

particularly amusing in this number, and every boy and girl who has ever seen a great battle panorama will be trebly interested in Mr. Whitney's well-illustrated article explaining how they are constructed.

### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

BISMARCK generally knows what he is about, and he certainly did when he bestowed his approbation on "The Buchholtz Family."\* It is a wonderfully vivid and exceedingly amusing picture of middle-class life at Berlin. The local aroma is strong in it, and attests its genuine Berlinity. But the amiable and weak parts of domestic character; the ways and the foibles of mothers, mothers-in-law, and every member of a family group; the daily incidents, cares, and stratagems of housekeeping; the social life, alliances, quarrels, and match-makings of a small neighbourhood, are depicted in a way which brings them home to us all. In fact, to many, and to mothers-in-law especially, the book will be a confessional. But they need fear no censoriousness or austerity: the worst that can happen to them will be to be made to laugh at themselves.

"ANDROMEDA," by Mr. Fleming; "King Arthur," by Mrs. Craik (Miss Mulock), and "Mrs. Dymond," by Miss Thackeray, are none of them new, but they may not have fallen under the notice of our readers. Not one of them is exciting, but all of them, and especially "Mrs. Dymond," will be found to afford quiet and healthy enjoyment. They are careful studies of characters, with enough of a plot for its development, though without any thrilling incidents. All three of the writers cultivate the picturesque, and are particularly fond of word-painting as applied to scenery, of which Mr. Hardy among novelists is the great example. Perhaps there is rather too much of this, and the art is rather too apparent. "Go to, let us make a picturesque description," seems to be the thought in the writers. Still, the painting is good, particularly in "Mrs. Dymond."

THE ALDINE BOOK PUBLISHING COMPANY, of Boston, have just issued a very cheap "Globe Dictionary of the English Language." It appears to be a reprint of the one completed some years ago by Hyde Clarke for Weale's Educational Series, from the dictionaries of Worcester, Webster, Walker, Johnson, Richardson, Murray, and Latham. Containing 100,000 words, it is pretty complete, giving, besides the ordinary words of the language, the names of places, technical and scientific terms, foreign phrases, etc. The printing and paper are rather poor, as may be expected from the price, but otherwise the volume may be found a most useful companion for the student and general reader.

We have received also the following publications:—

CENTURY. December. New York: Century Company.  
ILLUSTRATED CHRISTMAS NUMBER PUBLISHERS WEEKLY. New York: 31 and 32 Park Row.  
BOOK BUYER. Christmas. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.  
OUTING. December. New York: 140 Nassau Street.  
ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. December—Christmas Double Number. New York: Macmillan and Company.  
NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW. December. New York: 3 East 14th Street.  
NINETEENTH CENTURY. November. Philadelphia: Leonard-Scott Publication Company.

### MUSIC.

#### CHAMBER MUSIC ASSOCIATION CONCERT.

THE second concert of the Chamber Music Association was given Monday evening last before a large audience. The playing of the quartette evinced great care and precision, and was, perhaps, most appreciated in the Mozart *Allegro* and *Adagio*. The Beethoven *Scherzo* was well executed, but made one wish to hear the whole quartette, while the *Intermezzo*, by Cornelius Gurlitt, furnished a light and acceptable number.

Mr. Presberg, who, if we mistake not, made his *début* before a Toronto audience, is well qualified to rank as a solo pianist of high order. His *technique* is clear and correct, and his execution leaves nothing to be desired, although he is more at home in pieces of the Thalberg type—i.e. concert fantasias—than in the exacting requirement of the great D Minor Trio, which, to connoisseurs at least, was the most interesting number on Monday's programme.

The violoncello solos from Mr. Corell were given in good style, and met with vociferous applause.

Mrs. McKelcan, of Hamilton, who possesses a voice of perfect quality, but limited compass, sang three songs and a couple of *encores* in that charming style, which has rendered her such a favourite in musical circles.

Mrs. Blight played with her usual taste, and Mr. Jacobsen supplied an *obligato* to a song of Kricken's, as well as the piano accompaniment to Mr. Corell's solo.

Cannot some understanding be reached with audiences in the matter of *encores*? One *encore*, we submit, is legitimate, so is a second, if earnestly persevered in; but the senseless "clap-clapping" indulged in by the audience of Monday between some of the numbers was neither gratifying to the performers nor creditable to itself.

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