

REV. R. W. B. WEBSTER, of Quebec, who alleges he saw a mysterious vision, spoke from the pulpit last Sunday as follows:—"I have seen what few living beings have seen and yet continued to live, and have heard that which few in the flesh have heard and have remained in the flesh. But what I saw—was it spirit or angel? I cannot tell which." He mentioned during his discourse "that people are always surrounded by their dead friends. Whether it was spirit or angel that visited him he could not say." He only knew that the impression made upon him was lasting, and said that if he was to tell it to the congregation it would send a terrible shudder through them such as they never experienced before.

PAUL DE CASSAGNAC, in a newspaper controversy, makes the interesting revelation in his journal that the late Prince Louis Napoleon contemplated a landing in France. He says to the journal that has questioned some of his assertions:—"You state that the Prince Imperial never had the idea of effecting a landing. He has himself told me the contrary a score of times. I can say so now, as it is but a matter of history. Nay, I remember that on one occasion, finding him more than usually determined to attempt eventually this adventure, I succeeded in wresting from him a solemn oath to warn me beforehand. 'Why do you ask me?' said the Prince. 'Perhaps to try and prevent you, if the time should not be opportune, and to have myself killed by your side if you should persist in your resolve.'"

THERE was great excitement in Paris over the unusual snow, and some quaint stories are told concerning it. The other day the police found a man sitting in the middle of a bank of snow, crying hard. When asked what was the matter, his response was that he "was from Iceland and the snow made him home-sick." An Egyptian, who had never in all his life before seen snow, was so astonished and delighted with the novelty that, going out, he gathered a newspaper full, brought it into the house, and laid it upon the mantle. An enquiry as to the use to which he meant to put it, involved the gleeful answer that he was "going to send it to a friend in Egypt."

MUSIC during dinner is the latest London fashion.

Literary Items.

BELL'S LIFE IN LONDON has just changed hands, and this old paper is now the property of two well known sporting journalists.

MR. RUSKIN is to lecture at the Royal Institution, London, on St. Patrick's Day, when his subject will be "A Caution to Snakes."

MR. TOM TAYLOR thinks of resigning his editorship of *Punch* owing to the pressure of other work. It is possible that he will be succeeded by Mr. Burnand.

It seems that Miss Braddon hit upon a name for her latest novel which had been chosen by another author in advance of her. It has been changed from that of "Splendid Misery" to "The Story of Barbara."

KINGLAKE, the historian of the Crimean war, is a lawyer. He rode beside Lord Raglan in the war, and thus gained his knowledge of it. He has studied the plans of battles all his life long.

KING CETEWAYO has written an account of the war in Zululand, or rather it was taken down from his lips by the officer who took him to Cape Town, and it is published in *Macmillan's Magazine*.

MISS AMELIA B. EDWARDS' new novel, promised some time back for the first week in January, has been postponed until the first week in February, when it will begin and continue weekly in the *Graphic* under the title of "Lord Brackenbury."

MR. MURRAY promises a new volume by Dr. Schliemann to be entitled "Ilios; the Country of the Trojans," in which the indefatigable explorer will give an account of his latest researches in the Plain of Troy. Four hundred plans and illustrations will adorn the work.

THE Hon. Lewis Wingfield is at present engaged on a story suggested by the condition of the convict prison laws, in which he will essay to give a faithful picture of penal servitude as it is, in contrast to the tableaux presented in recent publications by ex-convicts. The tale, which will be ready for publication in about three weeks, will probably be entitled "Brother Ninepin; a Story of the British Felon drawn from Life."