

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

OTTO HEGNER's portrait, accompanied by an article on this "Musical Prodigy," will be published in *Harper's Young People*, October 29th.

A COLLECTION of W. S. Gilbert's Christmas stories is to be published under the title of "Foggarty's Fair," by Routledge & Sons.

A PORTRAIT of Amelia B. Edwards, drawn by W. T. Smedley and accompanied with an article by R. R. Bowker, will appear in the number of *Harper's Bazar* to be issued November 1st.

MR. JAMES MACDONALD OXLEY, contributor to THE WEEK, has been very successful this season in placing his manuscripts with various well-known periodicals. He has already two serials accepted which will shortly see the light.

ESTES & LAURIAT have nearly ready an illustrated edition of Owen Meredith's "The Earl's Return"; "Feathers, Furs, and Fins," stories of animal life, also illustrated; and "Queen Hildegard," a story for girls, by Laura E. Richards, with designs by E. H. Garrett.

A NEW work by Alphonse Karr is published by Calmann Levy. It is entitled, "Les Bêtes à bon Dieu"; written in simple and unaffected language, it may be considered a sequel to the famous "Wasps," and contains reflections upon everything,—men, women, politics, marriage, art, etc.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, replying to a correspondent at Wolverhampton, says that he is really unable to add anything to what he has already said in public with reference to the formation of a National Party, and that while he is favourable to the idea he does not consider it a matter which can be hurried.

A LADY in one of the New England towns recently returned a copy of Robert Louis Stevenson's story "The Wrong Box" to her bookseller, for the reason that the cover was "defaced by a newspaper scrap which, although I have applied soap and water, I have been unable to remove." So much for an attempt at novelty in book-making.

THE thoughtful paper on "Suicide" contained in this issue of THE WEEK is by the same forcible and earnest pen as "Novelists and their Readers," which we printed a few weeks ago. We also desire to state that in our next issue we will include Prof. MacMechan's Convocation Lecture at Dalhousie College, a paper of much vigour and interest.

IN the latest issue of *The Magazine of Poetry* appears a sketch of Archibald Lampman, with selections from his works. The sketch is contributed by Duncan Campbell Scott. Among the *Current Poems* we observe Helen Fairbairn's sonnet, "Summer Night," which was published in THE WEEK of September 23rd.

GUY DE MAUPASSANT has a strong bit of writing in *La Lanterne* of a recent date. It is a short story of the Franco-Prussian War, entitled "Mother Savage." De Maupassant is alternately bullied and beloved by reviewers on both sides of the water, but if he is capable of many such strong stories as "Mother Savage" he can afford to take all the ill-treatment patiently, knowing that his turn will come.

THE *Spectator* issued on October 12 a special literary supplement which contained, however, very little to recommend it to readers accustomed to the delightful essays and short papers on a variety of literary and social subjects, which are so often to be found in its pages, inasmuch as the contents were composed of book notices of more or less unimportant works. THE WEEK reprints in next issue a portion of an excellent paper upon an author—Coventry Patmore—who is chiefly known to us through his poem, "The Angel in the House."

THE probate of the will, dated the 14th of July, 1884, of the late Mr. Henry Brougham Farnie, of 5 Danes-inn, formerly of 6 St. John's-wood-road, dramatic author, who died on the 21st ult. in Paris, has been granted to the executor, Mr. John Wood, of 201 Regent street, music publisher. The testator, whose will is throughout in his own handwriting, gives and bequeaths all his property, real and personal—the personality being valued at £23,072—to his sister, Miss Isabella Gwynne Farnie, of St. Andrews, Fifeshire. Mr. Frank Chappell, of 42 Great Marlborough street, music publisher, was also named as an executor in the will, the witnesses to which are Mr. R. D'Albertson, and Mrs. Charles Legg, of the Royal Comedy Theatre.

THE following list represents Ibsen's works up to date: Historical and Legendary Dramas, chiefly in prose: "Catalina," which stands by itself and contains the germ of much of his later work; "Dame Inger of Oestraat," 1855, an effective melodramatic play of great technical skill; "The Feast at Solhaug," 1855, an historical play of the fourteenth century; "The Warriors at Helgeland," 1858, a noble version of the Volsunga saga, in which the dramatist presents a vivid and human picture of the Viking period; "The Pretenders," 1864, dealing with twelfth century Norwegian history; "Emperor and Galilean," 1873. Dramatic Poems: "Love's Comedy," 1862; "Brand," 1866; "Peer Gynt," 1867. Social Dramas: "The Young Men's League," 1869; "The Pillars of Society," 1877; "A Doll's House," or "Nora," 1879; "Ghosts," 1881; "An Enemy of Society," 1882; "The Wild Duck," 1884; "Rosmersholm," 1886; "The Lady of the Sea," 1888.

"A BOOK without a parallel," is what the Rt. Hon. Wm. E. Gladstone says of the "Journal of Marie Bashkirtseff," and in this verdict he voices the opinion of everyone who has read this extraordinary production, which Messrs. Cassell & Company will publish on November 11th, and which, by a coincidence, is the birthday of the young Russian. The "Journal of Marie Bashkirtseff" was published in Paris a year ago in two volumes and at once attracted the attention of the artistic and literary world. No one seemed to know much about the book or the young girl whose life it laid bare. It had evidently not been edited by an experienced hand, and the only introduction it had was a panegyric poem by Theuriet. Soon after the appearance of the book an article by Mathilde Blind was printed in the *Woman's World*, telling us something more about this remarkable girl than was told in her Journal. A few weeks ago Miss Helen Zimmern had an article in *Blackwood's* about her and the November *Scribner* has a eulogy of the "Journal" by Miss Josephine Lazarus. But the most eulogistic of all is Mr. Gladstone in an article contributed to the *Nineteenth Century*. Marie Bashkirtseff reminds him of the ruins of Selinunti. "The temple is so shattered that it may be said to be reduced to a mass of single stones; but every stone by itself is majestic. Here were great powers, amassed in abundance like that of the materials for the rearing of Solomon's temple." "The 'Journal,'" he says again, "has to be judged, like the poems of Homer, from internal evidence."

The *Transatlantic* publishes a gossip article containing a recent interview with Emile Zola. The great Frenchman, speaking of George Eliot, said: "An attempt has been made here in France, by the translation and popularization of her works, to create a sort of reaction in favour of the idealistic novel, or rather to establish a happy medium between the productions of pure imagination and the naturalistic formula. Considering the realism of the great English writer emphasizes a truth less bitter and gloomy than ours, they thought that it would exercise a moralizing power more in conformity with academic aesthetics. All the critics in the reviews, in face of the enormous success of the naturalistic works, have been obliged to tacitly admit that the public found no more pleasure in romantic moonshine and demanded something more substantial. So they appealed to George Eliot. But they scarcely succeeded in this attempt at naturalization. Her works remained on the shelves of the booksellers. That is easily understood. English realism, that of George Eliot, for instance, to speak only of her, is characterised by a dull and gloomy philosophy, drawn from Protestant sources, which does not suit the Latin races. George Eliot has very evident evangelical tendencies (although she turned them wrong side out, for she was a free-thinker), a preacher's turn of mind. An author writing under the influence of these dominant qualities could not find favour in France. When they found themselves foiled in this direction, they resorted to the Russian novelist. They began again, in this new path, the enterprise in which they had not succeeded with English literature. This time they were a little more fortunate. It is certain that this last attempt has met with some success. At all events, it has given us an opportunity of reading two or three real master-pieces."

THERE seems to have been little or no question that the author of the remarkable article on the "Triple Alliance and Italy's Place in it" in the October *Contemporary Review* is Mr. Gladstone. The London *World* remarks that "when Ulysses clothed himself in the rags of a beggar he was recognised only by his faithful hound. The affectionate creature pricked up his ears and wagged his tail, but discreetly abstained from any ostentatious and compromising demonstrations. He probably knew his master to be the man of many a wile, the Artful Dodger of the heroic age, and suspected a reason in this masquerade. Mr. Gladstone, disguised as 'Outidanos,' has not been so fortunate. He has been fawned on and leaped upon. Ulysses, we are told, parodying in advance the carpenter of the modern legend, turned his head aside and wiped away a tear. Mr. William Sikes, in circumstances partially similar, tied a stone in his handkerchief and looked about for a pcnd. In palliation of Mr. Sikes' conduct, it must be remembered that he was not in a position to give way to sentiment. He was wanted for the murder of Nancy, and to be identified by the fidelity of his ill-treated cur would have consequences as disagreeable as if he had been hunted down by a sleuthhound. Whether Mr. Gladstone's feelings at being detected in the garb of 'Outidanos'—which means, we believe, in one of its senses, good-for-nothing, or *vaurien*—were those of Ulysses or of Mr. Sikes, it would be fruitless to inquire. We confidently assume Mr. Gladstone to be 'Outidanos.' No one who has ever heard Mr. Gladstone speak can read this article without hearing the tones and seeing the gestures with which it might have been pronounced from the front Opposition bench. *Aut Gladstone aut diabolus.* There has been some suggestion of a joint authorship, a sort of collaboration; the names of Canon MacColl and Mr. Labouchere have been mentioned, but that is ridiculous. The fact is that Mr. Gladstone can no more write an anonymous article than he can make an anonymous speech at St. Stephen's, or read the lessons anonymously in his parish church, or take an anonymous walk in the highways or by-ways of London. His speech and gait betray him. There is no reason to suppose that Mr. Gladstone especially desired concealment. The question why in that case he should have signed himself 'Outi-

danos' is only one of many 'whys' to which with him there is no very obvious wherefore. He may reply with Shylock, 'It is my humour.' If conjecture is permissible, we should say that his disguise was, like the incognito of a Royal person, not intended to hide his identity, but to spare inconvenience—in his case controversy and postcards. To be the known author of an article is one thing, to be its avowed author is another. Mr. Gladstone's statement that the assertion that he was the writer of the article was made without authority is, and was probably intended to be understood as, an admission that the assertion is true. If a denial had been meant it would have been given in very different terms. 'Outidanos,' referring, as we read the passage, to Lord Salisbury's statement that the Schouvaloff-Salisbury Convention, as published by Mr. Marvin, was not 'authentic,' characterizes it as 'nauseating'; but between authority and authentic there is little more than the difference between a substantive and an adjective, and in that even Mr. Gladstone's subtlety will scarcely be able to find a moral distinction."

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE

CONFERENCE OF SCHOOL TEACHERS.

At the recent session of the Protestant Teachers' Convention much time was devoted to the discussion of two papers, mainly of a technical nature, on the teaching of drawing. Professor MacLeod, of McGill, read a lengthy paper in which he urged the adoption of a graded system of educating the eye to the proper idea of perspective. Professor Clark advocated the system adopted with marked success in the Boston schools of accustoming the children from their tender years to the varieties of forms by providing them with, and encouraging them to keep constantly before their eyes, various form models. Dr. Eaton, of McGill, opened the discussion on the proposition for the institution of a Dominion conference of teachers, which, he suggested, should be named a Dominion Educational Association. It would have the effect of generally improving and elevating the character of the profession of teaching, and promote the cause of popular education throughout Canada; every grade of school could be fully represented, and advocates of different schemes of education would have the fullest opportunities of explaining their views at its sessions, which could be held at different centres. Normal schools would feel the quickening influence of this intercommunication, and the bonds of good fellowship between the schools of the whole country would be more closely interwoven, and what was more important, a mutual understanding on educational matters between the different parts of the Dominion would naturally result. The proposition was warmly received. The chairman suggested that the matter should be referred to the Executive Committee to investigate the matter and report. On motion of the Rev. Dr. Adams, Principal of Bishop's College, a resolution to that effect was adopted.—*Montreal Star*.

RUSSIAN RAILWAYS IN CENTRAL ASIA.

It is in contemplation to assemble shortly at Tiflis, under the presidency of General Zelenoi, a special commission for examining the scheme proposed by some private contractors for laying a railway between Askabad and Meshed by way of Dershak and Kelat, which will considerably shorten the time occupied in the transport of merchandise sent from the Transcaspian province. At present it has to be conveyed for 300 kilometres by the Askabad-Kutshane and Meshed route, whilst the proposed line will reduce the distance to about one hundred kilometres. Although the railway will have to be carried over the Khazar-Meshed mountain range, the contractors consider that its construction will offer no great difficulty. As soon as the scheme is examined it will be communicated to the Shah of Persia by the Russian Minister at Teheran.—*Reuter*.

TO MONTANA, OREGON AND WASHINGTON.

If you are going west bear in mind the following facts: The Northern Pacific Railroad owns and operates 987 miles, or 57 per cent. of the entire railroad mileage of Montana; spans the territory with its main line from east to west; is the short line to Helena; the only Pullman and dining car line to Butte, and is the only line that reaches Miles City, Billings, Bozeman, Missoula, the Yellowstone National Park, and, in fact, nine-tenths of the cities and points of interest in the Territory. The Northern Pacific owns and operates 621 miles, or 56 per cent. of the railroad mileage of Washington, its main line extending from the Idaho line via Spokane Falls, Cheney, Sprague, Yakima and Ellensburg, through the centre of the Territory to Tacoma and Seattle, and from Tacoma to Portland. No other trans-continental through rail line reaches any portion of Washington Territory. Ten days' stop over privileges are given on Northern Pacific second-class tickets at Spokane Falls and all points west, thus affording intending settlers an excellent opportunity to see the entire Territory without incurring the expense of paying local fares from point to point. The Northern Pacific is the shortest route from St. Paul to Tacoma by 207 miles; to Seattle by 177 miles, and to Portland by 324 miles—time correspondingly shorter, varying from one to two days, according to destination. No other line from St. Paul or Minneapolis runs through passenger cars of any kind into Idaho, Oregon or Washington. In addition to being the only rail line to Spokane Falls, Tacoma and Seattle, the Northern Pacific reaches all the principal points in Northern Minnesota and Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Bear in mind that the Northern Pacific and Shasta line is the famous scenic route to all points in California. Send for illustrated pamphlets, maps and booklets giving you valuable information in reference to the country traversed by this great line from St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth and Ashland to Portland, Oregon, and Tacoma and Seattle, Washington Territory, and enclose stamps for the new 1889 Rand McNally County Map of Washington Territory, printed in colours. Address your nearest ticket agent, or Charles S. Fee, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, St. Paul, Minn.