

privilege that was enjoyed by them. As far as the welfare of American art is concerned, the proceeding may be characterized as "bosh," pure and simple. It is merely an attempt of certain residents of foreign birth to hold what they have obtained and to prevent others from sharing it with them. More than this, it is an interference with the progress of musical art here, in preventing valuable additions to our limited list of orchestral conductors of the first rank. It is claimed that capable and fully experienced conductors can be obtained in this country; but, if we except Theodore Thomas, it is not easy to discover where they are to be found on this side the Atlantic. This interest in things American manifested by the German musicians of New York would be very praiseworthy if there were any element of sincerity in it; but as it is, there is a highly justifiable suspicion that the patriotism in the business is no more than an effort on the part of the "ins" to keep the "outs" from coming in. Only this, and nothing more. Singers, pianists, violinists, and other artists, are accorded full permission to come hither in order to display their talents, and why a conductor, whose talent lies in his skill in presiding over an orchestra, should be denied an equal opportunity to exercise his gifts, does not appear. A pianist comes from abroad and performs without hindrance. A conductor, whose instrument is the orchestra, should surely have the same right as the pianist to perform on the instrument over whose technical difficulties he has triumphed. He does not bring the instrument with him, but, in common with the pianist, finds it ready for him here. He is an artist in his specialty, the same as is the pianist. He is a performer who interprets great orchestral works upon the instrument called an orchestra. To say that he shall not be allowed to exhibit his skill because there are others here who can direct an orchestra, is equivalent to urging that Von Bülow shall not be permitted to play here because Joseffy is already here. It is hard to perceive where the contract labour law touches Herr Nikisch as a performer, with the orchestra for an instrument, any more than it touches Von Bülow with the piano. It is merely a matter of hearing a master artist in the particular art for which he has gained distinction. If Von Bülow can come here under contract for so many concerts, to afford the musical public an opportunity to listen to a great artist on the piano, why cannot Herr Nikisch come here under contract to afford the same public a like opportunity to listen to a great artist interpreting masterworks with an orchestra—the instrument he professes? Then, too, the New York musicians are troubling themselves about a thing that does not concern them; for it is not that city, but Boston, that is immediately interested in the matter. Moreover, there is no possible construction of the contract labour law that can prevent Herr Nikisch, or any other conductor, from visiting this country, and, after he has arrived here, signing any number of contracts to conduct any number of orchestras. The only discussion that could arise is about the signing of a contract before he came here.—*Boston Gazette.*

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

POEMS. By Dora Greenwell. "The Canterbury Poets." London: Walter Scott; Toronto: W. J. Gage & Co.

The name of Dora Greenwell was for many years beloved by that generation of English people which recognized the truth and beauty of Adelaide Procter's verse. Dora Greenwell resembles her illustrious predecessor in many ways. While not of such distinct literary value, these poems bear the impress of a true spirituality—that attribute which, more than any other, we look for in volumes of feminine verse, and they also testify to the depth and genuineness of the writer's culture. It is pleasant to think that this little volume has at length found its way to Canadian readers. Miss Greenwell died in 1882, at Bristol, Eng., aged sixty-one years, and her memory will be long cherished by those who value good and enduring verse.

PICKED UP IN THE STREETS. A Romance from the German of H. Schobert. By Mrs. A. L. Wister. Montreal: J. Theo. Robinson.

The above is the title of a very readable romance in the style of Ouida, but destitute of that author's peculiar charm. The Parisian background is highly tinted with Russian sentiment and colour, and the story is sufficiently "light" to find acceptance at the hands of the travelling public.

POLITICAL ORATIONS FROM WENTWORTH TO MACAULAY. Edited with an introduction by William Clarke. London: Walter Scott; Toronto: W. J. Gage & Co.

This volume—one of the "Camelot Series"—is confined entirely to political oratory, and covers, in its quotations, a period of over three hundred years. Specimens of the English spoken by Burke, Erskine, William Pitt, Grattan, Lord Chatham, Cromwell, Macaulay, Fox and O'Connell are contained in it, but probably as interesting a speech as can be found between its covers is that made by Peter Wentworth, spoken February 8, 1576. Wentworth, a courageous Puritan, who boldly attacked the Crown for encroachment on the privileges of the House of Commons, was, after a long examination, committed to the Tower, where he was confined for a month. The book will be found useful for purposes of reference as well as interesting in perusal.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

THE condition of the veteran author and dramatist, Wilkie Collins, contrary to expectation, continues to improve.

THE Royal Colonial Institute will shortly issue a volume of about four hundred pages, with eighteen maps, entitled "The Dominion of Canada," by the Rev. W. Parr Greswell, M.A. (Oxon.), F.R.C.S.

PROF. H. H. BOYSEN delivered at Chautauqua recently an interesting lecture on the French novel. Balzac was described as the father of the modern realistic school, and Daudet as the child who most honours him.

MR. LIGHTHALL'S anthology, "Songs of the Great Dominion," is meeting with success on both sides of the water. It is pleasant to record that, in this instance, patriotism and energy are not alone their own reward.

CANADIAN writers are represented in the August issues of periodicals by an article on "Ottawa" in the *Cosmopolitan*, by W. Blackburn Harte, of this city, and a review of Dr. Fréchette's verse in the *Atlantic Monthly* by Professor Paul Lafleur of McGill University.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL has written a sympathetic introduction to a new and beautiful edition of the "Complete Angler," to be published by Little, Brown and Company, Boston. There will be 500 numbered copies on Indian paper at \$10, and 150 Japan paper at \$15.

A WORK on "Slang and Its Analogies, Past and Present," by Mr. John S. Farmer, is announced for private circulation by Messrs. T. Poulter and Sons. Mr. Farmer is the author of a somewhat similar work on "Americanisms," which has received adverse criticism from the American press.

ONE of the most successful novels of the time, according to English journals, is Sir Julius Vogel's "A.D. 2000." A retail dealer in New Zealand exhausted 500 copies in a few days, and was obliged to cable for 600 more. The book is, apparently, after the pattern of Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward."

THE *Dominion Illustrated* for July 27th, contains some very fine illustrations, notably a group containing the lights of the Geological Survey. The periodical is a flourishing and entertaining one, and enters upon its third volume with an increased number of subscribers, and every appearance of solidity.

MR. DOUGLAS SLADEN, *litterateur*, is again in Canada, and will probably visit Toronto and the West very shortly. He intends making the tour of the great lakes, ending at Chicago, whence he will proceed to Scotland, via New York, having many engagements in Glasgow and other Scottish towns during the autumn.

THE portrait of Lord Tennyson, in the opening pages of the *Century*, shows a face much older and more worn than recent photographs have given. A kind of *sombrero* is pushed far back on the head, and the venerable aspect altogether is what can hardly, in the course of nature, be considered as inseparable from the age of eighty years.

DR. MAHAFFY, one of the most brilliant scholars and professors of his time, and author of several very important works on Greek Literature, is passing through Canada, on his way to Chautauqua School, the meetings of which he attends by special invitation. He is Examiner and Lecturer in Trinity College, Dublin, in classics, philosophy, music and modern languages.

A RECENT reception given by Lady Tupper, at 97 Cromwell Road, London, was numerous and fashionably attended. The guests were upwards of five hundred in number, and included Canadians visiting London, as well as such notabilities as Mne. Albani and Mr. Gye, the Marquis of Lorne, the Marquis of Dufferin, Sir Stafford and Lady Northcote, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Benson, the Baroness and Mr. Burdett-Coutts.

GARDEN parties in England are apt to be attended with curious results. At Mrs. Singleton's the other day—"Violet Fane" of literature, drawn by Mallock in his "New Republic"—rugs and matting had to be thrown over the damp grass at Prince's Gate before the guests could properly be entertained. Another garden party—one of the season—was that given by Mrs. Holman Hunt at Fulham. The house of the artist is a beautiful and elaborate one, stored with all manner of artistic objects. A "May Morning on Magdalen Towers" is the title of the unfinished picture at present on view in the Fulham studio.

LADY DUFFERIN is intending to publish, through Mr. Murray, a selection from a diary kept by her during her residence in India, which will be entitled, "Our Vice-regal Life in India." If the genial and charming writer only achieves half the success her talented husband did by the publication of his "Letters from High Latitudes," she will accomplish much more than the ordinary mortal dares to expect. It is, perhaps, too much to hope that Lord Dufferin should give us in book form reminiscences of his term in India. Failing health and the dignities of high office together preclude him, but, no doubt, some of his wife's experience has also been his, and in Canada at least, the work will be anxiously awaited.

THE following letter appears in the current number of the *Spectator* under the heading of "John Wesley on the Colonies": SIR,—I have just come upon a passage in Southey's "Life of Wesley" which seems to show that the doctrine that our Colonies should be encouraged to look forward to the time when they will be independent of the

Mother Country, is not, as I had imagined, a modern invention of what is commonly known as the Manchester school of politicians, but was held by one of the most thoroughgoing Tories that ever lived. It will be found at page 286 of the third edition, published in 1848, and runs thus: "Colonies are naturally republican, and when they are far distant and upon a large scale they tend necessarily as well as naturally to separation. Colonies will be formed with a view to this when colonial policy shall be better understood. It will be acknowledged that when a people can maintain and defend themselves they are past their pupilage." Having regard to the recent utterances ascribed to the Governor of the Cape Colony, the quotation may be interesting to those of your readers who are as ignorant as myself, if any such there be.—I am, sir, etc., J. W. B.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

MARRIAGE CEREMONIES OF THE BILQUA.

MR. PH. JACOBSEN, in a letter to his well-known brother, Capt. A. Jacobsen, gives the following description of the marriage ceremonies of the Bilqua of British Columbia: An Indian who intends to marry, calls upon his intended wife's parents, and arranges with them how much he is to pay for permission to marry the girl. Among people of high descent this is done by messengers, sometimes as many as twenty being sent to call on the girl's father. They are sent by the man's parents before the young man is of age. In many instances both man and girl are not more than eight or nine years old. The messengers go in their boats to the girl's house, and carry on their negotiations without going ashore, where the relatives of the girl are standing. The messengers of the young man's parents praise his excellence and noble descent; the great exploits of his father, grandfather, and ancestors; their wars, victories, and hunting expeditions; their liberality at festivals, etc. Then the girl's relatives praise the girl and her ancestors, and thus the negotiations are carried on. Finally a number of blankets are thrown ashore by the messengers; and the girl's relatives protest, and maintain that the number is not sufficient to pay for the permission to marry the girl. In order to obtain their consent, new blankets are thrown ashore one by one, the messengers continually maintaining that the price paid is too great. Generally from twenty to fifty blankets, each of the value of about half a dollar, are paid.

After this the boy and girl are considered engaged. When they come to be grown up, the young man has to serve a year to his father-in-law. He must fell trees, fetch water, fish, and hunt for the latter. During this time he is called Kos, which means "one who woos." After a year has elapsed, the marriage is celebrated. At this time great festivals are celebrated. Seven or eight men perform a dance. They wear dancing aprons and leggings, trimmed with puffin-beaks, hoofs of deer, copper plates, and bells. If the groom should be a wealthy man, who has presented to his wife many small copper plates, such as are used as presents to a bride, these are carried by the dancers. The singing-master, who beats the drum, starts a song in which the dancers join. The song used at the marriage festival is sung in unison, while in all other dances each dancer has his own tune and song. The first dancer wears a ring made of cedar-bark. His hair is strewn with eagle-down, which flies about when he moves, and forms a cloud around his head. The groom presents the first dancer with a piece of calico, which the latter tears to pieces, which he throws down in front of each house of the village, crying, "Hoip!" in order to drive away evil spirits. These pieces of calico which he throws down in front of the houses have a lucky meaning, and at the same time express the idea that the groom, when he comes to be a wealthy man, will not forget the inhabitants of any house when giving a festival. The dancers swing their bodies and arms, stamp their feet, and show the copper plates to the lookers-on. Then the bride's father brings a great number of blankets, generally double the number of those he had received from the groom, and gives them to his daughter. The bride orders a few blankets to be spread before the groom. She sits down, and he puts his hand upon her head. Then the groom is given for each of the parts of his body one or more blankets. Finally he is given a new blanket. After the bride's father has given a blanket to each dancer, and to the drummer, the villagers are invited to a great feast. At this time groom and bride eat for the first time together.

THE ART OF PROLONGING LIFE.

LONGEVITY, indeed, has come to be regarded as one of the grand prizes of human existence, and reason has again and again suggested the inquiry whether care or skill can increase the chances of acquiring it, and can make old age, when granted, as comfortable and happy as any other stage of our existence. From very early times the act of prolonging life, and the subject of longevity, have engaged the attention of thinkers and essayists; and some may perhaps contend that these topics, admittedly full of interest, have been thoroughly exhausted. It is true that the art in question has long been recognized and practised, but the science upon which it really depends is of quite modern origin. The French naturalist, Buffon, believed that if accidental causes could be excluded, the normal duration of human life would be between ninety and one hundred years, and he suggested that it might be measured (in animals as well as in man) by the period of growth, to which it stood