

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

THE *Evening Telegraph* is a new Montreal paper which cannot be said to support the Conservative party.

THE American Academy of Political and Social Science will shortly issue a translation of Prof. Meitzen's great work on Statistics.

EDWARD BELLAMY is about to start a weekly Nationalist newspaper in Boston to be called the *New Nation*. The first number will appear this month.

MR. WILLIAM P. MCKENZIE has in press a volume of poems called "Songs of the Human," which, we doubt not, will heighten its author's reputation.

THE venerable French author, Jules Simon, does the greater part of his writing while in bed. He lies flat on his back, and writes on a tablet of paper held above him.

HARPER AND BROTHERS have in course of publication an important series of works on Queen Victoria's Prime Ministers. That on "Sir Robert Peel" is nearly ready for publication.

WORTHINGTON COMPANY announce "Adventures on the Mosquito Shore," a book of travels written in a popular form by E. G. Squier, at one time U. S. Minister to the Central American States.

MRS. WILLIAM MORRIS, wife of the London artist, poet and Socialist, is said to be the most beautiful woman in the world. She goes out but little, and is rarely seen by the multitude who visit her husband.

W. CLARKE RUSSELL, whose sea stories have such remarkable dash, breeziness and out-of-door freedom, has long been a hopeless and well-nigh helpless invalid, chained to an indoor existence in an inland town.

THE first instalment of "Some Familiar Letters by Horace Greeley" will be a feature of the March number of *Lippincott's Magazine*. This is a remarkable series of letters written by Horace Greeley to an intimate friend.

A NEW volume by Mr. Aldrich, "The Sisters' Tragedy, with other Poems, Lyrical and Dramatic," will be published shortly by Houghton, Mifflin and Company. Also a new volume by Bret Harte, containing "A Sappho of Green Springs," and other stories.

"ACROSS East African Glaciers" is the title Dr. Meyer has given to his account of the first ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro, one of the most important events of recent African exploration. It will be published immediately in this country by Longmans, Green and Company.

UNTIL quite recently the old Essex Head Tavern on the Strand, London, which was one of Dr. Johnson's favourite resorts, has been kept by two Misses Fielding, who were descendants of the author of "Tom Jones." Now, however, the old building is to be pulled down.

GEORGE MEREDITH, the English poet and novelist, is of very delicate constitution, so far as outward signs can be depended upon, but he has a magnetic personality, although he speaks with a rather unpleasant drawl. He writes in a small house separated from his residence, and usually spends several hours each day in this retreat.

Public Opinion, the eclectic weekly of Washington and New York, has just announced the offer of three cash prizes of \$150, \$100, and \$50 respectively, for the best three essays upon the question: "Is any extension and development of trade between the United States and Canada desirable; if so, what are the best means of promoting it?"

ROBERT CLARKE AND COMPANY, of Cincinnati, have reprinted "Withers' Chronicles of Border Warfare," printed in 1831; "Haywood's Civil and Political History of Tennessee," printed in 1823; "Haywood's Natural and Aboriginal History of Tennessee," of same date, and "Venable's Beginnings of Literary Culture in the Ohio Valley." All works of historic interest.

WE have received some excellent pamphlets published by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, comprising the following: "Dairy Farming and Ranching," "100 Farmers Testify," "The Canadian North-West," "Free Farms," "A Scotch Farmer's Success," and "British Columbia." They contain a vast amount of useful information, secured by special commissioners, and contain numerous illustrations of farming operations, etc., upon the prairies, also a great number of letters from settlers.

MR. JOHN MACLEAN, whose death has followed so closely on that of his son James, recently referred to by us, was one of the clearest and ablest editorial writers in Canada. The policy of protection so well known as "The National Policy" found in him one of its earliest and most forceful advocates. Mr. Maclean's articles on economic and financial questions were amongst the ablest that have been written on those questions in the range of Canadian journalism.

MESSRS. HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY announce two important works, "Poole's Index to Periodical Literature," New revised edition. In two volumes, royal octavo; and "Hannibal," a history of the Art of War among the Carthaginians and Romans down to the Battle of Pydna, 168 B. C., with a detailed account of the Second Punic War. With 227 charts, maps, plans of battles and tactical manoeuvres, cuts of armour, weapons and uniforms, by Theodore Ayraut Dodge, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel United States Army, Retired List. Of this latter work it is said that like the "Alexander" of the same author, this book narrates the military achievements of its hero, and

contributes very distinctly to an understanding of the origin and growth of the art of war.

A DISCOVERY of importance has been made in the National Library at Cracow. Dr. Torembovich has found a number of manuscripts of Spanish songs, romances, comedies and novels hitherto unknown, and dating from the sixteenth century. They include twenty-six "pliegos sueltos" of songs upon the themes of love and the Moorish wars. The public library at Prague possesses a few books and manuscripts of this kind, but Madrid has absolutely nothing in this department of Spanish literature. Among the most remarkable of the manuscripts which have come to light is a poem upon "The Child King Boabdil, El Rey Chico, Who Lost Granada." The Academy of Science at Cracow intends to publish full details of the discovery, which is likely to excite great interest in Spain and in literary circles everywhere.—*London Standard*.

THE meeting of the Western Canada Loan and Savings Company, which was held on the 16th instant, was in every respect a satisfactory one. It is gratifying to read the following expressions in the President's report, coming as they do from a competent source and referring to the affairs of a Toronto loan and savings company of twenty-eight years standing: "The standing of the Company being now so well known and appreciated by investors, we have no difficulty in obtaining all the money we require on most favourable terms. The earning power of the Company consequently has never been larger, and we may look forward with confidence to a steady continuance of the same satisfactory returns to our shareholders that have so uniformly characterized each year of the Society's existence." Such statements as these warrant us in saying, that on the showing of these important Canadian financial companies whose interests are intimately interwoven with those of our farmers and landowners, we have just cause to be assured of the prosperity and progress of our country. We observe that the large dividend of ten per cent. has been awarded, after payment of all charges, to the stockholders; and that out of a mortgage security of six millions and a half, one-fifth has been paid back this last year by borrowers. A balance of over thirty thousand dollars was also carried to the contingent account.

MR. E. W. THOMSON'S remarkable letters to the *Toronto World* on the issues of the present campaign are one of its most striking features. Mr. Thomson's rare literary ability, his wide and accurate knowledge of public affairs, and the fact that for many years he has been one of the foremost editorial writers of the Reform press of Canada give to his letters the unusual weight and significance which has caused them to be copied and quoted by the foremost journals and most prominent speakers in Canada at the present hour. To this may be added the fact that Mr. Thomson is a man with an unblemished record as a public man as well as in private life, who, though he is a friend of the United States, is a still greater friend of Canada. The main reply to Mr. Thomson's arguments so far presented seems to be, the assertion, that he was discharged from the position of chief editorial writer of the *Globe* by Sir Richard Cartwright. Mr. Thomson has replied in a public letter that this is false, and, that he resigned his position on the *Globe* for reasons closely connected with those, which he is now publicly urging upon his fellow-countrymen. Neither the *Globe* nor any of the Liberals have so far contradicted this reply. The truth seems to be that Mr. Thomson is simply giving the public the benefit of his wide knowledge of the politics and public affairs of Canada from the standpoint of an independent volunteer in the campaign, and is attacking the policy of Sir Richard Cartwright by enunciating the principles of an orthodox Canadian Liberal.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- Boldrewood, Rolf. *Colonial Reformer*. \$1.25. London: Macmillan & Co.; Toronto: Williamson & Co.
- Burnham, J. Hampden, M.A. *Canadians in the Imperial Service*. \$1.50. London: W. H. Allen & Co.; Toronto: Williamson & Co.
- Corbett, Julian. *Sir Francis Drake*. 60c. London: Macmillan & Co.; Toronto: Williamson & Co.
- Davis, Harriet Riddle. *Gilbert Elgar's Son*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; Toronto: Williamson & Co.
- Farrington, Margaret Vere. *Fra Tippo Lippi*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; Toronto: Williamson & Co.
- Houghton, Geo. *The Crystal Button*. \$1.25. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.; Toronto: Williamson & Co.
- Jerome, K. Jerome. *Told After Supper*. \$1.00. New York: Henry Holt & Co.
- Jephon, A. J. Mounteney. *Emin Pasha*. \$3.75. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Presbyterian News Co.
- Litchfield, Grace Denio. *Little Venice and Other Stories*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; Toronto: Williamson & Co.
- Morris, Wm. *News from Nowhere*. \$1.00. Boston: Roberts Bros.; Toronto: Williamson & Co.
- O'Donnell, Jessie F. *Knickerbocker Nuggets. Love Poems*. Vol. I, II. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; Toronto: Williamson & Co.
- Preston, Margaret J. *Aunt Dorothy*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; Toronto: Williamson & Co.
- Paull, Mrs. Geo. A. *Prince Dimple*. New York: Anson D. F. Randolph; Toronto: Williamson & Co.
- Squier, E. G. *Adventures on the Mosquito Shore*. 50c. New York: Worthington & Co.
- Smith, Goldwin, D.C.L. *Canada First*. Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Co.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

TO MINE OWN COUNTRY.

O COUNTRY mine, Canada, beautiful maiden,
Stayed, in thy course, with irresolute feet,
Where the path from the forest, all gloom-begirt, laden
With odours of pines, and the upland road meet!

Behind are the perils thy wisdom eluded,
The foes that thy courage undaunted hath slain,
The clearings, once giant encumbered, denuded,
And broad acres greening or golden with grain.

Think not of the past, with its echo of gladness,
Its flush of achievement, its portion of pain,
Its dawning day darkened with noontide of sadness
And April sun breaking through cloudlets of rain.

Why pause when before thee the highway is rounding,
To rise to the prairie to sweep to the lea,
With deep restful valleys and rivers abounding,
And mountains whose purple heads flush o'er the sea.

Take heart and push onward! The morning is waning,
The noon with its shadowless glory is near—
Still trust in the God who hath led thee, disdaining
The thought of disaster that prompts thee to fear.

No longer a child of the forest, a woman
Whom destiny waits with a sceptre to sway,
Go bravely to meet or the friend or the foe man,
Who welcomes thy coming or stands in thy way.

And He who is Lord of the forest and fountain,
The sweep of the prairie, the swathe of the sea,
An Ancient of days, when the sear of the mountain
Was rent by the storm-cloud's incarnadined glee.

Who sitteth supreme o'er the nations forever,
Shall guide thee to greatness and shield thee from shame,
Shall crown with completeness each honest endeavour
That's done in the truth and the trust of His name.
Kingston, 1890. REV. PROF. K. L. JONES.

OUR OWN CANADIAN AXE.

WHAT have artists against the Canadian or narrow chopping axe that they should misrepresent it so grossly? We never yet but once saw a true picture of one, and that was in *Harper's Weekly* about a year ago. It was in a Canadian camping scene by Frederic Remington, the most accurate of American artists.

But even he seems to be losing his grip on the axe, or else the engraver does him an injustice, because, in one of his latest pictures of the Pine Ridge trouble, he represents an American soldier in the act of chopping the frozen ground; the axe head is not so badly drawn, but the handle is a monstrosity. No one but a "Jap" could work with such a thing.

The Canadian chopping axe and the lumberman's hewing broadaxe are tools or implements, which, when properly made and hung, are perfection in themselves—they cannot be improved on; but who ever saw one correctly drawn in a picture?

It is a wonder that the English cling to their antediluvian pole axes, with the exception of such men as Gladstone who have become old enough to know the beauty and adaptability of the Canadian weapon of offence and defence.

We have seen pictures with correctly drawn axes in them go to the hands of the engraver, only to become a gross libel on the intelligence of a man who would handle such a thing. It is a disgrace to a Canadian artist or engraver who cannot produce the likeness of an axe.

It is the national weapon, the symbol of our people. Its force and strength are emblematic of our national physique. Like the sword it is the forerunner of civilization. Its voice has rung in the darkest groves of our magnificent forest domain. It was the *multum in parvo* of the settler and pioneer; with it he made everything fashioned out of wood. With it he felled the loftiest forest monarch, or cleft open the skull of a wolf or bear with calm impartiality. At close quarters it is a terrible weapon, its short razor-like edge bites through bone and joint with resistless force.

When the U. E. Loyalists landed on Ontario shores, and saw the impenetrable primeval forest stretching endlessly before them, they must, like Constantine, have seen a sign in the sky: an axe with the legend: "By this sign conquer."—*The Manitoba Liberal*.

HARES, THEIR HAUNTS AND HABITS.

DURING the summer months, hares live largely in the standing corn. When this is cut in August, they seem at first much alarmed at the loss of their accustomed cover. In parts of Suffolk where woods were scarce they used generally, when harvest was ended, to pass the day in hedgerows; sleeping under the stumps of thick thorn bushes, where hollows are formed by the dry earth gradually dropping into the ditch. If alarmed they sprang across the ditch, not like a rabbit, who almost invariably doubles up the bank and bolts out through the hedge. After a few weeks, they abandoned the hedges for the turnips and rough ploughs. Woods always hold them