

ascetic ; Savarin, the brilliant *littérateur*, for whose portrait Ernest Renan may have stood ; Alain de Rochebriant, the proud and penniless lord of a Breton castle ; Louvier and Duplessis, bankers, the rival monarchs of the Bourse ; the gay, nonchalant Frederic Lemercier, and a host of others. There is also Julie Caumartin, the unfortunate, who loved Rameau, and who sought and found forgiveness in the dark days of French tribulation ; and then there is Mrs. Morley, an American lady who must surely have been drawn from the life, she is so good-hearted, so inquisitive, so fond of making love-matches, so anxious to be a *dea ex machina* to estranged lovers. But our space is exhausted and we must here conclude. We only hope we have given sufficient evidence of the merits of the work to induce those of our readers who have not read it, to consult for themselves the last, and we think, the best of the score of fictions from the pen of Edward, Lord Lytton.

CANADA ON THE PACIFIC. By Charles Horetzky.
Montreal : Dawson Bros.

We have already noticed in these pages a pamphlet by Mr. Horetzky, suggesting the feasibility of the Peace River Valley, as the route across the Rocky Mountains, of the Pacific Railroad. That pamphlet, or some letters of which it was partly composed, attracted the attention of the chief engineer of the road, Mr. Fleming, and from him Mr. Horetzky received instructions to make a *reconnaissance* of that Pass. The present work is the result of a journey made in the autumn and winter of 1872, from Edmonton to the Pacific. It is difficult to say whether the author was as favourably impressed with the advantages of this Pass after he had made an examination of it as he had been before. But he still regards the route as practicable, though he does not conceal the great difficulties that would have to be encountered. In the Rocky Mountains, a series of level terraces, rising one above another, are met ; and they are often abruptly terminated, leaving the difficulty of precipices to be overcome. The conclusion to which this journey through the mountains led Mr. Horetzky is rather feebly stated : that "the construction of a road through this valley would not be impossible, and at some future time may become an accomplished fact." The highest point met with between

Lesser Stone Lake, on the east side of the mountains, and Lake Stewart on the west, is a ridge lying between McLeod and Long Lake, its elevation being two thousand six hundred and sixty-five feet above the level of the sea. But Mr. Horetzky is of opinion that a point of crossing may be found at less than two thousand feet elevation, either by the Pine Summit River Lake Pass or the Peace River Valley. This opinion is apparently founded on the fact that the highest point crossed in this exploration was between four and five hundred feet higher than the true watershed separating the affluents of the Peace from those of Frazer River. But the question still remains whether a favourable Pass can be found through the elevation west of the Rocky Mountains. Bute Inlet is spoken of as being practically without a rival for the western terminus of the Pacific Railway. It is recommended by its accessibility to the interior by the Chilcotin Valley, and from its being within a "practicable distance" of Vancouver Island.

The decline of the power of the Hudson's Bay Company had gone further than most persons, who had not come in contact with it where it so long held sway, had any idea of. It is in the nature of a monopoly to become inert unless spurred to activity by some exceptional conditions of its existence. The commencement of the decline of the Company's power carries us back fifteen years, and seems to have been in part owing to the death of Sir George Simpson, whose great influence with the directors his successor did not inherit. Governor McTavish could never induce them to allow him a force of fifty men to keep the peace. The half-breeds on the Red River and the Saskatchewan are said to have made the Company a mere plaything for several years ; a fact which accounts for the otherwise inexplicable conduct of the Company during the rebellion of 1869. The newly-imported servants of the Company did not carry their notions of passive obedience to the same extent that those of former times did, and petty traders introduced liquor, that great source of demoralization among savages. The Company had become a mere shadow of its former self ; and it is evident that it sold out to Canada at the right time, for it could not much longer have performed the duties required of it, and which it had discharged on the whole remarkably well. This monopoly had had its day, and done nearly all the work it was capable of doing.
