

THE SCRAP BOOK.

WHERE IS ROUMELIA?

THE country which, under Russian and Austrian inspiration, has declared for independence lies just south of Bulgaria, from which it is divided by the Balkan Mountains. It has an area of 13,500 square miles and a population of 850,000, of whom nearly 600,000 are Bulgars, 175,000 Turks, 40,000 Greeks, and the remainder Gypsies, Jews and Armenians. Philippopolis, the capital, contains 26,000 inhabitants. Agriculture is the chief industry of the country, wheat, barley, rye and corn being the principal crops. Attar of roses is also an important product, amounting to \$500,000 yearly, and Eastern Roumelia is the only European country in which it is made. A considerable amount of wine, tobacco and silk cocoons is also produced, and numerous live stock of all kinds. Woollen cloth is largely manufactured in several places. The state has up to the present formed a part of the Turkish Empire. But the Treaty of Berlin (July 13, 1878), gave it local administrative autonomy, and provided that it should have a Christian governor-general. Bulgaria, to which revolutionary state it has annexed itself, was by that same Treaty of Berlin made an "autonomous and tributary principality" under the suzerainty of the Sultan, having a Christian government and national militia. Prince Alexander is a son of Prince Alexander of Hesse, and nephew of the Empress of Russia. He was, according to the treaty, elected by the people and confirmed by the Porte with the consent of the Powers, his title being hereditary.—*Weekly British Whig*.

A SCANDALOUS EPISODE.

COMMENTING upon the Riel case, we have already pointed out in these columns that the French-Canadian element of this Dominion appear bent upon precipitating a war of races. Not only has their entire record since the Union of Upper and Lower Canada up to the present day, culminating in their frantic endeavours to save Riel, made this manifest, but apparently they are determined that we shall have further and more direct evidence of their exclusive nationality, of their hatred of British rule, and of their animosity towards the English-speaking people of this Dominion.—*Orange Sentinel*.

PROF. FOSTER having, it is stated, figured among the applicants for timber limits, is desirous to fill the position of inspector of insurance. But competent critics do not think much of the Professor's qualifications. *Insurance Society*, for instance, a leading insurance journal published in Montreal, says: "Professor Foster, of New Brunswick, has not the necessary acquaintance with insurance to fill the position, and should not be thought of at all." Now this is very rough on the learned gentleman, who believes he has the qualifications for everything.—*Ottawa Free Press*.

THE Knights of Labour in Montana have distributed circulars throughout the mining camps of that region declaring that the Chinese "must go; peacefully if they will, but forcibly if they must." Business men and the general public are given until the first day of October to replace the Chinese labourers with white men. Those who do not comply with this demand are to be vigorously boycotted. The Knights may think such action as this becoming their order of chivalry, but we should call it cowardly and despicable. A true knight does not lend aid or sympathy to those who slaughter without cause the weak and defenceless.—*New York Observer*.

MR. GLADSTONE reflects the true sentiments of England on that matter much more accurately than does Lord Salisbury. When the Berlin Treaty was made, he predicted its failure; and the denouncer of the "Bulgarian atrocities" certainly will not use English influence to crush the new nationality. His policy, as opposed to that of the Conservatives, is to promote the alliance of England with Russia, and to leave Turkey to the fate it works out for itself. The bogey of a Mahomedan rising in India, conjured up to frighten England if she does not always support Turkey, has been proved to be a mere phantom of the Russophobic brain; and if, therefore, the security of England's road to India, which might perhaps be menaced by a Russian Constantinople, can by any means be assured, it is highly probable that the policy of Mr. Gladstone will also prove to be the future policy of England as regards the Eastern Question.—*Weekly Examiner, Sherbrooke*.

A CURIOUS episode in the Nationalist movement is reported from Ireland. The late directors of the Munster Bank in their extremity applied to the Bank of Ireland for an advance of half-a-million. The securities offered were not deemed sufficient, the loan was refused, and the Munster Bank suspended payment. The institution was popular among the Nationalists, and word was sent round that in revenge the branches of the Bank of Ireland should be boycotted. The farmers were, in short, instructed to withhold their money. A quiet run on the Bank was commenced, which in a short time became so severe that the Bank of Ireland, though its position was never stronger, was compelled to import two cargoes of sovereigns, each of them amounting to half-a-million, from London. The run has been a total failure; but the attempt displays in a strong light the utter recklessness of the Parnellite associations. They would have ruined half Ireland if they could—not England, be it observed—rather than not have vengeance for a most ordinary business precaution, amply justified by the facts, which they happened to dislike. They had much better follow precedent and burn any notes of the Bank of Ireland they happen to possess, as their forefathers did before them. That act would prove their earnestness, and would be watched by the Bank without any unchristian vindictiveness.—*Spectator*.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

LADY BRASSEY is about to publish an account of her recent journey made in search of health in the yacht *Sunbeam* to Norway.

PROF. CHURCH has selected the period of the Great Rebellion for his new historical tale, to be called "With the King at Oxford."

THE new edition of Miss Edna Dean Proctor's poems will contain "El Mahdi to the Tribes of the Soudan," and other of her later writings.

A POPULAR edition of Mr. Rideing's recent novel, "A Little Upstart," will be placed on the market immediately by Cupples, Upham and Co.

MESSRS. CHAPMAN AND HALL, London, are just publishing a shilling brochure by Miss Laffan, author of "Flitters, Tatters and the Counsellor," entitled "A Singer's Story."

DR. D. G. BRINTON, of Philadelphia, has now in press Vol. VI. of his Library of Aboriginal American Literature, being "The Annals of the Cackchiquels," written by a native about 1560, and hitherto unpublished.

WILLIAM MORRIS, the poet and maker of wall-papers, was arrested in London on Monday for crying shame on a police-justice who committed certain socialistic agitators for trial. After a brief examination he was released.

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY has just finished a complete revision of his well-known "Soldier's Pocket-Book." The new edition, which will be the fifth, is in the press, and will be published immediately by Messrs. Macmillan and Co.

MR. GEORGE BARRY, of Philadelphia, is preparing a handsome edition of Goethe's Works for publication by subscription only. Mr. N. Dole, who is translating one of the poet's un-Englished plays for this edition, has rendered 1,170 lines of the German into English blank verse within six days—a quite astonishing *tour de force*.

A ONE-VOLUME novel called "The Last Meeting," by Mr. Brander Matthews, author of "The Theatres of Paris" and "French Dramatists of the Nineteenth Century," will be published shortly by Mr. T. Fisher Unwin. Mr. Brander Matthews has been spending the summer in London, and his new story will have copyright in England.

DEAN PLUMTRE's translation of Dante's "Commedia" in triple rhyme, on which he has been engaged for some years past, and of which some samples were printed in 1883, is now completed, and will appear in the course of next year, in two vols. 8vo. The work will also include the "Canzoniere," in metres corresponding to the original, and will be illustrated by critical and historical notes. It will be published by Messrs. Isbister.

Nature is as attentive as ever to American topics. In its issue of August 20 there is a page and a half on "A Model University" (Johns Hopkins); a page on "The Harvard Photometry"; three pages, including illustrations, on "Piercing the Isthmus of Panama"; two pages on "North American Museums"; and Notes on the American Association, the Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution, and the movements of Prof. Simon Newcomb in Europe.

OF the new biographies to be published this Autumn none promises to be more interesting than "The Life and Letters of Louis Agassiz," announced by Houghton, Mifflin and Co.—Mr. G. W. Cable's latest essay in fiction is upon new ground; a novelette by him will soon be printed in *The Century*, the scene of which is laid among the Acadians of Louisiana.—Prof. Huxley's physicians tell him that he must reside in the more genial climate of Italy.

MR. EDWARD EGLESTON, who is now in London making researches in the British Museum and the Public Record Office, has been at work for five years upon his history of Life in the American Colonies, several chapters of which have been published in *The Century*. When he began the undertaking in 1880 he thought it would occupy three years; but now he sees at least three more years' work before him, making eight in all. He says he is beginning to realize that it is only a rich man who can afford to write history.

PROF. VAMBERY has published "An Uzbek (Tartar) Epic," which treats the career of the famous Uzbek warrior and conqueror of Central Asia in the beginning of the sixteenth century, who drove Baber out of the country north of the Oxus, and was the chief cause of the foundation of the Mogul Empire of India. The epic consists of 4,900 double verses, which the professor copied from the only existing MS., which is in the possession of the Emperor of Austria. The text is accompanied by a translation and annotations, and is brought out at the professor's expense.

A NEW work by Mr. Fitzgerald Molloy, entitled "Royalty Restored; or, London under Charles II.," will be published shortly by Messrs. Ward and Downey. In his preface the author says no social history of the court of Charles II. has heretofore been written, to supply which want he presents a study "of the domestic life of a king whose name recalls pages of the brightest romance and strangest gallantry in our chronicles." The book will contain an original etching of Charles II. and ten other historical portraits. It is dedicated to Mr. Thomas Hardy.

THE November *Harper's* will have an article on the New York Stock Exchange, in which the history of that important institution will be given, together with portraits of W. H. Vanderbilt, Russell Sage, Jay Gould, Cyrus W. Field, and other famous members. The same number will contain a paper on "The Defence of Our Seaports," by H. P. Wells, in which the author shows our defenceless position and recommends the establishment in this country of a gun factory on the gigantic scale of that of Krupp in Germany, which by the way will be fully described in a future number of the magazine.

THE October number of the *Law Quarterly Review* will contain some notes on current points by Mr. A. Cohen, Q.C., M.P.; an article on Bracton's use of Roman Law, with some incidental animadversions on Sir T. Twiss's edition, by Mr. T. E. Scrutton; an essay by Mr. L. Owen Pike on the early jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery, and other historical contributions; discussion of topics in conveyancing law, by Mr. H. W. Elphinstone and Mr. Challis; a review of Anglo-Indian, Continental, and English legislation on the offences concerning marriage and sexual relations, by Mr. H. A. D. Phillips, of the Bengal Civil Service; and a criticism of the "Patriarchal Theory" of the brothers McLennan, by Mr. J. D. Mayne.

MR. THOMAS A. JANVIER formerly acknowledges the authorship of the clever stories published under the *nom de plume* of "Ivory Black." A volume of these stories, with the title "Colour Studies," will be brought out immediately by the Scribners.—Messrs. Lathrop are to begin the publication of a series of compilations of poems relating to the months. The volumes will be twelve in number, named for the months, and are to be edited by Oscar Fay Adams. "November," the initial volume of the series, is in press. It includes over a hundred poems by English and American authors.—"A Sanscrit Primer," by Dr. Edward Delavan Perry, of Columbia College, based on the learned work of Prof. Bühler, of Vienna, with exercises and vocabularies, is to be published by Messrs. Ginn and Co.—In the September number of the *Southern Bivouac*, Paul Hamilton Hayne writes agreeably of "Aute-Bellum Charleston."