

establish the curious political law that in a great city, the larger the constituency which elects a public servant, the more apt that servant is to be a good one; exactly as the mayor is almost certain to be infinitely superior in character to the average alderman." Many amusing incidents of legislative experience are related, of most of which the Milesian Assemblyman, whose errors always possess "a most refreshing originality," is the hero. The author properly deprecates the custom, not unknown in Canada, of introducing clap-trap resolutions on matters entirely foreign to the Assembly—resolutions favouring Home Rule for Ireland, assailing the Czar for harsh treatment of Russian Jews, sympathizing with the Land League, etc., etc.; and he justly condemns the insolence of some classes of foreign immigrants who persist in dragging into American affairs questions of purely foreign politics, and "the attitude of truckling servility toward these same foreigners on the part of native-born citizens, who seem content to run an American Congressional contest as if it were an election for the British Parliament." In the second essay the methods of "the machine" in New York are fully described; but they will be found to be very much like those followed in smaller places, the principal difference being in the perfection of organization. "Besides some others of minor importance, there are at present in New York three great political organizations, viz., those of the regular Republicans, of the County Democracy and of Tammany Hall, that of the last being, perhaps, the most perfect, viewed from a machine stand-point." The evils of the machine system are obvious; and Mr. Roosevelt sees no prospect of averting them while the bulk of respectable men universally neglect their political duties; for "ordinary citizens, to whom participation in politics is merely a disagreeable duty, will always be beaten by the organized army of politicians to whom it is both duty, business and pleasure, and who are knit together and to outsiders by their social relations."

FIRST HARVESTS. AN EPISODE IN THE LIFE OF MRS. LEVISON GOWER. A Satire without a Moral. By F. J. Stimson (J. S. of Dale.) New York: Charles Scribner's Sons; Toronto: William Briggs.

If a foreigner, having visited the United States and made a more or less careful study of types of character and phases of society, ventured to publish a book representing American life, from the artizan to the millionaire, from the lady's maid to the leader of Society, so almost irredeemably bad as we found it depicted in this book, the author would be condemned as a libeller and his book denounced as a tissue of misrepresentation and lies. Yet the kind of criticism which the people of the United States resent so warmly when made by strangers they seem to accept with complacency when made by their own writers. In this book Mr. Stimson has presented New York Society with photographic fidelity, and the pictures are almost altogether unlovely. Take away Grace Holyoke and John Haviland, who seem to belong elsewhere, and Derwent, who is a cosmopolitan philosopher, and the people whom we meet are without marked characteristics, or stupid or wicked or insufferably vulgar. There is no cohesion in the story, which is entirely subordinated to the presentation of realistic individual portraits. We readily admit the cleverness of the portraiture; but for the most part the subjects are exceedingly unattractive.

GIBRALTAR. By Rev. Henry M. Field, D.D. Illustrated. New York: Scribner's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs. \$2.

A new book about so famous a place as the Rock of Gibraltar could scarcely be expected to contain much either novel or interesting. Yet Dr. Field, who is not only an experienced traveller but a practical writer, has in this volume, succeeded in investing the grim old stronghold with an entirely fresh interest. In a very few chapters—we sometimes wish they were longer and more numerous—he describes the great Rock standing fourteen hundred feet above the sea, its physical features, its fortifications and defences, its government, and the social life of its inhabitants. Gibraltar is not, as many may suppose, "a barren cliff; its very cliffs are mantled with vegetation, and wild flowers spring up almost as in Palestine. . . . The sunshine of Africa rests in the clefts of the rocks; in every sheltered spot the vine and the fig-tree flourish and the almond tree and myrtle; you inhale the fragrance of the locust and the orange blossoms; while the clematis hangs out its white tassels, and the red geranium lights up the cold gray stone with rich masses of colour." Dr. Field found only one American family in Gibraltar—that of the Consul, Horatio J. Sprague, who received his appointment from President Polk, forty years ago, and has remained at the same post ever since. But the lack of compatriots did not hinder the Doctor from thoroughly enjoying himself. Indeed he gives evidence of this on almost every page, and throughout the whole book he evinces his appreciation of the kindness he experienced from the Governor, the officials and the society of the Rock. In one chapter he gives an exceedingly interesting account of the presentation of new Colours to the South Staffordshire Regiment, recently returned from the campaign in the Soudan; a regiment that had been organized one hundred and eighty four years before and whose tattered battle-flags, "it was now to surrender to be taken back to England to be hung up in the oldest church in Staffordshire as the proud memorials of its glory." In the fine chapter in which he tells the history of "the great siege," during which that gallant old Governor,

General Elliott, held the fortress against France and Spain for three and a half years, the story of this heroic defence is told with as much spirit and sympathy as if the writer were the most loyal and patriotic of Englishmen. Indeed Dr. Field has an unmistakable attachment to the Mother Land. Even the one thing in Gibraltar that struck him unpleasantly—the English occupation—because the rock is not a part of England and is a part of Spain won by conquest, and retained by might, he would not have changed in his own lifetime, at least. The illustrations are numerous and excellent, and enable the reader to form a more correct opinion of the physical features of the historic Rock than he could obtain from the fullest verbal description.

THE POETICAL WORKS OF GEORGE CRABBE (SELECTED), with Prefatory Notice, Biographical and Critical. By Edward Lamplough. London: Walter Scott; New York: Thomas Whittaker; Toronto: W. J. Gage & Co.

This latest volume of "The Canterbury Poets" series introduces a writer who, although he died only some fifty-six years ago, and in his time enjoyed considerable reputation, is practically unknown to the great majority of readers of the present day. At the outset of his literary career he was very unfortunate and had to endure many privations and disappointments; yet, by unflagging effort and the help of Burke's patronage, his merit ultimately obtained recognition from the *literati* of London, where he met and enjoyed the society of such men as Dr. Johnson, Fox, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Lord Thurlow, and others. Many years afterwards, when he again visited London, he met a new generation of great men. "He was welcomed by poets and statesmen. Rogers, Campbell, Moore, Sir Walter Scott, the Lords Lansdowne and Holland, Ossory, Erskine, Kemble, and other distinguished men, hailed the man whose struggles had been so severe." This little volume will doubtless awaken popular interest in a poet of whom it has been said: He has pages stern as anything in the *Inferno*; many droll as Hogarth's pictures; and one or two so sweet and tender and pathetic, that no man possessed of any sensibility can read them unmoved.

THE *Phrenological Journal* for January, which is the first number of the eighty-seventh volume, has portraits and brief biographical sketches of the late Gen. Sheridan, Sir Wilfred Lawson, Daniel Hand and Emin Bey.

THE *Architect and Builder* which has just entered upon its second year appears in a new and greatly improved form. The number of pages is increased to twenty but the size of the page is somewhat reduced, making it much more convenient for binding. It has now a very neat and shapely appearance and the matter is excellent.

THE *Church Review*, now commencing its fifty-third volume, was started, and published for thirty years, as a quarterly. Then it was issued in bi-monthly numbers, then as a monthly, again as a quarterly, and again as a monthly. It is now to be issued in weekly parts, a form which the editor thinks will make it more generally acceptable to its readers.

A NEAT little pamphlet, entitled *The Ontario Lands Case* (press of *The Budget*, Toronto), contains the full text of Mr. Edward Blake's argument before the Privy Council, in "The St. Catharines Milling and Lumber Company v. The Queen." The argument, which was delivered towards the close of a discussion which lasted seven days, occupies about sixty closely printed pages, gives abundant evidence of the great ability, skill and complete mastery of details, as well as of principles, which distinguish the eminent counsel.

MESSRS. WATTS & Co., of London, England, send us *A Friendly Correspondence with Mr. Gladstone about Creeds*, by Samuel Laing, which grew out of Mr. Gladstone's recent controversy with Col. Ingersoll in the *North American Review*. Apart from the distinguished character and position of one of the parties to it, this correspondence is chiefly interesting as containing the "Articles of the Negative Creed," as formulated by Mr. Laing, who is a writer of some authority on questions pertaining to "scientific heresy."

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

THERE are at present three vacancies in the English Literature section of the R. C. Academy.

D. LOTHROP COMPANY have in press a volume of stories by H. H. Boyesen, called *Vagabond Tales*.

THE "Legend of William Tell" is very fully considered and illustrated in the January *Wide-Awake*.

REV. WILFRID W. CAMPBELL, author of *Snowflakes and Sunbeams*, is rector of St. Stephen, N. B.

MR. FRANCIS GALTON, the intimate friend of Darwin, has written a book called *Natural Inheritance*, which will soon appear in London.

Aesop's Fables, with John Tenniel's designs, furnish the newest (twentieth) volume of the taking "Nuggets Series," G. P. Putnam's Sons.

MESSRS. GEO. E. DESBARATS & SON, publishers of the *Dominion Illustrated*, are forming a joint stock company to own and publish that journal.

MACMILLAN & Co. have ready *Select Essays of Thomas de Quinicy*, edited by David Masson, and *Minor Poems of Chaucer*, prepared by Rev. W. W. Skeat.

MESSRS. TILLOTSON & Co., of England, have opened an

office in New York with a view of supplying English novels for publication in American newspapers.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co. are to publish a volume of the late Asa Gray's reviews of botanical literature during the past fifty years, selected and edited by Prof. C. S. Sargent.

THE English poet, William Morris, is a self-confessed Socialist; Swinburne is a Conservative; Tennyson is a Tory; and Browning does not take the slightest interest in politics.

LONGMANS, GREEN & Co. will shortly issue *The Great War Syndicate*, by Frank R. Stockton; and *Social Progress*, by Daniel Greenleaf Thompson, President of the Nineteenth Century Club of this city.

RAND, McNALLY & Co., have in press a volume entitled *Marriage and Divorce: An Inquiry into the Religious, the Practical, and the Political Aspects of the Question*, by Ap Richard, Prof. David Swing, and others.

Poet Lore is the title of a new monthly magazine about to be issued by the J. B. Lippincott Co., of Philadelphia. It is to be devoted to the illustration of Shakespeare and Browning, and to the comparative study of poetic literature.

IN *Scribner's* for February, Austin Dobson will recall some memories of "Old Vauxhall Gardens" in its prime—the days of Walpole, Fanny Burney's "Evelina," and Fielding's "Amelia." The article will be fully illustrated from old prints.

MESSRS. LONGMANS, GREEN & Co. are about to follow Mr. Besant's *Eulogy of Richard Jefferies* with a volume of Jefferies' uncollected papers, under the apt title of *Field and Hedgerow*, in which will appear the latest essays of "the English Thoreau."

Tempted of the Devil: Passages in the Life of a Kabbalist, is the title of a book which will shortly be published by Cupples & Hurd, Boston. It is a translation from the German of August Becker, by M. W. M. Macdowall. It is a novel of exceptional power and interest.

SCRIBNER & WELFORD have just issued a new edition of Barry E. O'Meara's *Napoleon at St. Helena*, in two volumes, with numerous illustrations in colours and black and white. A refutation of Croker's diatribe, which appeared in 1822, and a "Napoleon Calendar," have been added by the editors.

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS publish *The History of the Roman Republic*, abridged from the history of Prof. Mommsen, by C. Bryans and F. J. R. Henty, which presents the salient points of the original in a form suitable for use in schools and colleges and for the convenience of the general reader.

MACMILLAN & Co. have just published a complete one volume edition of Wordsworth's *Poetical Works*. It is printed in small type, in double columns, following the poet's later readings, and preserving the notes, prefaces and appendices of the several readings. Mr. John Morley's able biographical and critical preface give a special value to this edition.

THE popular belief that President-elect Harrison is descended from Pocahontas and from the Parliamentary soldier and regicide, Gen. Thomas Harrison, who was executed in 1660, is shown in *The Critic* of Jan. 19 to be entirely groundless. There is not a drop of the Indian maiden's blood in his veins; and if there is any of the English soldier's, the fact is not susceptible of proof.

MR. W. T. STEAD, editor of *The Pall Mall Gazette*, who has recently been on a trip to the land of the Tsar, has recorded his impressions in the form of a book to be published by Cassell & Co., under the title of *Truth about Russia*. An interesting chapter, on "Count Tolstoi and his Gospel," recounts the experiences of a week's visit at Yasnaya Polyana, and describes the new prophet in the bosom of his family.

ALPHONSE DAUDET is said to be engaged on a novel which will be entitled *La Lutte pour la Vie* (Struggle for Life). It will be a sequel to *L'Immortel*, inasmuch as the hero will be a member of Asti-Rehu's family. In it Daudet will apply himself to convince the sceptic world that French home-life is a reality and French domestic virtue not a mere word. This novel is based on a play which M. Daudet read a short time ago to M. Koning, proprietor of the Gymnase Theatre, Paris, where it will be shortly performed under the same title as the novel.

MESSRS. GINN AND COMPANY will publish next month *An Introduction to the Poetry of Robert Browning*, by William John Alexander, Ph.D., Munro Professor of the English Language and Literature, Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, N.S., and formerly Fellow of Johns Hopkins' University. The book opens with an account of Browning's most striking peculiarities in method and style, and attempts to find an explanation of these in the conditions amidst which the poet has worked, and in the nature of the themes which he treats. In the next place, an exposition is given of those general ideas pervading his work, which can only be gathered from the study of many of his poems, and yet are needful for the full understanding of almost any one of them. This exposition is contained in a series of chapters treating of "Browning's Philosophy," "Christianity as presented in Browning's Works," and "Browning's Theory of Art." These chapters are followed by a brief chronological review of his writings, and characterization of his development. The various points treated throughout the Introduction are illustrated by a series of selected poems furnished with careful analyses and copious critical comments. Prof. Alexander is an applicant for the English Language and Literature Chair in University College.