

(For the Canadian Illustrated News.)
SONNET.

Once said I, "All is over. Nevermore
Can I have joy or hope or anything.
I care not what the coming years may bring
Unless they do my life restore."
That day a vessel bore me from the shore
Where stood she whom I loved. A little while
And she was gone. The sweet, sad loving smile
Had vanished, and my heart was clouded o'er.
Ten years have passed away since that farewell,
And still my lone heart shuts its gates on joy—
Ten years the Greeks were warring around Troy
Before the city fell; but then it fell.
What if my bliss, returning, now be nigh?
Or must I wait while all my years glide by?

JOHN READE.

Miscellaneous.

A Settler Settled.

"I have come," said a Scotch farmer to a neighbour laird who was just dying; "I have come to settle about that bit of land." "Settle!" cried the old wrangler; "how will you settle?" Your father couldn't settle, and your grandfather couldn't settle, and the fifteen couldn't settle, and how will you settle?" "Oh," said the rival claimant, "I'll let you have it altogether." "But I'll not tak' it," cried the stout old litigant, and turned his face resolutely to the wall.

A New Departure.

The exceeding zeal and intelligence of the prefect as an officer of great importance in France has just been illustrated in the Department of the Drome, which is governed by a functionary too conservative to permit even a revolution in the phenomena of nature. The prefect there has just appointed a commission, composed of a general, several engineers, a judge, and priest, for the purpose of "studying the shocks of earthquake, which have been very frequent of late, and of suggesting some remedy."

An International Programme.

The internationalists publish the following proud programme of the aims of the coming Congress at Geneva: 1. "Definitive constitution of a pact of solidarity between the different Federations of the International." 2. "Revision of the general rules of the association, so as to guarantee perfect liberty of action to each Federation." 3. "Strikes, general and local; the creation of a universal strike fund." 4. "Organization of universal trades unions, and the classification of the statistics of labour." 5. "Propaganda."

A Moral Pointed with Thistle Seeds.

A story is told of a woman who freely used her tongue to the scandal of others, and made confession to the priest of what she had done. He gave her a ripe thistle-top, and told her to go out in various directions and scatter the seeds, one by one. Wondering at the penance, she obeyed, and then returned and told her confessor. To her amazement, he bade her go back and gather the scattered seeds; and when she objected that it would be impossible, he replied that it would be still more difficult to gather up and destroy all evil reports which she had circulated about others.

Distinguished Visitors.

Mr. Moncure D. Conway, sends to the Cincinnati Commercial the following incident at the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon's church, in London:—"Just before the services two distinguished Americans—one a former official, and intimate friend of the late Daniel Webster—had been shown into a pew. Presently the pew-opener came and requested that they would take a seat just behind, as a distinguished gentleman and lady had to be placed in the pew they occupied. The two Americans at once complied, and beheld the gentleman and lady escorted to the vacated seats—both black as the ace of spades."

An Imperialist Prophecy.

The Gaulois recently published a sensation picture, which represents the restoration of the Empire with Napoleon IV., under this title, in large letters—"Fête de l'Empereur IV., 15 Août, 1873." The anticipated history runs thus:—Henry V. comes to the throne, which ends in a revolution, and of course street fights. M. Thiers is taken to a barricade by the mob and there killed. Then comes the abdication of the King, and M'Mahon is once more Dictator. Soon after l'appel au peuple, when the following is the voting:—Empire, 5,700,000; République, 3,000,000; P'orleans, 500,000. Napoleon IV. enters Paris, accompanied by Marshal M'Mahon; great rejoicing; universal happiness; general amnesty. August 15, 1873, fireworks.

A Wonderful Escape.

In the wreck of a steamboat on the Ohio River recently there was a lady passenger who was separated in the confusion from her infant child and was herself safely conveyed on shore with some other passengers who were saved; but it was supposed that the baby was drowned. The following day, when men went out to the half-sunken vessel to recover the bodies of the drowned, they discovered in the cabin, which was filled with water nearly to the ceiling, a floating mattress, upon which lay a little boy, sleeping as peacefully as if nothing had happened. His bed was not very dry, but it still sustained its living freight. In due time the child was sent to Shawneetown, where the other passengers had been landed the evening before, and its arrival made an excitement among them, for several had lost children by the disaster. The scene when the mother recognized the child she had mourned as lost for nearly twenty-four hours was a very touching one.

Bridget as a Topic.

There is one reason why we should regret to have the present troubles with domestic servants ended. It is because women derive so much pleasure from discussing the subject. Place two young women together, and it makes no difference where the conversation starts from, it will be perfectly certain to work around to the hired girl question before many minutes have elapsed. We have seen an elderly housekeeper, with experience in conducting the talk in the right direction, break into a discussion of Pythagoras and the doctrine of the transmigration of souls, and switch off the entire debate with such expedition that an unsophisticated listener would for some moments have an indistinct impression that the conversation referred to the inefficiency of Pythagoras as a washer and ironer, and to the tenderness of that heathen philosopher to take to Thursdays out every week. And when a woman has an unusually villainous hired girl who burns up the coal, wastes the butter, mixes her hair in the biscuit, and stuffs her relations with the sugar, it is interesting to observe how she glories in the superiority of her sufferings to those of her neighbours, and how, as she tells of them, she gloats over her misery and feels good about it. A woman who has really a competent servant is always in a condition of abject wretchedness on such occasions.

Ventriloquism Easily Acquired.

A writer in the Chicago Advance says that the ventriloquist's art is as easy to learn as rolling off a log. He maintains that there is no difficulty in acquiring the power. In the first place

he says, speak any word or sentence in your own natural tone; then open the mouth and fix your jaws fast, as though trying to hinder any one from opening them further or shutting them; draw the tongue back in a ball; speak the same words, and the sound, instead of being formed in the mouth, will be formed in the pharynx. Great attention must be paid to holding the jaws rigid. The sound will then be found to imitate a voice from the other side of the door when it is closed, or under a floor, or through a wall. To imitate a sound behind a door partly open, the voice must not be altered from the original note or pitch, but be made in another part of the mouth. This is done by closing the lips tight and drawing one corner of the mouth downwards or towards the ear. Then let the lips open at that corner only, the other part to remain closed. Next, breathe, as it were, the words out of the orifice formed. Do not speak the words distinctly, but expel the breath in short puffs at each word, and as loud as possible. By so doing you produce the illusion in the minds of your listeners that they hear the same voice which they heard when the door was closed, but more distinctly and nearer on account of the door being open. The lips must always be used when the ventriloquist wishes it to appear that the sound comes through an obstacle, but from some one close at hand.

Chaffing a Discoverer.

The Gaulois mercilessly chaffs M. Schlemann, who professes to have dug up King Priam's treasures from old Troy. It says:—"At the moment of going to press a person who has just come from Nineveh by rail informs us of a fresh discovery, evidently destined to counterbalance in public favour that of M. Schlemann. In lifting up, in the midst of the ruins of that celebrated city, a large stone having belonged without doubt to the dressing-table of Semiramis, a learned man, whose name we bitterly regret not having remembered, perceived buried under a dense layer of earth a small coffer covered with Assyrian characters. With the assistance of a chisel he prised off the lid, and the sight which presented itself to the eyes of the indefatigable explorer was well calculated to repay him a hundred fold for all his past discouragement. The box was divided into two compartments: on the one closed by a new hinged lid, of exquisite workmanship, this word was to be seen—Gloves. The inscription on the other had been unfortunately effaced, but in the interior, amongst the numerous toilet articles, having evidently belonged to the Queen, such as a comb, a nail-brush, a real artistic marvel, and a perfumed sachet, a kind of small square stone was found, hardened by time, on which were embossed the words Windsor Soap. Before her death, the Queen, desirous that her dressing case should not be used by any one after her, had ordered that it should be buried in the deepest part of the palace, and this was the object which this gentleman, whose name we deeply regret not having retained, had just discovered after so many years, thanks to the Assyrian inscriptions reproduced above."

Music and the Drama.

The Schumann Festival took place at Bonn on the 18th and 19th ult.

Emile Vaurat, the violinist, is playing in London.

Mme. Nilsson arrived in New York from England last week. Fraulein Teresa Liebe, the violinist, is about to return to America.

Signor Serazzi, the new tenor, is filling an engagement at Dublin.

It is said that the Abbé Liszt has nearly completed his new oratorio, "St. Stanislas."

It is rumoured in English musical circles that Sims Reeves intends leaving England in November for a six months' tour on this continent.

One of the mysteries of Shakespeare's life is at length solved. Some time ago Mr. J. O. Halliwell had the good fortune to discover a remarkable and unique series of documents respecting the two theatres with which the poet was connected. They included even lists of the original proprietors and sharers. Shakespeare's name does not occur in those lists. Mr. Halliwell has now furnished the texts of those passages in which the great dramatist is expressly mentioned, notices far more interesting than anything of the kind yet brought to light. The sons of James Burbage are speaking in an affidavit. They tell us that, after relinquishing their theatrical speculations in Shoreditch, they "built the Globe with summes of money taken up at interest, which lay heavy on us many yeeres, and to ourselves wee joyined those deserving men, Shakespeare, Hemings, Condall, Phillips, and others, partners in the profits of that they call the House." As to the Blackfriars they say, "our father purchased it at extreme rates, and made it into a playhouse, with great charge and trouble, which after was leased out to one Evans that first sett up the boyes commonly called the Queenes Majesties Children of the Chappell;—In process of time, the boyes growing up to bee men, it was considered that house would be as fit for ourselves, and so purchased the lease remaining from Evans with our money, and placed men players, which were Hemings, Condall, Shakespeare, and Richard Burbage." These important evidences contradict all recent theories and opinions respecting Shakespeare's business connection with the theatres.

Mlle. Anna Walter, a dancer at the Vienna Theatre, was burnt to death when preparing to enter on the stage. Going too close to a light, she let her dress catch fire, and in her fright she rushed along the corridor, enveloped in flames, so that when assistance was rendered she was found to be dreadfully injured. She expired the next day.

It is said that Dion Boucicault is engaged with Bret Harto in preparing for the stage the latter's famous sketch of the "Luck of Roaring Camp."

From London we learn that a dramatized version of Byron's "Manfred" has been produced at the Princess's at the Alhambra. Mr. Burnand's adaptation of "La Belle Hélène" has been brought out; at the Adelphi "The Wandering Jew" was, at the close of the month, long past its hundredth night; at the Vaudeville "The School for Scandal" was close upon its three hundred and fiftieth representation, and at the Olympic "The New Magdalen" past its eightieth.

Sir William Sterndale Bennett has composed a sonata for the pianoforte on the theme of "The Maid of Orleans." It was written for Madame Arabella Goddard, and is spoken of by the London Globe as follows:—"The performance of the entire work will tax the powers of the most enduring and thoroughly prepared pianist; but two of the movements, the first and the third, are physically within the reach of those performers whose fingers occasionally fail in doing justice to their tastes and intentions. On the whole, so important a work, of whatever class, has not for a long time come under our notice. In its own line, it would be hard to name any living musician who could produce its equal."

The great Italian tragedian, Tommaso Salvini, opened his engagement in New York on last Tuesday, the 16th. The play was "Otello."

Gueymari, the former tenor of the Grand Opera, is about to leave France, having signed an engagement for New Orleans with the impresario Canonge.

A company of English tragedians played an engagement at the Théâtre de l'Athénée, Paris. They obtained only scant appreciation.

Mr. John Levey has just finished a new Irish legendary and pastoral drama, in three tableaux acts, entitled "Cushla-ma-Cree; or, the Fairies of Castlecomer."

A dramatization of Eugene Sue's "Wandering Jew," is being played at New York with success.

Miss Lillie Eldridge played so successful an engagement in Montreal week before last that she was retained for another six nights.

A French company, headed by Mlle. Nathalie of Paris, gave a series of opera bouffes during Exhibition week at Montreal.

Madame Marchési, professor of singing at the Viennese Conservatorium, has received the Cross of Merit from the Emperor of Austria.

News of the Week.

THE DOMINION.—The work on the Royal Commission is progressing steadily and without intermission. Important witnesses have been heard, including several of the Ministers. It is expected the Commission will continue its sittings till the end of the week.—A clue is said to have been found to the theft of the Pope-Macdonald letter. A reward of \$500 has been offered by the P. O. Department for the offender.—Hon. Mr. Windom, Chairman American Transportation Committee, was received and lunched on Tuesday afternoon, by the Montreal Board of Trade and Corn Exchange.—Three new judges have been appointed for Quebec. A. B. Routhier, Q.C., for the Saguenay District, Senator Olivier for the Joliette District, and Thomas McLeod for Bonaventure.—The Provincial Exhibition of Quebec took place in Montreal on the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th inst.—The Drummond Colliery relief fund has reached \$22,598.—At the Provincial Synod held last week, Archdeacon Fausquier, of the diocese of Huron, was elected Missionary Bishop of Algoma.—Mr. Joseph Arch, the representative of the agricultural labourers of England, arrived at Quebec on Saturday last. He was accompanied by Mr. Arthur Clayden, one of the Committee of the Labourers' Union, and Mr. Henry Taylor its Secretary. He will spend a few weeks in Canada before visiting the United States.

UNITED STATES.—Gen. Butler gave up the contest for Governor of Massachusetts.—The "Graphic" Balloon burst while inflating and the transatlantic voyage is postponed.—The Merchants of N. Y. join the farmers of the West in demanding cheap transportation by rail and canal.—Local travellers are quarantined at New Orleans.—The Geneva award has been paid into the treasury of the U. S.—The Stanley expedition has had two successful encounters with Indians on the Yellowstone.—The back pay was emphatically denounced at the late Massachusetts Republican Convention, held at Worcester.—Gen. Sherman places the blame of the destruction of British cotton in Columbia, S.C., on the Confederate soldiers.—The "Tigress" discovered the camp of the "Polaris" on Littleton Island. The "Polaris" was broken up, and two boats had been constructed out of portions of her timbers. The crew wintered on Littleton Island, and sailed away from there in June. It is hoped they have been picked up by whalers. All the papers of the expedition have been found and secured.

THE UNITED KINGDOM.—Further changes are reported as imminent in the British Cabinet.—A couple of elections lately held have resulted in favour of the Conservatives.—The Bank of England swindlers have all been sentenced to transportation.—Three most serious railway accidents have taken place. Stringent laws are called for in the premises.—A despatch from the commander of the steam sloop "Daphne" announces the capture by that vessel on the Indian Ocean, near Fiedell Islands, of a slave ship, upon which there had been horrible suffering. The small-pox had raged on the ship, and out of the 300 slaves taken on board, 250 died; the remaining 50 were horribly emaciated from disease and want.

FRANCE.—Pilgrimage to the different shrines still continues.—The Bourbon-Orleans fusion seems to have at least a partial existence.—Verdun was evacuated by the German troops on the 13th inst. Immediately after they had left, the streets were filled with rejoicing residents, and numberless French flags were displayed from the buildings.—The trial of M. Ranc is postponed till after that of Marshal Bazaine.

GERMANY.—The Prussian Government has decided to recognize Bishop Reinkens. Baden and Bavaria will follow the example of Prussia.—The visit of the Imperial Crown Prince of Germany to Copenhagen has caused much excitement in Denmark. In the fifth article of the Treaty of Prague, Prussia distinctly promised that the people of the Northern district of Schleswig, if by free vote they expressed a wish to be united to Denmark, should be ceded to that country. Hitherto Prince Bismarck has found it convenient to ignore this clause. The Crown Prince's visit has excited the hopes of the Danes that at last they are to receive justice.—The Kaiser will visit the Vienna Exhibition about the middle of next month.—The ecclesiastical war is still prosecuted.—Prince Bismarck has not yet emerged from his rustication at Varzin.

SPAIN.—Castelar has been elected President of the Republic. He has obtained extraordinary powers and the levy of 650,000 men. He is resolved to crush the Carlists and the Intransigents.—The insurgents made a sortie from Cartagena, captured a number of pieces of artillery and burned the fascines of the Government forces.—It is reported that Don Alphonso, brother of Don Carlos, has left his command and returned to France.—Several of the insurgents at Alcoy have been tried and condemned to death.—The insurgent men-of-war which sailed for Toveviga have returned to Cartagena without making a landing.—Salmeron has been elected President of the Cortes, and urged all parties to rally around Castelar.—The various bodies of Republican troops in the North are about to take united action against the Carlists.

TRINIDAD.—Steamers from Marseilles undergo strict quarantine at Constantinople, on account of cholera.

CUBA.—Subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers by the late conflagration already amount to \$200,000.—Two hundred insurgents attacked the eastern fort at Vedia Hermosa on the night of the 9th inst., but were repulsed.—Skirmishes are reported lately between the troops and insurgents near Colorado, Mucal and Gibas.—Rival meetings of planters, to discuss the propositions to be submitted to the Government of Madrid for the abolition of slavery in Cuba, will be held on the 15th inst.

RUSSIA.—A St. Petersburg telegram announces a considerable increase on the Russian military estimates. For 1874 they will exceed those of 1873 by 5,000,000 roubles, and in the four succeeding years the increase will be doubled. It is no time, says an English writer, for the naval and military forces of England to be diminished when Russia is increasing her strength, even though the Duke of Edinburgh is to be married to the daughter of the Czar in January next.

CHINA.—It appears from a letter published in the Osservatore Romano from Monsignor Longuillot, Vicar Apostolic of Nankin, that religious pilgrimages are beginning to be as fashionable in China as they are in France. On the 1st of May a procession went to the mountain of Seo-Se, on whose summit there is a temple dedicated to the Virgin, under the title of "Auxilium Christianorum." Seven missionaries and a great number of Europeans, including upward of seventy of the most eminent inhabitants of the town, took part in the procession. The total number of persons present was upward of 15,000.