

son, and Addison, and Carlyle, and Ruskin, and Lowell, is to possess an additional means of access to the thoughts and feelings of the race, whose intellectual life has been so largely influenced by these authors, and others like them.

"But if I keep on in this way I shall write the article in spite of myself. The intention of this letter was simply to thank you for your invitation, and to tell you that I am so overwhelmed with engagements of all kinds that I cannot fairly undertake more."

#### Current Magazines.

The March number of the *Fortnightly* opens with an unsigned article, "Lord Carnarvon and Home Rule," seeking to show that through his short tenure of the Vice-royalty of Ireland, Lord Carnarvon was at heart as much a Home Ruler as Mr. Parnell himself; a conclusion which a careful perusal of the article does not lead to conviction in our minds. On reading the article we must confess to a feeling of great thankfulness that the once burning questions of Irish politics have cooled down, and that neither the present Ministry nor the Opposition find it a necessary part of their policy to truckle to the Irish party for the sake of catching votes on Imperial questions, and with the end of the necessity, has come also the end of the misguided propensity for coquetting with treason, which at one time was the bane of English political life. The most readable article in the present number is the account of General Wood's method of dealing with the horrors of starvation, and the insanitary condition of Santiago de Cuba, and the liberation of wretches who lay in the gaols shut up for years without even a trial at the will of the Spanish Governor-General. General Wood appears to have brought to the execution of his Herculean labor the courage and task of a "Chinese Gordon," with the inflexible will and love of discipline of a Wellington. There is also a very thoughtful article on "Old-age Pensions," by the author of "Life in Our Villages." (Leonard Scott Publication Co., 112 Wall street, New York.)

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The March number of the *Contemporary Review* contains no article bearing directly on religious subjects, except the last one in the series, "A Plea for a Roman Catholic University," by Mr. E. J. Dillon, finding fault with Mr. A. J. Balfour's "Letter to a Supporter" for having gone so far, and not having the courage to go farther. Probably after the Easter recess the Government will make some formal announcement of its policy. We are sorry to have to criticize sharply an article by Mrs. Fawcett, whose labors on behalf of the higher welfare of her own sex have been productive of so much good; but candor compels us to express our sincere regret that her pen should have been perverted to the

defence of the conscientious Anti-vaccinator. We quote one sentence: "Not long ago I asked a Royal Commissioner by what means compulsory vaccination and revaccination were carried out in Germany on those who objected, and he replied that any one who objected was held down by four men, and vaccinated by force. Personally I would rather die of small-pox than that that should be possible in England. I am one of those who sympathize with the bishop who would rather see England free than sober, and how much more, therefore, do I feel that I would rather see England pockmarked than without the personal independence which is the basis of everything worth having in our national character." In our view there is a reasonable limit to personal independence when the health of others is imperilled, and our next-door neighbor has no more right to claim, on the plea of conscience, immunity from the obligations of the vaccination laws, than he has to claim immunity from the sanitary laws which would prevent him from keeping an open cesspool in dangerous proximity to a neighbor's house. Mrs. Fawcett, no doubt, truly enough claims that isolation may do wonders in arresting the spread of small-pox. For ourselves, we make the higher claim that vaccination, followed by revaccination enforced compulsorily, will tend to the almost entire stamping out of the dreaded scourge. It is said that figures can be twisted to produce any desired result; we fancy that Mrs. Fawcett's figures have been so carefully manipulated as to convey an entirely wrong impression of the actual facts, and we confidently look forward to an early repeal of the obnoxious conscience clause in the vaccination act passed by the Imperial Government last year. There is an article by Mr. Gibson Bowles, M.P., called "The Lost Notion of War," the practical drift of which it is well nigh impossible to make out. The writer's starting point is that the submission of the enemy is the first end sought by war, and that the law of nations must be recast on modern ideas, particularly the law of war, so that the point to be touched shall be the non-combatant taxpayer's pocket, not the combatant's body. We are still hopeful that the Czar's peace proclamation may go far to render war less frequent, and to herald an era of international peace and prosperity. (Leonard Scott Publication Co., 112 Wall street, New York.)

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Blackwood for March is an excellent number, the initial article in which is from the pen of Mrs. Charles Bagot, daughter of Admiral Percy, taking us back to the time when her father served on the Victory under Lord Nelson, and giving many stories of the hero of Trafalgar, told to her by her father; also stories of the Duke of Wellington, told to her by her uncle, Henry Percy, aide-camp to the Duke at the battle of Waterloo, and then passing on to her own personal recollections of William

IVth and Queen Adelaide, of the Queen's coronation, and giving extracts from a letter of her uncle, Lord Charles Percy, containing the account of the Duke's entry into Paris and extract from the journal of the same uncle, giving the account of the marriage of Prince Leopold, afterward King of the Belgians, with Princess Charlotte, and of her subsequent death in giving birth to a still-born child, one of the steps in the chain of succession of Queen Victoria to the throne of England. There is also a well written, but unsigned article, "The Sins of Education," pointing out how lamentably the Imperial Education Act of 1870 has failed to raise the tone of literature, though immensely increasing the number of the reading public, and the mass of reading produced at least for their entertainment, not for their culture. Lovers of history of India will find a memoir of Major Hodson (Hodson's Horse), clearing that dashing officer's name from clouds that had apparently undeservedly gathered round it, and taking us back to the siege of Delhi and the necessary shooting by Major Hudson's own hand of the Princes of Delhi, and the subsequent assassination of the gallant Major himself by treacherous hands. There is also a very graphic account by Hugh E. M. Stutfield, of a mountaineering exploration of the Canadian Rockies, starting from the C.P.R. station at Laggan, which proved to the mind of the writer at least that Mount Brown and Mount Hooker must be deposited from their pride of place as the mountain monarchs of that part of the world, and other hitherto unacknowledged monarchs take their place. The number also contains some excellent hints on Physical Education in Schools, which are well worthy of the attention of all wise men who deem that the training of the body is of little less importance in the science of education than the training of the mind; that in point of fact the two must go hand in hand. (Leonard Scott Publication Company, 112 Wall street, New York.)

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The March number of the *Nineteenth Century* opens with an article by Dr. Guinness Rogers, entitled "The Nation and the Ritualists," advocating Disestablishment as the one effectual method of dealing with the evils of Ritualism in the Church of England, followed by an article from the pen of the Rev. R. Bosworth Smith, pointing out the irreparable evils which Disestablishment, if forced upon the nation by the action of the recalcitrant Ritualist priests, will bring upon the Church, and upon the nation at large. The two articles should be studied together. The number concludes with an eloquent plea for "Hands off Trinity," in dealing with University changes in Ireland, written by Anthony Trail, a Fellow of that College. There are several other articles of more than passing interest. (Leonard Scott Publication Company, 112 Wall street, New York.)