

chapel, surrounded by a garden, on some elevated point between the Arc de Triomphe and the Invalides. The license of the Government will be necessary for holding religious services in it.

ALL great men have tastes of their own, and it may be interesting to some people to know that M. Gambetta delights in fresh plover's eggs. As plovers are very rare in France, the President of the Chamber has rented a preserve at Osnabrück, near Hanover, and the eggs are sent up to the Palais Bourbon as fast as they are collected.

A VERY aristocratic French fashion is that of white toilets, for paying or receiving visits in the daytime. This fashion commenced in country chateaux, and seems likely to be continued in Paris. Dresses of white cloth are exceedingly pretty, and quite unique in style. Several brides have paid their visits recently in dresses of white Hindoo cashmere, trimmed with ivory white plush, with the mantle and bonnet of plush to match.

IN Paris there were not a few weddings in high life last month. One of the most interesting was a wedding at which there was a great profusion of flowers; one would have thought summer had come back again. The bride wore orange blossoms, not only in her hair and upon her dress, but even upon her satin slippers. The marriage jewels were enclosed in a case formed of natural flowers; the sides were made of the firm buds of the Marechal Niel roses, crossed with a line of tea-roses; the cover was composed of splendid white roses; in the centre the initials of the bride were formed of Parmese violets; the inside was lined with white satin. The fan was of sprays of lilies of the valley and white heather blossoms, with the delicate foliage of the tamaris, spread out, and the stems joined together by a bow of white satin.

A FEW GEMS FROM AMERICAN POETS.

American poetry may be divided into three periods—the Colonial Age, the Revolutionary Age and the National Age. The Colonial Age was not very favourable to literary production, either in prose or poetry, as the colonists were engaged in a constant struggle for existence, and had but little time to devote to literary pursuits. The Revolutionary Age, characterized by political independence, was marked by conflicts with tongue, pen and sword. In consequence of the stirring incidents of this period, the poetry of the Revolutionary Age is almost exclusively of a political and patriotic character. It was only with the National Age that American literature began to assume a national importance and to show signs of a distinct national life. With the advent of Bryant and Longfellow, American poetry began to challenge the attention of the world, and to show the results of American thought and culture. For years and years there had been a kind of ciffidence in American literature, but the great civil war, besides marking the era of the social emancipation of three million slaves, may be well looked upon as marking another and very important era—the era of the intellectual emancipation of thirty millions of freemen. The Americans are fast laying the foundation of a national literature, and whether we turn the pages of Emerson, Longfellow, or Holmes, the spirit of an independent and self-reliant nation greets us in every line. Nor is this to be wondered at, for self-reliance is just as essential to the achievement of success in the individual as in the nation. William Cullen Bryant, who may be almost called the father of American poetry, wrote one of his finest poems, "Thanatopsis," when only sixteen. He is called the American Wordsworth, being characterized by the same reverent observation of nature. A deep religious feeling pervades all his works. There is a classic dignity in his style and a purity of diction seldom surpassed. It is not often that we meet in verse anything more beautiful than the following from "Thanatopsis":

"So live that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan that moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death;
Thou go not like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

In his poem "The Battlefield," how forcibly and chaste-like he shows the power of truth, which Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes states in his "One-Hoss Shay" to be the only thing together with a tree which keeps its youth. The potency of truth is visible in every line of the following:

"Truth, crushed to earth, shall rise again;
The eternal years of God are hers;
But Error wounded, writhes in pain
And dies amid her worshippers."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, one of the most popular, if not the most popular, living poet, has already reached the ripe age of seventy-three. He lives at Cambridge, Mass., in an old house once occupied by General Washington as his headquarters. He alludes to the fact in one of his poems, in which he says:

"Once, ah, once within these walls,
One who—memory oft recalls,
The father of his country dwelt."

The characteristics of Longfellow's poems are simplicity, grace and refinement. He has but

little imagination and passion, but frequently charms us by presenting the ordinary sentiments of humanity in a new and attractive garb. What simplicity and grace characterize the touches of sadness and consolation in his poem "The Rainy Day":

"The day is cold and dark and dreary;
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
The vine still clings to the mouldering wall,
But at every gust the dead leaves fall
And the day is dark and dreary."

My life is cold and dark and dreary;
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
My thoughts still cling to the mouldering past,
But the hopes of youth fall thick in the blast,
And the days are dark and dreary."

Be still, sad heart! and cease repining;
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining;
Thy fate is the common fate of all;
Into each life some rain must fall,
Some days must be dark and dreary."

John Greenleaf Whittier is said to rank next to Longfellow in popularity. He has not Longfellow's wide and elegant culture, but possesses a more real poetic genius. We find a masculine vigour in many of his poems. Whipple says that in his patriotic lyrics he seems to pour out his blood with his lines, so terrible is his energy. He was born the same year as Longfellow, and while a boy worked with his father on a farm. He afterwards became editor of a paper, and has since devoted himself to literature. That he remembers still the loneliness which characterized his boyhood days is visible in his poem, "The Barefoot Boy":

"Blessings on the little man,
Barefoot boy with cheek of tan;
With thy turned-up pantaloons
And thy merry whistled tunes;
With thy red lips redder still,
Kissed by strawberries on the hill;
With the sunshine on thy face
Through thy torn brim's jaunty grace;
From my heart I give thee joy:
I was once a barefoot boy."

Whittier is a fierce hater of wrong in every form. His anti-slavery lyrics bear testimony to the love of justice and right which reign in the heart of the great Quaker poet.

Belleville, Ont. T. O'HAGAN.

HEARTH AND HOME.

CHEERFUL ROOMS.—Do you ever observe that a tidy room is invariably a cheerful one? It is cheering to come into one's breakfast-room and find it spotlessly tidy; but still more certainly will cheerfulness come if tidiness is the result of our own exertion; and so we counsel you, friend, if you are ever disheartened, vexed or worried about something that has gone wrong with you in the world, to have resort to the great refuge of tidiness. Don't sit brooding and bothering. Go to work and make everything tidy about you, and you cannot fail to recover your cheerfulness.

A GOOD HUSBAND.—A man is a good husband, you say. It is well. No husband at all, perhaps, or worse than none. His goodness is his wife's, or more his wife's than his. It is well, we say, that under any influences he can be good; but let him not take all the credit of his goodness to himself. The bigger share is due to his better half. Some might be good, if tried, to two or three in succession; some, but to one; and some, alas! to none. A woman is a good wife. This, too, is well. But how much of her goodness is her husband's? She cannot tell. Perhaps one-half. Perhaps two-thirds. Then let her not be proud. Let her keep from boasting. Let her cherish modest thoughts of herself, and form charitable judgments of others, and her virtue will be all the greater, and her comfort all the safer.

HOUSE PLANTS.—Those who keep house plants must be aware that there is no settled rule to regulate watering. During the first part of a season plants rarely get dry; but towards spring they absorb a great quantity of water. In the former case they are weak, trying to rally and build themselves up afresh. In the latter case they are hungry and robust, and assimilate nutriment very rapidly. "But give us a rule," says the amateur. There is positively none. No rule can be given. Watering requires all one's powers of observations, thought and common sense, to perform properly. It was recommended once, in the case of a greenhouse shrub, that it have "plenty of air and intelligent waterings." No one can tell how much or how little a plant may need. The nearest approach to a golden rule that we have seen is given by one of our leading florists. "In proportion to the vigour of a plant should its food be supplied." And this accords with the statements already made.

THE HOUSEWIFE.—The fashionable young lady takes pride in saying and believing that housekeeping is not her forte. She was not born to do "menial labour." That is all very well if she is wealthy; but if she marries a man in moderate circumstances, the folly of her words becomes obvious. The women who think it no disgrace to work are proud of their homes, proud of the dinners they cook, and what not? They are not ashamed to have it said of them, "She does her own housework." Oh, how many people are doomed to live always in rented houses, because they will not give up the luxury of servants, for they are truly a luxury when it takes all your husband's income—above necessary expenses—to furnish the board and pay the wages of servants. What servant

will care for the things in daily use as you yourself will? A home all our own is most precious, and when we are saving for an object it is so much easier to deny ourselves, and if the money often wasted on servants was saved, it would, by and-by, secure a home. Think of this, girls, when you are frittering away precious hours in idle pursuits and pleasures..

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

TUESDAY, January 20.—The Spanish Cortes has adopted all the clauses of the Cuban Abolition Bill.—It is said that Russia will temporarily abandon the expedition against Merv.—M. Ferry has reported his amended bill for remodelling the system of primary education.—A large Home Rule meeting was held in Dublin, to take into consideration means of relieving the prevailing distress.—Serious riots, necessitating the calling out of the military, have occurred at Rio Janeiro, in consequence of popular opposition to the railway passenger tax.—Chief Douglas has demanded rations from the agent at Los Pinos agency, but as it is illegal to issue rations to Indians on the war-path, the demand has been refused. The Indians are much dissatisfied in consequence, and are busily engaged collecting arms and ammunition.

WEDNESDAY, January 21.—Nihilist and Socialist agitation has appeared among the Polish population of West Prussia.—Further arrests have been made of persons implicated in the recent riots at Claremorris, in Ireland.—A thousand operatives of the Mossy cotton mills, in Lancashire, are locked out, having struck for a ten per cent. advance in wages.—Lord Beaconsfield's health is again a subject of anxious discussion in Government circles in England, and an early retirement from the cares of official life is spoken of as advisable.—News of three terrible disasters which took place in England, comes over the cable. Two of the accidents are coal gas explosions in mines, by which 100 miners are said to have perished in the Lyceet mine at Newcastle, and 80 miners in the Fair Lady mine at Henley, in Staffordshire. The third disaster was an explosion at the gunpowder mills at Dartford, in Kent, but the despatch does not state whether any loss of life occurred in this instance.

THURSDAY, January 22.—Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise sailed from Liverpool. The Princess was accompanied by her brothers the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh. Her suite consists of Hon. Mrs. Langham, Lady Pelly, and Captains Charter and Collins. Col. McNair will be in attendance at the Queen's command.—The Peruvian and Bolivian forces in the province of Tarapaca are rumored to have been surrounded by Chileans, and forced to surrender.—Lord Ramsay is the Liberal candidate for Liverpool in the English House of Commons, and, it is thought, will have the support of Lord Derby in the contest.—Despatches from Egypt state that Ismail Ayoub's appointment as Governor-General of Sudan has been cancelled, and Reouff Pasha appointed in his stead.—It is feared that the ship *Arklow*, which left New York on the 19th of November for London, with a cargo of petroleum oil, has been lost, as she has been out 61 days without being heard of.

FRIDAY, January 23.—The Duchess of Marlborough's fund amounts to £26,500.—Another Cossack division is to be added to the Russian army in Asia.—The reported evacuation of Tchikisklar by the Russians is contradicted.—The Montenegrins are said to be withdrawing from Casnie, but intend to return in the spring.—Olessa is threatened with a serious danger, certain evidences leading to the conclusion that the city is undermined.—The ship *Arklow*, concerning the safety of which fears were entertained, has arrived in an English port, 66 days out from New York.

SATURDAY, January 24.—A very large force of Turkomans are menacing the Russians between Chatte and Tchikisklar, and a battle is imminent.—A despatch from Cabul says Ayoub Khan will join Mahomed Jan at Ghuznee.—The engine of a train on the Metropolitan Elevated Railroad in New York jumped the track and fell into the street below.

OBITUARY.—The Duke of Schleswig-Holstein, from heart disease.
Frank Leslie, the well known artist and publisher.
Hon. James D. Westcott, ex Senator and ex-Governor of Florida, at Montreal, aged 79.
W. H. Brehaut, Clerk of the Crown and Peace, Montreal, aged 71.
Wm. McLeod, M.P. for Stormont.
Jules Favre, the eminent French lawyer and statesman, aged 71.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

A MERITORIOUS PUBLICATION.—The Christmas number of the *Canadian Illustrated News* comes to us this year vastly improved over all similar previous issues, elegantly illustrated, and printed on fine paper. In typographical appearance it is excelled by few like publications in this country, and must have brought joy to the little folks, as well as to those of mature age, in many a Canadian home. It is published in Montreal by the Burland Lithographic Company, and is issued every Saturday at the low price of \$1.00 per year in advance.—*Chicago Journal of Commerce.*

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.—We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement, in another column, of this excellent paper. It is the only illustrated paper published in Canada, and deserves a liberal support.—*Napanee Standard.*

The *Canadian Illustrated News* is about to introduce a number of new features in its literary department, with the design of making it the especial exponent of Canadian literature, treating of all subjects that engage public attention. It is a publication that fills a useful field. The *Scientific Canadian* (same publishers) for November contains a number of interesting articles. The letter-press and illustrations show good workmanship, and the matter treated of is such as will prove profitable.—*London Advertiser.*

Special attention is directed to the advertisement of the *Canadian Illustrated News* in this issue. The *News*, literary weekly in the Dominion, should receive encouragement as a national institution. A new original romance will be commenced in the first week in January, entitled "Clara Chillington, or the Pride of the Cliff."—*Durham Chronicle.*

We welcome to our exchange list the *Canadian Illustrated News*, one of the newest and best illustrated papers published in the Dominion. We are also in receipt of the same *Canadian Mechanics Magazine*, published by the same Company that publishes the *News*. This magazine is replete with information for the mechanic. Price of the *News* for one year, \$1; single copies, 10 cents. For the *Magazine*, \$2.—*Presbyterian, Charlotte-town, P.E.I.*

VARIETIES.

PARNELL.—Charles Stewart Parnell, M. P., the leader in the present land agitation in Ireland, is the grand-on of Commodore Charles Stewart, of the United States Navy, who distinguished himself as the senior flag officer in the Mexican war. On his father's side he descends from an old English family, originally from one of the Midland counties. The poet Parnell was one of his ancestors. His paternal grandfather was the last Chancellor of the Exchequer of the Irish Parliament. Calm, cool, bloodless, Mr. Parnell is a man whom nothing can move. O'Connor Power grows savage under the exasperating treatment of the House, and O'Donnell hisses his words through his teeth with ill-disguised resentment. But Parnell remains invariably imperturbable. Though a man of this resolute and unbending stamp, he has, in personal intercourse, the mildest and most gentle manner conceivable. He is almost womanly, and Sir Wilfrid Lawson has long since noted that he is an inveterate water drinker. Mr. Parnell's mother and his sister, Miss Francis Parnell, a young lady of twenty or twenty-two years of age reside at the New York Hotel, N. Y., but they also own an estate on the Delaware River, about a mile and a half below Bordentown, N. J., where they spend a part of their time.

THE INDIAN SUMMER.—The prolonged beautiful weather of October, raised the familiar questions, when is the Indian summer, and why is it called so? The poet in "Evangeline" answers the first question:—

"Then followed that beautiful season,
Called by the pious Acadian peasants the summer of All Saints,
Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light, and
the landscape
Lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood."

The summer of All Saints is the soft hazy season about the 1st of November, which is All Saints day, and its general character is best described by Wilson Fagg in his book upon the New England landscape. The season is a little later than is generally supposed, and its days are readily observed. The origin of the name Indian summer is disputed. We have heard Mr. Webster say he was satisfied it came, in general, from the autumn fires of the Indians kindling the woods, and introduced the "smoky" atmosphere. But the most satisfactory explanation was that of a man whose love and observation of nature were inferior only to Thomson's. He said that the name dated from the earliest settlement of the country. The colonists, warned by the early frosts of September, began to fear an early winter, and made every preparation. But the Indians assured them that winter was not at hand, and that there would be summer, or warm weather, yet. When, therefore, the milder days came in late October and November, the colonists said: "Here is the summer predicted by the Indians," the Indian summer.

Si non e vero—if it is not true, it is well imagined. It is a natural and plausible explanation, and ought to stand until a better one can be offered.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

RUBINSTEIN is said to be turning his attention more and more to composition.

THERE are now in Paris seventeen theatrical and thirteen musical newspapers.

MR. SIMS REEVES recently informed his audience at a London ball concert by deputy, that he should not respond to any encores.

JOHN McCULLOUGH played to \$1,707 at the Walnut, Philadelphia, evening of the 3d—the largest one night's receipts ever known at that house.

AN autograph score of Handel's opera, "Amadigi," was sold in a London auction room for £35 10s, and one of Mozart's quintets in D major for 43 guineas.

THE most remarkable indication of the success of the "Pirates of Penzance" is found in the fact that the receipts for the first four days aggregated the large sum of \$9,023.25.

MANAGER MARETEK has sufficiently recovered to resume his duties as a teacher, which were interrupted by his recent disastrous attempt to sustain "Sleepy Hollow" on the operatic stage.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for the production of "H. M. S. Pinafore," and the new opera comique "Marigold," at some of the principal theatres in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Antwerp, and other places.

ORGAN-GRINDERS in France are made to pay composers for the airs which they grind on their barrels, at the rate of 5 francs a tune, the Dramatic and Lyric Authors' Society enforcing the tax. Suppe's *Faust* has brought the composer 1,500 francs in this way.

THE New York *Tribune* printed a letter last week, written by Dion Boucicault, in 1873, in which appears this significant paragraph: "I never paid a farthing for a favor from the press, and I never will, and in candor I am bound to say that if I offered it I am sure it would be regarded as a gross insult."

THE compliments of the season were thus exchanged by telegraph, Christmas night, between Chaufray and Florence. "Pittsburg—Business unprecedented. Terrible snow-storm all day. Everything blocked up. A cool \$3,523 for the day. Chaufray." "Chicago—Sorry it snowed. Thermometer here 25 below zero, but beat you by \$1,693. Florence."

ARRANGEMENTS have been made to carry English ballads into the heart of the French metropolis. A company has been formed to give a series of three ballad concerts at the Continental Hotel, Paris, and Mme. Sineco, and Mr. Campobello have been retained as chief artists. The first concert will be given January 30.

THEY have discovered a prodigy in the way of a juvenile *Little Buttercup* in London, where a children's company is doing "Pinafore" at the Opera Comique. It is a Miss Eric Mason, whose singing and expressive action especially delighted the audience, and who evinced an aptitude for the stage likely to bring her into prominence in future years, if the spontaneous humor and histrionic capacity here indicated should receive further development.