

of ours. However well founded the fact may be in the eyes of scholars and historians, it will, we fear, take more than one or one hundred books to deprive Columbus of the garment of honour that, like the fatal shirt of old, has grown to his flesh. Mrs. Shipley is very enthusiastic and overwhelms us with quotations corroboratory of what is no doubt true. No one who knows anything of the subject would care to deny that Norse colonies existed in Iceland, Greenland, and by expedition thence in the north-east of America even before Leif Ericsson discovered about the year 1000, touched upon those north-eastern shores and called them *Vinland it goda*—the good Vinland. The documentary evidence of these discoveries is abundant and genuine, but these old Scandinavian Vikings made so little real use of their discoveries, being unable to do more than colonize temporarily that the honours long vested in Columbus are not likely to be taken from him and vested in these old sea rovers or pirates. However, there is a considerable amount of information in the book which is worth gathering, and if the author succeeds in rehabilitating these Icelandic Norsemen with a hypothetical honour it will doubtless gratify some patriotic souls.

THE RAINY RIVER DISTRICT. A Description of its Soil, Climate, Products, Agricultural Capabilities and Timber and Mineral Resources.

The above is the title of a useful work of 60 pp. just issued by the Ontario Government and compiled by Mr. Frank Yeigh, of the Crown Lands Department. Now that we are beginning to realize the value of the accession of this tract of 100,000 square miles to our provincial area, such a hand-book as this is as opportune as it is necessary, not only to intending settlers, but to capitalists who are interested in mining and lumbering operations. The book gives valuable information regarding the agricultural, timber and mineral capabilities of this new District, information regarding the climate, soil and products as well as the laws pertaining to free grants and homesteads, to mining, and to the preservation of forests from destruction by fire; in addition a map is inserted, showing the relative position of the District.

NELSON; and the Naval Supremacy of England. "Heroes of the Nations" Series. London and New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; Toronto: Williamson and Company.

Mr. Clarke Russell undertook a congenial task when he assumed the compiling of the life of England's greatest naval hero and commander, and it may fairly be said that the choice of Mr. Russell by the editor or publishers was a very happy one. Nelson's early history is perhaps as well known as that of Clive, save one incident, that he practically served before the mast on board *The Seahorse* until Farmer, who was in command, noticed his smartness and called him on to the quarter-deck. Nelson's path was one of hard work and unmerited neglect. These were the days of the most unblushing court patronage, and it is a source of wonder, considering the rank jobbery that obtained in both services, how talent abounded and fought its way upward. To-day, with the comparatively just conditions of promotion, it is doubtful if we have one tithe of the magnificent seamen and astute commanders that sprang up in England's hour of need. Perhaps, now, if needed, the hour and the men would meet. Many estimates of Nelson's character have been formed, some extravagantly favourable, others tending to the opposite extreme. Mr. Clarke Russell is as enthusiastic as any in praise of his hero's endowment: "There is nothing in words to express such a character as Nelson's. The enumeration of his qualities is the best eloquence," and so on. Of his public virtues, capacity, sense of duty, consideration for others and individual heroism, there can be no question, but one hesitates a little when we think of the practically widowed Lady Nelson at home, and the exalted adventuress at Naples. But one dislikes to detract from a national heritage.

FROM Dutton's, of New York, we have received "Bonnie Little Bonibel," a charming little story for the young ones, by Mary D. Brine, illustrated by A. G. Plympton.

THE *Magazine of Poetry* for the current quarter is a very fair collection of well known names and fair poetry. Sidney Lanier, Geo. Parsons Lathrop, dear old Professor Blackie, of Edinburgh, Louise Chandler Moulton, are the more prominent names. The illustrations are very fair, and the typographical appearance excellent.

WE have received "Three Lectures on the Science of Language," by Max Müller. Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co. Seven subjects are treated in these three lectures by celebrated philologist whose name accredits them. They were delivered in 1889 at the Oxford University extension meeting and are published with a supplement, which is an essay on the beginning of the theory of the ideality of Thought and Language in the history of Philosophy.

RUDYARD KIPLING contributes a poem to the August number of the *English Illustrated*, and Walter Armstrong treats of Heligoland, with illustrations. Mr. Kipling's poetry does not impress us so deeply as does his prose. His hand loses somewhat of its cunning when he woos the fickle muse. "Overland from India" is continued by Sir Donald Wallace, and Reginald Blank and Lady Forstie Cunningham send illustrated papers. "The Glittering Plain" is continued, and "Middle Class Emigration" is discussed.

MRS. BROUGHTON and Annie Edwardes both send full instalments of their serials to the August *Temple Bar*. The first named novelist reaches an exciting point in "Alas." Hanley Weyman contributes a very well written sketch of the times of the famous Duke of Sully, and Wilkie Collins' work is reviewed appreciatively. By the way, we were to have had a poem in this issue from a well-known Canadian writer, but we fail to find it. F. E. Weatherby sends some melodious verses, and perhaps the most interesting of the remaining articles is the one entitled "Letters of a Worldly Woman."

THE September number of *The Quiver* opens with an illustrated article by Professor W. G. Blaikie on the great American evangelist Jonathan Edwards. In addition to instalments of the two serial stories now running, this number contains four complete stories suitable for reading in this holiday month. At this season, the paper on "God in the Book of Nature," by the Rev. B. G. Johns, M.A., will attract special attention, seeing that so many of its readers will be in a position to watch for themselves some of the phenomena described by the author. The author of "How to be Happy though Married" contributes a suggestive paper on "Work and Rest," and a missionary working in China sends an account of "A Christian Chinese Wedding," which is illustrated by Mr. W. Simpson, R.L., who spent some time in the Celestial Empire.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

MESSRS. DIGBY AND LONG have just published "A Mysterious Stranger," a novel dealing with English and Canadian life.

THE September *Arena* contains a vigorously written article by Mr. Thomas P. Gorman, of Ottawa, entitled "The Dominion's Original Sin."

THE Hon. J. W. Longley, Attorney General of Nova Scotia, has been in Toronto for two or three days, the guest of Prof. Goldwin Smith, at the Grange.

IN October will appear the third volume of M. Renan's "Histoire du Peuple d'Israel," and the two final volumes of Mr. Lecky's "History of England in the Eighteenth Century."

READERS OF THE WEEK will be interested in noticing that the Marquis of Lorne has been unanimously approved as Unionist candidate for the Handsworth Division of Staffordshire.

ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS' article in the August number of *The Forum* on "The Décolleté in Modern Life," has caused such demand for that number that a second edition has been issued.

IT is said that Mr. Kennedy, the American banker, who purchased the manuscript of Burns' "Scots wha hae," has presented it to the City of Edinburgh, instead of selling it as was first announced.

THE subscriptions toward the memorial to be erected to Adam Smith, author of "The Wealth of Nations," at Kirkcaldy, his birth-place, have reached \$40,000, and it is expected the amount will be much increased.

THAT some people have not yet had enough of Marie Bashkirtseff may be gathered from the fact that her letters are about to be published at Paris. It will be interesting to observe whether the frank unreserve she displays in her journal was shown in her correspondence with her friends.

MACMILLAN AND COMPANY have in press for immediate publication a new volume of stories by Rudyard Kipling, uniform in size with "Plain Tales from the Hills." The stories included in the volume are quite new, and this edition, issued by arrangement with the author, will be offered at a low price to the American public.

A TORONTO correspondent writes: Is it indispensable that the copy of your prize stories for THE WEEK shall be typewritten? Is it intended to open the envelopes containing authors' names before the prizes are adjudged? Will there be any extension of time? The first question is answered in the affirmative, the two latter in the negative.

THE authors of the "Life of Lincoln," just completed in *The Century*, Messrs. Nicolay and Hay, are to write several papers for the same magazine on Lincoln's personal traits. They are to appear during the coming volume. Mr. Frank R. Stockton has written a novelette for the same magazine, to be called "The Squirrel Inn." Mr. A. B. Frost, whose successful designs for Mr. Stockton's "Rudder Grange" will be remembered, is to illustrate it.

THOMAS STEVENS (who went to meet Stanley when the latter was coming from the interior of Africa) speaks of his article on "African River and Lake Systems" in the September *Scribner's*, as suggested by several interesting discussions of the subject while he was in Zanzibar and Cairo, notably one with Mason Bey, one of the best authorities on African affairs, who with Prout explored the White Nile in 1877. Much of the information which he gained from Mason Bey appears in Mr. Stevens' article.

THE *Critic* has had some protest against making its National Academy entirely of men. A correspondent writes to suggest that if none of the forty will resign their crowns in favour of certain of our American literary sisterhood, it should open the polls again for the election by its readers of "Forty Immortelles." At the same time one of the nine newly elected "Immortals" writes: "Your

Academy ought to include women, and I will gladly resign my place in it to one of the fair writers who have a much better claim to it."

IN the "Recent Poetry and Verse" column of the *Graphic* of August 9th occurs the following: "We see that Mr. Hereward K. Cockin has obtained the honour of a fourth edition for his 'Gentleman Dick o' the Greys.' (C. Blackett Robinson, Toronto.) About many of these compositions there is a swing and dash which quite take the reader captive. The poem which gives its name to the volume is an instance in point, while there is a good deal of rough humour in 'Jack Tartar.' Some of the poems strike us as particularly well adapted for purposes of recitation."

SOME little time ago a writer sent an article to a magazine with the following explanatory note: "I know that you probably have several thousand articles on hand, many of them by well-known writers, while I am entirely unknown. But I venture to hope that you will look at my article at once, first, because it is on a fresh topic, and is concisely put; secondly, because it is not folded, but sent to you between two pieces of pasteboard; and thirdly, because it is typewritten." The article was promptly accepted, and appeared in two months.

MR. GEORGE L. SCHUYLER, who died suddenly on board Commodore Gerry's flag-yacht *Electra* at New London on July 31, had published two books relating to Revolutionary times. One was correspondence and remarks upon "Bancroft's History of the Northern Campaign in 1877," the other, "The Character of Major-General Philip Schuyler." Mr. Schuyler was the grandson of Gen. Philip John Schuyler, and was born at Rhinebeck on June 9, 1811. He was twice married, and both of his wives were grand-daughters of Alexander Hamilton.

"GERALDINE JEWsbury is here," said Mrs. Carlyle one day to a caller, "but she is in her room with a bad cold, reviewing a novel." She paused a moment, and then added: "I am sorry for the novel that is reviewed by Geraldine when she has a bad cold." Miss Jewsbury "was a literary woman to her finger-tips," says a writer in an English paper, "the author of several good novels, and, above all, she had many friendships with the immortals. There are heaps of women who write books nowadays, but few that have the personality of Miss Jewsbury; and yet, in all the twelve or fourteen years since her death, I do not remember so much as a magazine article about her."

THE Critic Company of New York announce that they are to be the American publishers of Mr. W. T. Stead's *London Review of Reviews*. It is a monthly; price of single copies 20 cents., per annum \$2.00. The plan is substantially expressed in the name. Besides the extracts and abridgments from the magazines and reviews, and the comments upon and indexes to their contents, which constitute the *raison d'être* of the new monthly, each number contains a leading editorial summarizing "The Progress of the world," a frontispiece (usually a portrait), a "character-sketch" of some man or woman toward whom all eyes are directed at the time and a special article with illustrations.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD, who seems to be able to edit *The Daily Telegraph* from Tokio, has been reading his new great poem, "The Light of the World," before a select audience in that city, for the benefit of the poor among the Japanese, English and American residents. An Englishman sends a short account of his impressions of the poem, describing it as "saturated with Buddhism." It is said to invest Mary Magdalene with a charming romance—Mr. George Barlow, by the way, worked this vein in his remarkable epic, "The Pageant of Life"—and, it is added, gives to Jesus Christ a sublime combination of humanity and divinity. We learn on the same authority that a Yokohama merchant, Mr. Harry Deakin, waxed so enthusiastic that he offered £5,000 for the American rights in the poem—an offer which, we are told, Sir Edwin did not refuse. The difficulty of copyright in the United States will be overcome, it is stated, by an American poet—the "greatest living" one—writing in lines here and there, the volume appearing under the joint names of Sir Edwin Arnold and his American collaborateur.

CANADA is about to receive marked attention at the hands of the *New England Magazine*. The leading feature of its forthcoming September issue is an article by W. Blackburn Harte, dealing with the literary leaders of Canada. The writer says: "It is an indisputable fact that we are on the eve of a great national crisis in Canada, and an intellectual revolution, which will mark an epoch in our history, is already at hand. He gives a bright comprehensive outline of the work of more than a score of the leading men of letters, each sketch being accompanied by a fine portrait engraving. Among this number are: Professor Goldwin Smith, Sir Daniel Wilson, Archibald Lampman, William Wilfred Campbell, Miss Agnes Maule Machar, G. Mercer Adam, Miss Ethelwyn Wetherald, Miss Sara Jeannette Duncan, Dr. J. G. Bourinot, William Douw Lighthall, Dr. George Stewart, Jr., Dr. W. George Beers, Charles Mair, Principal Grant, of Queen's University, J. Hunter Duvar, Gerald E. Hart, Nicholas Flood Davin, James Macdonald Oxley, J. M. L. Moine, Professor Charles G. D. Roberts, Grant Allen, Sir William Dawson. In addition to this article by Mr. Harte, there are, in this number, poems by Campbell and Lampman, and an article on French Canadian Literature by George Stewart, Jr.