique of the pianoforte. He has it now nearly completed.

MOLIERE once said: "My life is a sad comedy in five thousand acts. It is very droll to the people in front; but it is bitter to the man behind the scenes."

COL. MAPLESON said to a reporter the other morning, in an interview concerning Patti's performance of "Aida":—"I noticed that one critic used very harsh language in criticizing what he calls the 'abominable cadenza she thought fit to introduce.' I wonder whether it would surprise the writer to learn that the 'abominable cadenza' was written by Verdi himself. Madame Patti has the original manuscript and will, I am sure, be happy to show it to her intelligent critic."

### LITERARY GOSSIP.

IN the January number of the *English Illustrated Magazine* Mr. Henry James will have a paper on Matthew Arnold.

"Q. P. INDEX" has published an index to Vols. 193-268 of the *Revue des Deux Mondes* and Vols. 1-21 of the *Nouvelle Revue*.

It is reported that a new novel by Mr. F. Marion Crawford was refused by MacMillan & Co., of London, on the ground that it was immoral.

At the meeting of "The Canadian Institute" on Saturday evening last, Mr. T. B. Browning, M.A., read a paper on "England's Oldest Colony."

UNLESS we greatly mistake, William Black's "Judith Shakespeare" is the only serial by a foreign author announced in any of the leading American magazines.

It is rumoured that Mr. George Stewart, jr., will be the next president of that long established and honourable body, the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec.

It is a strange freak of nature to see the tree of science bearing a branch of song. Professor Huxley has a son who contributes verse to a recent number of *Temple Bar*.

MR. W. H. MALLOCK, author of "Is Life Worth Living," and that brilliant "The New Republic," will stand for Parliament this winter. He is a Roman Catholic and a Conservative.

MRS. SHULTE, of Newark, N. J., formerly Miss Mary MacColl, of Kingston, Ont., and so well and favourably known to Canadians as the author of "Bide a Wee, and other Poems," is engaged in writing a novel.

THE December number of that excellent periodical, the *Magazine of American History*, contains four historical essays on Christmas and its observance in various parts of America. One of the papers is "Christmas-tide in Canada," by Mr. John Reade, of Montreal.

MOST skilfully has the anonymity of "The Bread-winners" been preserved, and employed to advertise the story. Col. John Hay has been suggested as the author, also Mr. Charles DeKay, Mr. Horace Scuddon, and lastly Mr. L. E. Curtis, of the *Chicago Inter-Ocean*. "The Gossip" will be surprised if any of these guesses prove correct, unless it be the last.

MESSRS. DAWSON BROS. have in press a new volume, by Mr. J. G. Bourinot on "Parliamentary Procedure." Its scope is said to be different from that of Dr. Alpheus Todd's work, in that it is strictly practical and designed for the use of Members and all who require acquaintance with Parliamentary usage. It will apparently be something after the fashion of Sir Erskine May's work.

"THE GOSSIP" cannot but hail with pleasure the information that the same firm is about to issue a new edition of Mr. S. E. Dawson's delightful "Study of 'The Princess.'" This edition is to have a new preface, and will also contain a long letter from Tennyson himself, in which he sets the seal of his emphatic approval upon Mr. Dawson's critical judgments. The work has received very cordial attention from the English and American press.

THE *Critic* tells of Whittier's colour-blindness. A fire having somewhat damaged the wall-paper in one of the rooms at Oak Knoll he thought to match it with a new piece which was neatly pasted on the wall to his great admiration and the amusement of his family. He had matched a delicate green vine with one of gorgeous crimson hue. Owing to this defect of vision, light and shade please him better than variety or depth of colour.

No. 42 of the "Rose Library" Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co. purpose making a premium number. It will contain a sketch of the life of Lord Lansdowne, by Mr. J. E. Collins, and will be accompanied by a large and well executed lithograph of His Excellency. "The Gossip," bearing in mind the attitude of Mr. Collins toward Governors-General, as displayed in his late work on Sir John Macdonald and his times, is somewhat curious to observe from what standpoint Lord Lansdowne will here be viewed.

Two devotees of the Lake School, just returned from a pilgrimage to the lakes, met recently and began to compare impressions. One asked the