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THE WESTERN ADVERTISER. Fublished twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, in eight-page form, making six

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"The Advertiser" is an organ of news and of thoroughly independent opinion. The ADVERTISER alone is responsible for opinions expressed in these

"The Advertiser" advocates Continental Free Trade, nd as early as possible after, free trade with the whole world.

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The Advertiser" is an advocate of rights for women, whether as regards the franchise, or equal wages for equal work.

"The Advertiser" is a believer in Christian Union, and considers the time has come when the various Christian denominations should come closer together. Those bodies which are now nearest should unite first. Under the present system there is an unjustifiable waste of men, means and effort. The ADVERTISER will endeavor to promote the movement for Christian union not alone by direct appeal and argument, but by seeking to present the best rather than the worst side of each

"The Advertiser" advocates Obligatory Voting as both necesmuch purify electoral contests. Nothing would so much enforce the idea that the tranchise is a duty, not a chattel.

> God's in His heaven, All's right with the world. -[BROWNING.

London, Thursday, Dec. 17.

A CANADIAN PORTRAIT OF THE GRAND OLD MAN.

It is satisfactory to know that the por trait of Mr. Gladstone, painted by John C. Forbes, the well-known Canadian artist, for presentation to the National Liberal Club of Great Britain in the name of Canadian Liberals, is an excellent likeness. The Grand Old Man himself hath said it after a critical examination. In referring to the visit which Mr. Gladstone paid to the studio, a cable correspondent describes the picture. The veteran statesman is presented full-face, addressing an audience, which, to judge by the expression on his face, is in sympathy with his views. The right honorable gentleman is shown in the right honorable gentleman is shown in the now familiar Galashiels gray tweed, in white vest with the buttons loose at top and bottom, the blue tie with white spots, and a rose in his coat. His eyeglasses are not forgotten, but the elastic band fastening the small glove piece over the place of the lost finger is looked for in vain—artistic reasons will, no doubt, account for this slight departure from accuracy. The pose of the body is good and the head is very fine, while of the whole portrait it may be said that it is a happy representation of Mr. Gladstone in one of his best known moods. He seems to have just made a point against a political opponent-a point which, while it excites neither that anger nor jocosity which may be found in such close proximity in some of his best orations, is yet a good point and satisfies the speaker and audience alike. It would not take much to make the portraiture. In all probability Hon. Wil-frid Laurier will respond to the request to proceed to London next spring for the purpose of making the formal presentation.

THE revised voters' lists for East Middlesee are being printed at Ottawa.

AN ENGLISH CRIME AND ITS LES-

SON FOR CANADIAN PARENTS. The cable brings details of a remarkable THE STORY OF THE ODYSSEY, or The Adventures of Ulysses, for Boys and Girls.
By Dr. Edward Brooks, A.M. 370
boys, aged 8 and 9 years respectively, have
ust been convicted at Liverpool of one of
the most cold-blooded and brutal murders
on record. Owing to their extreme wants just been convicted at Liverpool of one of the most cold-blooded and brutal murders on record. Owing to their extreme youth they have escaped the halter and have been delivered into the charge of a reformatory institution. The victim was of the same age as the younger of his murderers, and the craft with which the two boys lured him to death seems almost incredible in children so young. Shearon and Crawford are the mes of the two malefactors, and they are a natural product of the Liverpool slums by the laws of heredity and environment. Shearon was such an incorrigible youth

that his mother took his clothes away from him and hid them to prevent his going out.
He procured a piece of old sacking with which he covered his nakedness, and escaped to join his playfellow, Crawford. Recognizing the necessity for wearing apparel the two boys, according to their own story, decided to lure away the first decently dressed boy they saw, kill him, and take his clothes. They met their victim, Eccles, late in the afternoon and took him off to play with them at "the rafts," as they described a large unfinished building with an excavation in which there was about eight or ten inches of water. They began their play by floating sticks in the water until some other boys who were playing there had gone away, and then Shearon and Crawford induced Eccles to try and walk across a girder some twelve eet above the excavation. The child said he was afraid, and the two other children then pushed him into the water. He struggled, and the two murderers assisted him out, with many protestations of concern, and got him to take off his clothes to dry them. Then they took him up to the girder and threw him down again and again. He struggled for

a second time. They assisted him out, and then dragging him up to a higher part of the masonry threw him over for a third time. This time he lay as he fell, and Crawford climbed down and knelt upon the victim's head, keeping it under water until they were sure that life was extinct. Both then watched the body for an hour "to see if he moved," and then drying the dead boy's clothes at a street brazier Shearon put them on and with Crawford went home. According to English law in cases of children between the ages of 7 and 14 it is for a jury to decide whether they are responsible for the crime of murder, and the jury in this case found that the two boys were "guilty of the nurder, but were not responsible on ac-

count of their age." The youthful criminals have been handed over to a religious institution, and an effort will be made to reform them. It is to be hoped that those who have assumed the responsibility of trying to give them a new start in life will not follow the example of other old world philanthropists, who have shipped to this country the children of criminals and former inmat of reformatories under the impression that this was a good country in which to reform

young persons with criminal tendencies. This remarkable case shows the undesirability of such immigration, and it should further impress upon the minds of every person responsible for the upbring-ing of children the danger of evil associates and of pernicious litera-ture. No one can surmise the importance of moral surroundings for the youth of the land, and they cannot be provided, except with great difficulty, children are to be allowed liberty to do as they please, to read any book they may pick up, or to associate wit companions. This is one of the pressing questions of the day, and neither parent nor guardian can shirk the responsibility im-posed upon them. In the home must be

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

laid the foundations for true manhood

VERY properly, the London jury refused to grant a divorce to Florence St. John, the actress. It was shown that her conduct was not such as should entitle her to re-lief. But the court granted the court But the court granted the couple a judicial separation, probably on the ground that there was no use in enforcing a semblance of unity of interests while it was clearly established it could never

111 FOLLOWING the example of last year's London City Council the town council of Woodstock has resolved to submit a bylaw in January to enable the electors to express their opinion on the question of reducing the number of license places in that town. No citizen who believes in majority rule can object to this test of public opinion for the guidance of the commissioners. Woodstock sets a good example to Hamilton.

SIR HENRY PARKES, the Grand Old Man of Australia, is a strong supporter of federation of the colonies as well as

free trader. Recently he said:

"My aim is the formation of an Australian party, as against a sectional or local party. I am not discouraged by recent untoward occurrences to the cause of federation, for I still believe that the moral forces in the future life of the country might tend to bring about the union of these colonies. I am as firm as ever in my confidence in the ultimate triumph of free trade in Australia. In every attempt to force on the people a protective policy, I see a mere revelation of old Tory propensities in men who insanely believe themselves Democrats. I think that if by any chance a protectionist tariff were assented to by this Parliament in New South Wales, it would be reversed at the next general free trader. Recently he said: this Parliament in New South Wales, it would be reversed at the next general election. Free trade would have a chance of being discussed in a federal parliament on a much higher plane of thought than is possible in the local parliaments. My personal knowledge leads me to believe that in every colony where a so-called protectionist tariff obtains, there is a large number of better-class minds thoroughly imbured with the principles of free trade."

NEW BOOKS.

This story relates in simple prose the leading incidents of that great literary work, the Odyssey of Homer. The Iliad was written for men; the Odyssey largely for women. The latter treats of several very peautiful and attractive women, so it is no beautiful and attractive women, so it is no wonder that it has been a favorite with both sexes. The author has endeavored to adapt the style of the work so as to meet the taste and capacity of young readers, and there cannot be a doubt that it will add to the happiness of boys and girls who peruse it. But "children of an eider growth" will find pleasure in reading it, for it gives a popular knowledge of the famous works of Homer, and affords a stepping-stone to the grand poetical structure. It is, indeed, a book for the household circle. Handsomely printed and illustrated with seventeen full-page pictures, it would make a good holiday present.

CORRESPONDENCE: Suggestions, Precepts and Examples for the Construction of Letters. By Agnes H. Morten, B.O. Cloth binding, 50 cents Philadelphia: The Penn Publishing Company, London, Ont.: James I. Anderson & Co.

An invaluable guide to the average writer of letters this work must prove. One can discover at a glance of its pages just how to couch the terms of a letter on any topic and to almost any individual. It is the work of a skilled writer, who has been Professor of Literature and Criticism in one of the leading educational insti-

SHOEMAKER'S BEST SELECTIONS for Readings and Recitations. Paper, 30 cents. Philadelphia: The Penn Publishing Company. London, Ont.: James I. Anderson & Co.

Number 19 contains many new and popu ar selections, some specially adapted for Christmas entertainments. It is a splendid

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ART OF CONVERSA-TION, by J. Mahaffy. Cloth binding, 50c. Philadelphia: The Penn Pub-lishing Company. London, Ont.: James I. Anderson & Co.

This pretty little work, fully and effectively answers the questions whether or not there is any method by which we can not there is any method by which we can improve our conversation, or any theory which we can apply to our own case and that of others. It further gives practical rules, which all ought to know, and which will be of much service in the performance of this part of our social duties. It is the latest and best book on the subject.

DELSARTEAN PANTOMIMES, with Recital and Musical Accompaniment. Designed for home, school and church cutertain-ments by Mrs. J. W. Shoemaker. Price, cloth, \$125. Philadelphia: The Penn Publishing Company. Lon-don, Ont.: James I. Anderson & Co.

Beautifully illustrated and handsomely ound this volume is, and it comes at timely season. Few subjects have attracted so much attention in recent years as the Grecian poses and exercises which have been defined and set forth through the phibeen defined and set forth through the phi-losophy of expression as formulated by Delsarte. In these pantomimes there will be found a newness and an attractiveness which the purely silent movements do not possess. They are a combination of music, recital and esthetic a on, and are arranged in such a manner as to produce a harmonious effect both to the eye and ear. The explanations and illustrations will prove a great help.

THE DEBATER'S TREASURY, comprising a list of 200 questions with notes and argument, by Wm. Pittlenger, author of "How to Become a Public Speaker." Cloth, 50 cents. Philadelphia: the Penn Publishing Company. London, Ont.: James I. Anderson & Co.

This work contains directions for izing and conducting debating societies valuable suggestions to those who aspire to become public speakers, and a list of 200 questions on all conceivable subjects for debate, with arguments for and against.

THE BRAGANZA DIAMOND, by James Otis Cloth, \$1 25. Philadelphia: The Penu Publishing Company. London, Ont.: James I. Anderson & Co.

A lively book for boys and girls. It is handsomely illustrated, and the story is of an engrossing character. Not a little of its nterest hinges on an ingeniously contrived cryptogram, the solution of which is he source of much vexation, but in the end its meaning is correctly interpreted and the secret hiding place of the famous diamond is revealed.

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