

—rational and irrational: since the rational animals or men, possessing immortal souls, are infinitely superior to the brute beasts, we think that it would be much better for the members of the anti-cruelty societies to spend their thousands of dollars in relieving the poor of our cities.

THE ILLUSTRATED AMERICAN: A weekly news magazine, published in New York.

The issue of this magazine for the week ending January 20, is of special interest to Canadians. The fate of Canada is discussed by such able men as Wm. Stead, the distinguished editor of the "*Review of Reviews*," Goldwin Smith, the eccentric and somewhat erratic professor of Toronto, John Jacob Astor the millionaire, and Hon. Francis Glen, ex-M. P., of our House of Commons. These men, regardless of the unfaltering opposition of our people to such a fate, quietly consign us to the shades of annexation. The interest of the article is greatly enhanced by excellent engravings of Mr. Stead, the Canadian Parliament Buildings, and last but not least by admirable cuts of the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, who have already endeared themselves to the hearts of Canadians, by their straightforward liberal treatment of all classes without distinction of race or creed. The paper on "*Troubled Sicily*," impresses upon our minds the stern fact, that uneasily rests the head that wears a crown which has been unjustly snatched from its lawful possessor. Views of Palermo and its Cathedral, and the Amphitheatre at Syracuse, the Sicilian capital add to the interest of the article.

EXCHANGES.

The number of *Toronto Varsity* for the first week of February is before us. It is much superior to the average issue of that journal. The following is from its columns: "The Harvard and Pennsylvania football teams will almost certainly play next year, in suits, the upper section of which will be made of moleskin, and the breeches of light leather. They will cost about \$35 per suit, and the design

will be patented. Armor plate will be the next in order."

"At Cornell University a committee of five members of the faculty are discussing the advisability of abolishing the degrees of Ph. B. and B.L. Great interest is felt in the outcome, as such a change would practically abolish Greek as a requirement for a B.A." The spirit of reform seems to be strong at Cornell; examinations have recently been abolished there, henceforward the Cornell student's knowledge will be tested by daily recitations and short, unexpected "quizes" on the different branches of learning pursued by him.

For short spicy articles few of our exchanges surpass the *Bema*. In the issue before us we take much pleasure in reading the neatly written life of Garfield, the twentieth president of the United States.

It will doubtless be of interest to our "gleemen" to learn that the Harvard Glee Club travelled 2,000 miles during the Christmas vacation and, that the Yale Glee Club has offered two prizes of \$15 each, one for the best words, and the other for the best music for a new Yale song.

In the *Polytechnic*, published by the students of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, appears a very interesting description of the Institute, as it existed some fifty or sixty years ago. College amusements in those times seem to have been somewhat different from what they are at present. We clip the following from the journal before us: "For the pleasure of the students the following amusements were designated, for the winter and spring terms: Using the sextant, compass, goniometer, blow-pipe, telescope and other optical instruments: making and using ice lenses and prisms, drawing maps, and dissecting animals. With reference to athletic amusements the regulation read: 'But the students' exercises are not of that kind which requires undignified contortions of the body, or those vulgarisms, which familiarizing youth with clownish scenes, unfit them for genteel society. They are such as