

## EPHIMERIDES.

The MCGILL GAZETTE is well on in its third volume, and, if one may judge from the January number, it bids fair to maintain a long and useful existence. College journals should be primarily devoted to scholastic subjects of all kinds, and to the home-life, as it were, of the institution which they represent. The last number of the MCGILL GAZETTE is the more pleasing that it contains more of this kind of matter than usual. The editors are painstaking and zealous in the cause of their journal, the material execution is commendable, and altogether our university organ is worthy of the support which it solicits.

As a mere specimen of typography there is, perhaps, no periodical which can claim superiority over VICK'S FLOWER GUIDE, published quarterly. The arrangement of the matter is masterly, while the illustrations are executed in the highest style of art. If Rochester, N. Y., is called the Flower City, it is mainly due to Mr. Vick's magnificent conservatories, and his seed stores have done much to improve the commerce of that city. As a practical gardener and seedsmen he stands first on this continent, if not in the world. I have used his seeds, both of flowers and vegetables, for several years past, and have always found them to produce exactly the results promised for them. In the way of novelties, too, Mr. Vick is the man to apply to, while his terms are very satisfactory.

The CENTENNIAL WALTZES were noticed some time ago in these columns. The author, Mr. Wm. Aitken, of this city, is a young man who may be said to be a born musician; but not content with relying upon his natural talents, he has devoted himself to a thorough study of the theory of his art. In the CENTENNIAL WALTZES he endeavored to express an æsthetic idea of commemoration, which, of course, was more or less abstract, but in the MARGUERITE WALTZES, just published, he has drifted into soft sentiment into which all youths must glide sooner or later, and the result is a dreamier and more tender composition. There is much pleasing rhythm in the movement and the execution, as a whole, is not difficult. I commend it to my musical friends.

Daintiness is the best word to describe the special character of LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE. There is a neatness and finish about its material appearance which stimulate the desire to read its contents. There are invariably found in keeping with the excellent execution. Art and art matters always find a prominent place, while the illustrations form a great attraction. In the last number there are two illustrated papers—Pictures from Spain and Our Floor of Fire. Lippincott's has also the merit of introducing several writers to the literary public. Among these are Emma Lizzards and Sidney Lanier, and if I mistake not, Rebecca Harding Davis has been given a wider field through its columns. In February there is the beginning of a new story by Auerbach, entitled The Young Aloys, and George MacDonald's Marquess of Lossie proceeds most satisfactorily.

The Montreal Historical Society is a myth so far as active life is concerned. It has no regular meetings, the public know nothing of its proceedings, and even the question of membership is one upon which no light is thrown. Fortunately its place is taken by the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, which works with zeal in the special field assigned to it. The January number of the quarterly journal, published by a committee of the Society, testifies to its activity and earnestness. It contains a number of very useful and interesting papers from some of the most authoritative pens in the country. The office-holders for the present year are Messrs. Henry Mott, President; Daniel Rose, 1st Vice-President; Major Latour, 2nd Vice-President; R. W. McLachlin, Treasurer and Curator; and Gerald E. Hart, Secretary. The Editing Committee consists of Messrs. Rose, McLachlin and Mott.

Among the many excellent articles, illustrated and other, in the last number of HARPER'S MAGAZINE, there is one which gives a short but graphic history of Blennerhassett, chief among the many victims of Burr's dishonest ambition. The history of this unfortunate man and that of his brilliant wife form one of the most tragic episodes in the stirring annals of the Ohio Valley. Blennerhassett belonged to an Irish family, but was born in Hampshire, England. Owing to his Republican principles he came to America and settled in a beautiful island, near Marietta, Ohio. There he made the acquaintance of Burr, who inveigled him into his magnificent, but treasonable scheme of a Western empire. He was pursued by the authorities, his home was pillaged by a reckless soldiery, and his wife suffered many indignities. Ten years later, about 1815, he came to Montreal, on his way back to England, and I am curious to know whether any of our older citizens or antiquaries could give us any trace of his passage through this city.

Detective stories have always a certain fascination, on the æsthetic principle, perhaps, that truth is stranger than fiction. When these stories are written with literary correctness and finish, their interest increases by so much. This is quite the case with the third volume of the Pinkerton series, The Detective and the

Sonnambulist. Allan Pinkerton has a reputation in America similar to that of Vidocq in France, and whatever experiences he confides to the public are sure to be eagerly read. The work is published by the spirited young firm of Belford Brothers, of Toronto, in the best style, and is to be found for sale at Dawson's. There is nothing sensational or prurient about the two stories, and they give valuable insights into real life which are instructive. We are glad to see Mr. Pinkerton raise his voice against the "average detective," of whom he says that he "would rather be in league with the criminals of this city than opposed to them, and the great majority are so leagued; and until such a state of affairs is broken up, the criminals who have money will surely escape punishment."

The old ATLANTIC comes to us this month with a flavor of our childhood. As so often in younger days, we find in its poems by Longfellow, Whittier and Wendell Holmes. With such national names, it is no wonder this splendid periodical preserves its high reputation. Longfellow's poem, A Dutch Picture, is in his best ballad manner, showing that the veteran poet's genius is still vigorous. The Witch of Wenham by Whittier is rather drawn-out, but as I cannot do justice to it this week, I shall reserve a fuller analysis for the next number. I fear Holmes' humorous poem on the Presidential question is a failure, judged by the high standard of the author's fame. The talented editor, W. D. Howells, enters a new field with a comedy, entitled Out of the Question. Mr. Howells is building an enduring reputation by patient, conscientious work and his name will live. Frances Ann Kemble is far too prolix in her memoirs. Cut down by at least one half, they would form most entertaining reading. The ATLANTIC was never brighter and stronger than it is this year.

BELFORD'S MAGAZINE is up to time, as usual. It is published in advance of the month after the fashion of the American periodicals and therein shows its spirit of enterprise. Honestly and truly the Magazine is not only a credit to its publishers and to Canadian literature, but it will bear favorable comparison with any of its English or American contemporaries. It should therefore receive generous support. The publishers want an agent in every town and village in the Dominion to take subscriptions, and a liberal commission will be paid. This may be the means of helping many persons to get employment, thereby doing much good. The February number contains an important paper, Temperance by Act of Parliament, from the pen of Hon. W. McLaughlin, and two interesting literary papers, one of them by Mr. Griffin, the talented editor of the Halifax Herald. A poem by Barry Dane is very pretty. The first half of Tennyson's Harold is given, which alone is worth the price of the number. The illustrations are well done, and the several editorial departments ably and carefully conducted. A new feature is the introduction of a song with music, the latter by U. C. Barnaby.

The GALAXY is above all else a manly periodical, full of individuality. Its unconventional spirit stimulates thought and excites curiosity. One of its regular contributors is Richard Grant White, who closes in the February number a series of papers on Reading Shakespeare. Mr. White is by no means timid in affirmation, as for instance, in this paper, when he tells us that Troilus and Cressida is one of its author's greatest works; "in one respect his greatest." He also dispels a pleasant illusion by saying that the true meaning of the line

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin,"

is not such, judging from the context, as we generally give it. But with all due respect, I do see that he succeeds. Mr. White also cautions us against Dyce's edition, on the ground that "his edition is one of the worst that has been published in the last century, both for its text and, except as to their learning, for its notes." What says our own Shakespearean scholar, Mr. T. D. King? The short stories in this number are unusually brilliant, and there is the opening of Miss Misanthrope, by Justin McCarthy, which promises well. What is the matter with Bret Harte? His Anaschar is unworthy of him, and unworthy of the Magazine.

A. SCHELE PENN.

## HEARTH AND HOME.

A GENTLEMAN.—A gentleman is a rarer thing than most of us think for. Which of us can point out many such in his circle—men whose aims are generous; whose truth is constant and elevated; who can look the world honestly in the face, with equal, manly sympathy for the great and the small? We all know hundreds whose coats are well made, and a score who have excellent manners, but of gentlemen, how many? Let us take a little scrap of paper, and each make his list.

THE SEA.—The sea is the largest of all cemeteries, and its numbers sleep without monuments. All other graveyards, in other lands, show some distinction between the great and the small, the rich and the poor, but in the great ocean cemetery the king and the clown, the prince and the peasant, are alike undistinguished. The same waves roll over all; the same sun shines, and there, unmarked, the weak and the powerful, the plumed and the unhonored, will sleep on for ever.

WOMAN'S LOVE.—A French woman will love her husband if he is either witty or chivalrous; a German woman, if he is constant and faithful; a Dutch woman, if he does not disturb her ease and comfort too much; a Spanish woman, if he wreaks vengeance on those who incur his displeasure; an Italian woman, if he is dreamy and poetical; a Danish woman, if he thinks her native country is the brightest and happiest on earth; a Russian woman, if he despises all Westerners as miserable barbarians; an American woman, if he has plenty of money.

MARKS OF A GENTLEMAN.—No man is a gentleman who, without provocation, would treat with incivility the humblest of his species. It is vulgarity for which no accomplishment of dress or address can ever atone. Show us the man who desires to make every one around him happy, and whose greatest solicitude is never to give cause of offense to any one, and we will show you a gentleman by nature and species, though he may never have worn a suit of broadcloth, nor ever heard of a lexicon. We are proud to say, for the honor of our species, there are many men in every throb of whose heart there is solicitude for the welfare of mankind, and whose every breath is perfumed with kindness.

STARTING IN THE WORLD.—Many an unwise parent labours hard and lives sparingly all his life for the purpose of leaving enough to give his children a start in the world, as it is called. Setting a young man afloat with money left him by his relatives is like tying bladders under the arms of one who cannot swim; ten chances to one he will lose his bladders and go to the bottom. Teach him to swim, and he will never need the bladders. Give your child a sound education, and you have done enough for him. See to it that his morals are pure, his mind cultivated, and his whole nature made subservient to laws which govern man, and you have given what will be of more value than the wealth of the Indies.

MORAL CHARACTER.—There is nothing which adds so much to the beauty and power of man, as a good moral character. It is his wealth—his influence—his life. It dignifies him in every station, exalts him in every condition, and glorifies him at every period of life. Such a character is more to be desired than everything else on earth. It makes a man free and independent. No servile tool—no crouching sycophant—no treacherous honour-seeker ever bore such a character. The pure joys of truth and righteousness never spring in such a person. If young men but knew how much a good character would dignify and exalt them, how glorious it would make their prospects, even in this life, never should we find them yielding to the grovelling and base-born purposes of human nature.

MUSIC.—The effect produced by music on the heart is owing more to the simple fact of association than many imagine. It is very true that in the composition of music the composer imbues it with much of his own feelings while writing and improvising it; and for a person to listen to such music for the first time, without being previously affected from any cause, he will be carried upon its tide very nearly as the composer's power is first directed; but we have known it in others, and have ourselves experienced a feeling of deep dejection while listening to music of a light and joyous character. This was in consequence of a former association of the same sounds with a former trouble. As much of music is taken from natural sounds, and even from sounds produced by inanimate things, a part of a strain of written music may have so nearly resembled such sounds, heard before or since for a time forgotten—heard before when the heart was so severely oppressed as to affect it at hearing it again with the same emotion, and from no other cause than of association.

## BURLESQUE.

THAT DEMOCRAT.—"Sir," exclaimed a war Democrat yesterday afternoon, "you can never elect the man you have elected by villainy and fraud. A million of freemen will spring to arms at the tap of the drum to forbid it. I myself would rather lay my mangled, bleeding body at the threshold of lib—" and then the slippery place in the sidewalk took him by the legs and lifted him up and laid him down across a cellar grating with such a slam that it bounced every bone in his skeleton up into his head, and puffed his breath so far out of him that he couldn't gasp for ten minutes. And they carried him into a drug store, and swathed him in plasters, and rubbed arnica all over him, and held a solution of spiritus frumenti optimus under his nose, and when he came to he said if he could only kick the man three times a day that didn't sprinkle ashes on his sidewalk, he'd like to live a thousand years.

A NOBLE LIAR.—One of the dozen passengers on a Woodward avenue car suddenly remarked that it was an awful snow-storm, and that he never saw so much snow on the ground before.

"Pooh!" exclaimed a little whiffet of a man in the corner; "this is no storm at all! Why, in Omaha I have seen forty-seven feet of snow on the ground at once!"

"Buried the town, didn't it?" queried the man opposite.

"Of course it buried the town, but that was right. We dug out the snow and left the crust as a sort of sky, and in three days we had summer weather down there. Roses bloomed, peach trees blossomed, and the boys went in swimming, the same as in July! Don't talk to me about such storms as this!"

"W-what became of the crust?" gasped a man at the front end of the car.

"It's hanging up there yet!" replied the noble liar, "and the man who doubts my word wants to step off the car for half a minute."

## ROUND THE DOMINION.

NOVA SCOTIA has less snow than any of the other Provinces, excluding Manitoba.

THE Montreal Board of Health has expended \$2,206 on public vaccination.

THE following is an analysis of the Ontario Legislature: 22 merchants, 14 agriculturists, 18 lawyers, 10 doctors, 5 lumbermen, 3 manufacturers, 3 journalists, 4 dairymen, 4 millers, 2 painters, and 1 blacksmith.

THE prospects of the inhabitants of the west coast of Newfoundland, who were recently reported in great distress, have been greatly improved by the timely appearance of herring in great abundance in the waters of that locality.

## HYGIENIC.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London Lancet, who owns water-power mills, writes: I am frequently compelled, at this season of the year, to have men working in water even in frosty weather. I found the following allowance gives great satisfaction to the men, and we never have a case of cold or injury to the men in any way: Kettle of coffee, made with half sweet milk, half water, three or four eggs whipped poured into it when off the boil; hot toasted bread with plenty of butter of the finest quality. Serve up this every two and a half hours. The expense is much less than the usual allowance of whiskey, and the men work far better, and if care is taken to have the coffee, milk (cream is still better), bread, and especially the butter, of the very finest quality, the men are delighted with it. I am persuaded it would be worth while to try this allowance instead of grog. Giving extra grog gives the men a notion that it is good for them, and perpetuates the belief in stimulants among workmen.

## ROUND THE WORLD.

THE rinderpest is making great ravages in Germany. England has prohibited the importation of cattle from that country.

A BAND of Sioux under Crazy Horse have captured and massacred a body of twenty Black Hill miners, a hundred miles west of the Missouri River.

THE Duke DeCazes has received from the German Ambassador assurances of the friendly view taken by his Government of the attitude of France in regard to the Eastern complications.

CHINESE jealousy and suspicion have been aroused by recent Russian movements along the frontier and the result has been the interruption of commercial intercourse between the two countries.

THE Compromise Bill is still the main subject of discussion in connection with the Presidential difficulty in the United States. The Bill meets with pretty general approval, and there appears to be reason to believe that it will pass the Senate by a two-thirds majority, and will receive a still larger vote in the House.

PRESIDENT GRANT, speaking of affairs in Louisiana, has expressed his determination to take no action with reference to the installation of either the Packard or Nicholls' Government until all the evidence has been laid before him, as he sees no constitutional reason for such a step.

## SCIENTIFIC.

THE livid, dark crimson spots, sometimes called "port-wine marks," with which some persons' faces are naturally disfigured, have generally been regarded as indelible. The surgeon of the London hospital has performed several successful operations, however, and he describes them for the benefit of his profession. He makes clear-cut, parallel incisions over the affected surface, about a sixteenth of an inch apart, after making the flesh insensible with ether spray. Upon healing, the bluish is gone, and no scars are left if the operation has been carefully done.

EYE-GLASSES ought never to magnify much, but merely show the objects clear and exactly as they are. Every person ought to be able to read with his spectacles at the same distance that he was accustomed when his sight was unimpaired. Pebbles are preferred on account of their clearness, never becoming dull from moisture, but they are dearer. To test true eye-glasses hold them obliquely over print, when, if the glass is correct, the letters will preserve their true character.

THE inland ice in Greenland is now encroaching on the land, though at one time it appears to have covered many portions of the country at present bare. This advance and retreat of the inland ice may be due to change of climate, to the rapid advance of the ice from the interior, or to the rise and fall of the land. There are traditions that a great inlet once stretched across Greenland not far from Jakobshavn, as represented on some of the old maps, but that it has also now got choked up with consolidated bergs. In former times the natives used to speak of pieces of timber drifting out of this inlet, and even tell of people coming across; and stories yet linger among them of the former occurrence of such proofs of the openness of the inlet.

An article which has long been sought after and but recently made known in this country is Luby's Parisian Hair Renewer. A few applications as an ordinary hair dressing is all that is necessary to restore gray hair to its natural color, after which one application a week will be sufficient. It imparts a most beautiful perfume and gloss to the hair and keeps the head cool and entirely free from dandruff. It is quite a favourite toilet dressing with ladies, as it does not soil the most delicate head dress. It can be had of all chemists in large sized bottles 50 cents each. DEVINS & BOLTON, Druggists, Montreal, are agents for Canada.