

speare; yet her noble Castilian tongue possesses the single book of which the humour, so strictly natural, and yet so true and universal, has become native to all Europe. And Spain has produced the painters whose works unite high excellence of conception and execution with an absolute adherence to Nature, and are thus best fitted to please the most critical as well as the most uneducated eyes. If the visible and material efforts of the pencil may be compared with the airy flights of thought, Velazquez and Murillo may be said to appeal, like Cervantes, to the feelings and perceptions of all men; and, like him, they will be understood and enjoyed where the loftiest strains of Shakespeare, and the ideal creations of Rafael, would find no sympathy, because addressed to a kindred and responsive imagination belonging only to minds of a higher order. The crazy gentleman of La Mancha and his squire will always be more popular with the many than the wondrous Prince of Denmark. And those who turn away, perplexed and disappointed from the "Spasimo" or the "Transfiguration," would probably gaze with ever fresh delight on the living and moving captains and spearmen of Velazquez, or on Murillo's thirsty multitudes flocking to the rock that gushed in Hoereb.—*Annals of the Artists of Spain.* By Sir Wm. Stirling Maxwell, Bart. New Edition.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

"OTELLO" is to be given at the Covent Garden Theatre with Albani as "Desdemona."

THE latest reports about Patti state that she sang recently at Nice in "Lucia," and was in the best of health and spirits. The illness at Bristol and the troubles with the Russian leave her unscathed.

MARCELLA SEMBRICH, the great singer, is meeting with remarkable success during her tour through Russia. Both at Moscow and St. Petersburg the diva is reported to have created immense enthusiasm.

THE oldest journal of those devoted to music, the *Musical World*, has ceased to exist. Its life has been a strangely chequered one, but during the last two or three years its fortunes had appeared much brighter, and no definite cause, so far as we know, is assigned for its demise.

Not long ago at Rome, at the Sala Dante, a rare concert was given by Aristides Francheschetti, aided by several prominent musicians who performed a number of old Jewish compositions. The concert was preceded by a lecture on Hebrew music delivered by the Marquis Gino Monaldi, the music critic of the *Popolo Romano*.

EMIL BLAUWAERT, the gifted Flemish baritone, who appeared in London in the original cast of Benoit's "Lucifer" at the Albert Hall in 1889, is dead. Mr. Blauwaert was an accomplished linguist, singing in French, Flemish, German, Italian, English and Russian, and in Germany and Belgium he was highly esteemed as a Wagnerian vocalist, he having appeared in Bayreuth two years ago, in "Parsifal," and in Berlin at a concert of the Wagner Society.

THE College of Music gave one of its enjoyable entertainments at the College Hall, Thursday evening, Feb. 26. These College concerts are an evidence of the genuine and progressive work which is being done in the way of vocal and instrumental education in Toronto, and they are from an artistic standpoint well worthy of mention. Perhaps the most finished contribution of the evening was that of Mrs. Adamson and Miss Benson in Grieg's "Sonata" for violin and piano, Op. 8, which was admirably interpreted by both performers.

IN reviewing the first performance of Mascagni's "Cavaleria Rusticana" in Munich, A. Von Mensi asks: "How was it possible that all Italy, after the first performances of this opera last May, was plunged into a sea of ecstasy, that the citizens of Leghorn coined a special gold medal, and all the military bands played selections from 'Cavaleria Rusticana' till the thing became tiresome—how was all this possible with music which could never have been written without Richard Wagner's precedence, and which, with the exception of a few details, has nothing that is national about it?"

THE budget of the Paris Opera House varies from a little under 3,000,000 francs to a little over 4,000,000. Salaries are paid to no less than 700 persons. The enumeration is interesting and curious. Artists—which means singers—30; ballet dancers, 150; chorus, 80; orchestra, 100; at the booking offices, 30; carpenters, 80; gasmen, 15; dressers, 20 of each sex; ballet masters, stage managers, prompters, etc., 15; so the list runs on till we get the full number. The *claque* only get their admission—from sixty to ninety tickets for the pit—some of which they may dispose of. Every artist has a right to a dresser, who has charge of his wardrobe and conducts his toilet, but the artist may have his own valet if he prefer it. The chorus get each about 1,500 frs. a year, but they combine the opera with singing in the choirs of churches and also of the conservatoires, and have their special employments during the day. The leader of the orchestra gets 12,000 frs. a year, and the lesser lights from 1,500 frs. to 3,000 frs., but they stand out for their status. Meyerbeer used to call them "Messieurs les Professeurs," and the tradition remains. Then there are the dancers—the corps de ballet—who, starting with 1,800 frs. a year, get an annual increase of 200 frs., and sometimes rise very high indeed. Miss Mauri at present receives 40,000 frs.—*Pall Mall Gazette*

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THOREAU'S THOUGHTS: Selections from the Writings of Henry David Thoreau. Edited by H. G. O. Blake. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. 1890.

Though there is a wide divergence of opinion as to the genius of Thoreau and the merit of his work, there can be but one view as to the indebtedness of the attentive reader of this small, compact and well-printed volume to both its editor and publishers. We find here in essence the teaching of this weird and many-sided man, who says to us: "Let us settle ourselves, and work and wedge our feet downward through the mud and slush of opinion and prejudice and tradition and delusion and appearance, that alluvion which covers the globe, through Paris and London, through New York and Boston and Concord; through Church and State, through poetry and philosophy and religion, till we come to a hard bottom and rocks in place, which we can call reality." "Walden," p. 105. And again: "Drive a nail home and clinch it so faithfully that you can wake up in the night and think of your work with satisfaction—a work at which you would not be ashamed to invoke the Muse. So will help you God, and so only. Every nail driven should be as another rivet in the machine of the universe, you carrying on the work. *Ibid*, p. 353. And again: "Between whom there is hearty truth there is love; and in proportion to our truthfulness and confidence in one another, our lives are divine and miraculous, and answer our ideal." "Week," p. 284. "A grain of gold will gild a great surface, but not so much as a grain of wisdom." "Yankee in Canada," p. 257. But we must close with this extract: "How much more habitable a few birds make the fields! At the end of winter, when the fields are bare and there is nothing to relieve the monotony of withered vegetation, our life seems reduced to its lowest terms. But let a bluebird come and warble over them, and what a change! The note of the first bluebird in the air answers to the purling rill of melted snow beneath. It is evidently soft and soothing, and, as surely as the thermometer, indicates a higher temperature. It is the accent of the south wind, its vernacular. "Early Spring," p. 168.

It was of Thoreau, Emerson said: "Wherever there is knowledge, wherever there is virtue, wherever there is beauty, he will find a home." But we are regretfully forced to agree with Dr. Samuel Jones, who, in the preface to his Bibliography of Thoreau, has written: "There is too much of truth in the fear that the man so certified 'great, intelligent, sensual, avaricious America' knows not yet or in least part."

WORDS THEIR USE AND ABUSE. By William Mathews, LL.D. Chicago: S. C. Griggs and Company. 1888.

There are comparatively few men who have the power of investing a commonplace or hackneyed subject with a new and attractive interest, and through their mastery of language, and grace of style, of imparting information on such a subject, aptly, vividly and practically. That Dr. Mathews possesses this power goes almost without saying, and as an author he may well enjoy the happy consciousness of having been useful as well as ornamental in his day and generation. His "Getting on in the World" in usefulness and helpfulness has been a worthy rival of Smiles' "Self Help," and the present volume has, during the years that have passed since its first issue, taken rank with those of Alford, Trench, Marsh, and other well-known writers on the same topic. The fourteen chapters of which it is composed treat of "The Significance of Words"; "The Morality in Words"; "Grand Words"; "Small Words"; "Words without Meaning"; "Some Abuses of Words"; "Saxon Words, or Romanic"; "The Secret of Apt Words" (in two chapters); "Onomatopoeia"; "The Fallacies of Words" (in two chapters); "Names of Men"; "Nicknames"; "Curiosities of Language"; "Common Improperities of Speech," and to these are added the helpful adjuncts: A table of Contents; A List of Principal Books Consulted, and a copious Index. In writing of the significance of words Dr. Mathews says, wisely: "Let no one underrate the importance of the study of words. Daniel Webster was often seen absorbed in the study of an English dictionary. Lord Chatham read the folio dictionary of Bailey twice through, examining each word attentively, dwelling on its peculiar import and modes of construction, and thus endeavouring to bring the whole range of our language completely under his control. One of the most distinguished American authors is said to be in the habit of reading the dictionary through about once a year." To these illustrations we may add that the great English statesman and orator, the late Earl of Derby—"the Rupert of debate"—was a close student of the English dictionary and those who have followed our own Edward Blake through the course of an important legal argument, where nice distinctions were drawn as to the meaning of words and phrases, must have been impressed by his profound knowledge of English words and the advantage such knowledge gave him. Dr. Mathews has the happy art of illustrating his subject and enforcing his meaning by striking references to the great speakers, writers and thinkers of the present and past, as well as to the requirements and needs of those whose lot is cast in the humbler walks of life. To all who wish to use—but not abuse—our priceless heritage of English speech, we heartily commend this book which is a singularly happy adaptation of scholastic culture to popular needs.

Cassell's Family Magazine for March opens with the serial, "A Sharp Experience," by Kate Eyre. The second paper on "How to Choose a New House," has a good deal of practical advice in it. "When Mother is Ill" is the title of a poem that accompanies the frontispiece. "A Model Irish Town" describes Bessbrook, a manufacturing village in Ireland. "Only Just" is the title of a story by the author of "Who is Sylvia?" A practical paper is "On Colouring Materials for Embroiderers." "Their Living to Get" is the title of a story of four girls and their start in life, by "Their Mother." "The Belfry Clock" is a pleasing poem by Frederic H. Weatherly.

THE *Methodist Magazine* for March is a special Wesley number. Amongst its articles are "Footprints of Wesley," with many engravings; "Last Days of Wesley," by Luke Tyerman, with portrait; "Mother of the Wesleys," by Dr. Potts, with portrait; "Wesley and Methodism," by Dr. J. O. Clark; "Wesley as seen by his Contemporaries"; "Wesley and Literature," by Dr. Punshon; "Methodism in the Eighteenth Century," by the editor; and a Symposium of Methodism, by Prof. Goldwin Smith, Hon. O. Mowat, Hon. G. W. Allan, Lieut.-Governor Sir L. Tilley, and other leaders of Canadian thought.

"THE Wings of the Morning," by the Rev. Dr. Hugh Macmillan, opens the *Quiver* for March. The serial, "Waiting to be Claimed," increases in interest. "Life's Guide: The Book of Books," is the second paper in the series, "Sundays with the Young." "Imperfect Workers" is a paper containing good advice to those who have their way in the world to make; it advises taking pains. "White Violets" is a story in two chapters with a French pension for its scene. That old custom, "The Ringing of the Curfew," is described. "The Shield, the Sword and the Battle" papers are continued. There are numerous stories, long and short, some pretty poetry, theological articles and pictures, besides a bundle of Short Arrows.

THE *March Magazine of American History* opens with a study of the public career of "General F. E. Spinner," by Rev. Isaac S. Hartley, D.D., including a description of General Spinner's part in the conception and issue of the "greenbacks" in the time of the late Civil War. The second article is a story, by Hubert Howe Bancroft, of his varied experiences in bringing out his first book. In the third paper we have a sketch, with portrait, of the Rev. Samuel M. Isaacs, by Abram S. Isaacs, Ph.D. Hon. Charles K. Tuckerman, of Florence, Italy, in "An Hour with George Bancroft" describes his last visit to the great historian. There is also a sonnet on "George Bancroft, 1800-1891," by W. C. Richards. "Slavery in Canada" is by J. C. Hamilton, LL.B., of Toronto; "The Home-spun Age," by M. C. Williams, relates to early settlements in the interior of Tennessee. Other matter follows and completes an interesting number.

THE *Century Magazine* for March has another installment of "Talleyrand Memoirs" in which the celebrated diplomatist refers to the desire of Napoleon to be divorced from Josephine and to be married to a sister of the Czar Alexander, to his ultimate choice of the Archduchess Maria Louisa, and other interesting occurrences in his life. And then the accession of the Bourbons is referred to and the extract ends with an estimate by Talleyrand of Napoleon's career. "Australian Cities" is another of Mr. G. R. Parkin's able and well-balanced articles which adds greatly to the reader's knowledge of the important features of Australian Civic Life. Captain John G. Bourke's article on "General Crook in the Indian Country" is a vivacious and entertaining description of one of the most skilful and daring frontier Captains that the United States army has produced. The Fremont exploratory articles are resumed and the serials, short stories, poems, and other departments are well sustained. We have read with interest "Two Interviews with Robert E. Lee," by W. W. Page.

WITH the number for March the *Forum* begins its eleventh volume. "In the Nicaragua Canal" Senator John Sherman gives an explanation of the report by the Senate Committee in favour of an appropriation; the commercial and international significance of the undertaking. "Silver as a Circulating Medium" is treated by George S. Boutwell, former Secretary of the Treasury, in an explanation of the present issue of silver coin, and of the proposed legislation to extend it. Bishop A. Cleveland Cox has a timely and creditable contribution on "Do We Hate England?" It is a plea for the peaceful settlement of our dispute with Great Britain, with sharp reference to the Irish both in English and in American politics. In "The Shibboleth of 'The People'" W. S. Lilly examines Government by the majority and the modern faith in numbers instead of moral force. Other notable articles are "Freedom of Religious Discussion," by Prof. Max Müller; "The Ring and The Trust," by Rev. Dr. William Barry, which treats of state socialism; and "Railways Under Government Control," by W. M. Acworth.

Outing for March is a capital number. Lovers of the dog will find a St. Bernard article with Sir Bedivere's portrait by Moore. Canoeists will enjoy the chatty manner in which C. Bowyer Vaux tells his tales by the winter camp fire. Yachtsmen will peruse with profit the first chapter of Capt. Roosevelt Schuyler's *Evolution in Yacht Building*; athletes, also, the instruction which Prof. Austin imparts in "A Bout with the Gloves," and National Guardsmen the attractive article, "How Old England trains her Red Coats." The cyclist and naturalist will find