

little boodling to complain of when we regard with equal contempt the man who sells his vote and the woman who sells her virtue.

It has been said in Germany recently that representative institutions are on their trial in America. We suppose it is true in a sense. Representative government has no divine commission. If it prove best for the country, let us have it, but let us have it only so far as it may prove best. Truth and wisdom are generally found between extremes. The doctrine of the golden mean is susceptible of a very wide application. Why should it not apply here? An autocracy is a bad thing unless we have an angel for an autocrat; to place power in the hands of the ignorant and unscrupulous may be no less bad. May not the perfection of government lie between the two, lie where autocracy is so modified by democracy, and democracy is so modified by autocracy, that the two become one, are merged in the golden mean? We do not think the question of the best form of government is settled yet.

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

POEMS, GRAVE AND GAY. By Albert E. S. Smythe. Toronto: Imrie & Graham.

These poems are uneven. Not only are some whole poems unworthy of a place in this book, but some very good ones are almost spoiled by a lame, unfinished stanza. The writer has more than ordinary poetic talent, however, and some few poems, with parts of others, are gems, and give promise of better work in the future. There is thought, sense and imagination in the book, and that is more than one can honestly say of most of the verse that is published. Most of the sonnets, of which there are quite a number in the book, are sonnets in form, and that is something, for a fashion is springing up of calling any stanza of fourteen iambic pentameters a sonnet. The satire in the following is keen, but we hope undeserved:

Kisses now are common,  
Lovers true are rare;  
Those who kiss a woman  
Only get a share.

We quote one sonnet, "Death the Revealer":

I know that death is God's interpreter:  
His quiet voice makes gracious meanings clear  
In grievous things that vex us deeply here  
Between the cradle and the sepulchre.  
We, gazing into darkness, greatly err,  
And fear the shrouded shadow of a fear  
Till dawn reveals the vestments of a seer  
With gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.  
There is a mystery I cannot read  
Around the mastery I no more dread;  
For love is but a heart to brood and bleed,  
And life is but a dream among the dead  
Whose wisdom waits for us. God give me heed  
Till the day break and shadows all be fled!

### THE MAGAZINES.

AMONG the special features of the *Ladies' Home Journal* for October are the first instalment of "Mr. Beecher as I Knew Him", by Mrs. Beecher,—a pen-sketch of "Mrs. William McKinley",—and "The Brownies in October", by Palmer Cox. Mary J. Holmes writes concerning "The Totem Poles of Alaska". A. Bogardus has a chatty article on "Famous Men before my Camera". Poems, stories, and short papers of special interest to the ladies, make up a very good number of this favourite journal.

THE illustrated articles in the October *Methodist Magazine* are "Peasant Life in Switzerland", and "James Calvert", the latter by Rev. J. C. Seymour. The paper on "James Russell Lowell" is, we suppose, from the Editor's pen. Rev. Dr. Eby writes on "Methodism and Missions"; there is an article by Bishop Huntington on "Causes of Social Discontent"; Sidonie Zilla contributes "Among the Little Grey Bonnets"; Rev. G. J. Bond has a story, "Why Big Rich joined the Temperance Society"; and altogether this is a good number of an excellent periodical.

THE October *Eclectic Magazine* comes laden with good things. There is only one story, "Francesca's Revenge", from Blackwood's. Of literary articles we have: "Names in Novels", "Goethe's Friendship with Schiller", "Love and Fiction", and "Note on a New Poet". There is another instalment of "A War Correspondent's Reminiscences", by Archibald Forbes. An article on

"James Russell Lowell", by Theodore Watts, is from the *Athenaeum*. The leading article is on "Frontiers and Protectorates", by Sir Alfred Lyall, from the *Nineteenth Century*. Another interesting paper is that on "The Antipodeans", the people of Australia, by D. Christie Murray, from the *Contemporary Review*. Then there is "The Congress of Vienna", "The Recent Audience at Peking", "Diamond-Digging in South Africa", and an important paper, "On the Origin, Propagation and Prevention of Phthisis", by Professor Tyndall.

AMELIE RIVES' story, "According to St. John," is brought to a close in the October number of the *Cosmopolitan*. It does not reflect much credit upon her taste or moral purpose, however it may upon her genius. A new feature of the *Cosmopolitan*, and one which is original with that magazine, is the publication each month, in the form of footnotes, of a number of little portraits and brief biographies of the writers of the different articles. Very interesting indeed and beautifully illustrated is an article on "Modern Women of Turkey", by Osman Bey, a Turkish gentleman visiting the United States. To many the strongest attraction of the number will be a paper on "Cincinnati" by Murat Halstead, and illustrated by Jacassay, who visited Cincinnati for that purpose. Other articles are: "Three Women of the Comédie Française", "Some Great Storms", "The New Desert Lake", "Lady Clare"—a story by Boyesen, "An Oyster Village", and "The Massacre of the Peace Commissioners". The poems are by Laurens Maynard, Louise Inogen Guiney, Ella Loraine Dorsey, E. F. Ware, and Clinton Scollard.

### LITERARY AND PERSONAL NOTES.

THE death is announced of M. J. Nerudo, the Czech journalist and poet, at the age of fifty-three.

MR. J. F. HERBIN has a pretty poem on "September" in the *Dominion Illustrated* of the 10th ult.

MR. FREEMAN, the historian, is preparing an article for the *Forum* on "The Peace of Europe".

IN the *Dominion Illustrated* of the 12th ult. is a bright story by Mrs. S. A. Curzon, entitled "Baulked".

THE Cassell Publishing Co. of New York will publish Max O'Rell's new book of travels, "The Frenchman in America."

THE *Canadian Voice* has appeared again, but under a different management, and the place of publication is changed to Amherst.

A STORY by Prof. Roberts, entitled "Loft on the Isle of Sands: a story of Acadia," is begun in the *Youth's Companion* of the 8th inst.

THE series of papers on Chinese Life in British Columbia, from the pen of Mr. James P. Macintyre, is an interesting feature of recent numbers of the *Dominion Illustrated*.

IN the *Dominion Illustrated* of the 12th ult., Pastor Felix addresses a tender response "To George Martin" which honours by its sentiment both him that gives and him that receives.

IN *The Week* of September 25th is a careful and instructive article by Christina R. Frame, of Maitland, N. S., concerning Lunenburg town and county entitled, "On the Atlantic Coast".

ANDREW CARNEGIE, in his "American View of Imperial Federation" in the *Nineteenth Century* for September, is unfair and brutal in his references to Canada, but that is to be expected.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN & Co. will issue shortly an edition of James Russell Lowell's poems complete in one volume, uniform with their one volume editions of Tennyson, Wordsworth and Shelley.

WE were glad the suggestion came up in Parliament to give Rev. W. W. Campbell, the author of "The Mother", some position in the parliament library. We do not think that any other poet in America is capable of producing so fine a poem.

THERE is a thoughtful poem by Mrs. S. A. Curzon in *The Week* of the 2nd inst. Basil Tempest writes of "Poetic Art in Canada", and J. C. Sutherland on "How Free Trade with the World would benefit Canada". Gowan Leo has a sweet little poem on "The Cactus".

ONE of the most interesting of Canadian writers is Miss E. Pauline Johnson, the cultivated daughter of an Indian chief. She has an article in a recent number of the *Detroit Free Press* on canoeing in Canada. A canoe-song of hers has been praised by the *Athenaeum*.