

though smaller than Philadelphia. We see no reason, why such a scheme, if properly taken in hand, might not be readily carried out on a somewhat smaller scale in Toronto. It would give us an educational establishment of the highest value, and there is no reason why it should not prove commercially profitable.

In the plantations of the English Government in the Neilgherry hills in India, there are nearly three millions of cinchona trees, covering nearly

one thousand acres of land. The largest trees are thirty feet high, with circumference near the base of three feet. Last year more than seven thousand pounds of bark were sold in London, and about thirty-five thousand pounds were furnished to the Indian depôts; the total value of the bark produced being about sixteen hundred pounds. The capital expended by the Government in the introduction and cultivation of this invaluable tree in India will soon have been repaid with interest.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE *Quarterly* has come down with a heavy hand upon the new school of poetry. Of course the *Quarterly* belongs very decidedly to the old school. But we confess that we sympathize with some of its criticisms. Tennyson is treated with respect, but taken to task for mixing up in his "Idylls of the King" two totally different phases of society and thought. "Throughout the 'Idylls of the King' a double motive seems to have been operating in the mind of the poet, and the result is a violation of Horace's excellent rule, '*sit quidvis simplex duntaxat et unum.*' The part of these poems which impresses the imagination is the external form. In all his pictures of the knight, his armour, his horse, the romantic scenery through which he rides, and the Gothic halls in which he feasts, Mr. Tennyson displays, as usual, the genius of a great painter. But the inner life, the human interest, whatever in the "Idylls" appeals to our intellect and our feelings, comes, as we have said, from questions that are purely modern. We do not say that these questions cannot be treated in poetry; we only maintain that to associate them with the life of a rude age produces the same effect as to combine 'a human head, a horse's neck, a woman's body, and a fish's tail.'" Browning, as the type of the "Psychological" school, is more roughly handled. His aim is said to represent character apart from action; it is admitted that if any one could achieve this object, he could; but the aim itself is declared to be chimerical. This position is illustrated by reference to Mr. Browning's principal poems. His idiom and versification are also severely handled.

"With regard to his idiom and versification, all Mr. Browning's tendencies are towards—decomposition. War is declared with the definite article and the relative pronoun, and any preposition is liable to lose its final letter on the slightest provocation. We

should like to know Mr. Browning's authority for cutting off the final 'n' in 'on.' Shakespeare has, of course, familiarised us with such abbreviations as 'i'the' for 'in the,' and 'o'the' for 'of the' but the practice is not sufficiently euphonious to be frequently admitted in modern poetry, much less extended. As the most far-fetched metaphors are employed to illustrate the most common thoughts, so the most out-of-the-way words are in favour simply because they are strange, and the mere jingle of sound is sometimes the sole excuse for an entire line, as—

"Thus wrangled, brangled, jangled they a month."

"Mr. Browning's metre is blank verse, but of a kind which is only distinguished from prose by its jerks and spasms. The sober iambic road of the normal metre is not sufficiently adventurous for one who loves to make poetical travel accessible only to the Livingstones of literature. At every third line we are tripped up on a point of emphasis, or are brought to a halt before a yawning chasm, which can only be cleared by a flying anapaest. In short, throughout a composition so bulky as 'The Ring and the Book,' we fear we should find it hard to select one paragraph which might serve as a model of good English, or, indeed, one which is free from the marks of violence and eccentricity."

The *Contemporary* has one of Mr. Herbert Spencer's series on "The Study of Sociology," which contains a remarkable passage on the dangers of the prevailing tendency to cast individual and parental duties on society.

"And now something more serious happens than the overlooking of these evils wrought on men's natures by centuries of demoralizing influences. We are deliberately establishing further such influences. Having, as much as we could, suspended the civilizing discipline of an industrial life so carried on as to achieve self-maintenance without injury to others, we now proceed to suspend that civilizing discipline in another direction. Having in successive generations done our best to diminish the sense of responsibility, by warding off evils which disregard of