

"Nautilus," are a credit to the publishers. They are printed on excellent paper while the binding is attractive and most unique.

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BRIEFER NOTICES.

Skeleton Leaves. By Hedley Peek. (Frank Leyton). (London and New York: Longmans, Green & Co.)—The oft-told story of early orphanage, light and shadow, love, pleasure, betrayal, despair and death. The story is told in blank verse, with short poems interleaved. There are many traces of poetic beauty, the composition is chaste, the sentiment pure, nevertheless a morbid sensation is left after perusal. Pretty blank verse and elegant lines are not fitted to record an experience which ends in the bitterness of a suicide's grave. Think of Dickens' account of Steerforth and Mr. Peggotty's home in sweet diletantism!

The Epistle to the Ephesians. With Introduction and Notes. By J. S. Candlish, D.D. Price 1s. 6d. (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark. Toronto: Revell Co. 1895.)—It is quite wonderful that so large an amount of matter should be got into the compass of this little volume. It begets within us a doubt whether a great many of our expositions might not, with advantage, be diminished in bulk. Dr. Candlish, while placing the authorized version at the top of the page, very properly introduces the revised into his notes. The commentary shows an intimate acquaintance with all the recent literature of the subject, although there is no parade of learning. On one point Dr. Candlish differs from the most recent German commentator of eminence on this Epistle, the learned Dr. Klöpper. Dr. Blaikie returns to the theory that the Epistle to the Ephesians was not directed to any particular church, but was a kind of circular letter, sent round to all the churches of Asia Minor.

The Diary of Samuel Pepys. Edited by H. B. Wheatley, F.S.A. Vol. VI. Price \$1.50 (London: G. Bell & Sons. Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co. 1895.)—Mr. Wheatley's sixth volume of Pepys's Diary takes us from October 1, 1666, to June 29, 1667. Perhaps the only really important incident belonging to the period is the appearing of the Dutch in the Medway, their burning three men-of-war, and carrying off a fourth. But this shameful episode in our national history is intimately and inseparably connected with the character of the King and the state of the government. Nothing can be imagined more shameful and shameless than the Court of Charles II., and as one reads the pages of Mr. Pepys, one can hardly understand how the people of England even tolerated his memory, except that he was succeeded by one more odious than himself. It was not merely that he was wanton and lascivious, nor that his amours were as good as published to the world—an indecency which even the tolerant Mr. Pepys resents, but he had not the slightest feeling for the honour of his country or the good of his subjects. To him it was nothing that his sailors were unpaid, and his ships unmanned, so long as he could spend money on his pleasures. No wonder that London was in terror. No wonder that they remembered the times of the great Oliver when such things could not have been. As for Mr. Pepys himself, he seems morally little better than the King, except that he is more decent, and that he seems to have had a real interest in the welfare of the nation, and did what he could in a difficult post.

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Letters to the Editor.

THE SUN AS A DEVICE FOR THE CANADIAN FLAG.

SIR,—Amongst the many devices proposed for our flag no one, I believe, has suggested the sun. Why not modify Mr. Sandford Fleming's distant star (which I think would be a very excellent device, but too many seem to object to it) by softening the points into seven broad beaming rays of sunlight blazing in the folds of Britain's flag.

The sun is the most glorious object in Nature—the "day star"—which never sets on Britain's imperial dominions and at whose sight the "Yankee" stars "will hide their diminished heads." We are fairly entitled to use it as few countries consume or require a larger share of His illuminating power and heat. It can be displayed, too, in its

natural colour (white) and should, I think, be preferable to many of the designs proposed. That of the Canadian Club seems to be the most popular rival of Mr. Fleming's star, yet at a little distance it resembles too much a decorated saucer or a cloud on the moon. The Japanese use the sun on their flags, with and without rays, but their representations are peculiar and unnatural. No difficulty would be found in making a sharp distinction in form of design for our flag.

All objections, too, would melt away to the "cold north star," "Yankeeism," etc., by exchanging the remote star for the "nearest one"—the source of all life and light. What grander or more inspiring device could we desire than the radiant sun—"God's crest upon His azure shield the heavens."

R. W. GEARY.

Pinkerton, November, 1895.

GOOD MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

SIR,—The Legislative Committee of Toronto Trades and Labour Council instruct me to request that you will be impartial enough to publish in your next issue the following extracts from a report presented to, and unanimously concurred in, by the latter-named body at its meeting on the evening of the 4th inst., that is:—

"That THE WEEK, a journal published in Toronto, in its issue of Oct. 18th ult., contained an editorial article under the head of 'Good Municipal Government.' This deliverance of THE WEEK's editor was mainly remarkable for the ambiguity of its language, and read as follows:

"At all events, whether this Utopia is ever arrived at, the time has come in Toronto when the better class must unite. Unless they deliberately prefer to see their city ruined, they must agree to take turns to mount guard. To save the rest of their property they must sacrifice their time and a little of their money. It is their fault that things are as they are. They themselves are the sufferers. What is property in Toronto worth to-day? Look at the local tax-rates. The Public School system, as conducted, is legalized robbery. Unless our merchants and bankers and tradesmen wish to continue to keep a horde of greedy suckers they must join hands, organize, select men for each ward—canvass and plump for them—and thus make a beginning to get the necessary responsible element into the Council. The respectable workingmen are just as anxious to be well-governed as the ablest banker or the richest capitalist. The trouble is they have been and are the tools of demagogues. Show them by example what is right and they will be only too glad to throw over their ward bosses, whom they really dislike as much as any Rothschild could. The party press dare not speak out. The evening papers rather like the sensation of publishing the accounts of public meetings. So the abuse continues. How long is it to last?"

"Before attempting a discussion on the general subject of 'Good Municipal Government,' your committee are desirous of having more specific definitions and other data from THE WEEK respecting points which suggest themselves in trying to grasp in full what the editor had in mind when penning the article just quoted. For example:—THE WEEK ought to define who in Toronto constitute 'the better class.' It might tell the people just what property is really worth in Toronto to-day; and how our Public School system as conducted is legalized robbery. It might also, in its wisdom, indicate more clearly who of our citizens constitute the necessary 'responsible' element required for the Council, when and how it ascertained the anxieties of 'respectable' workingmen as to the question. Neither would it be out of place for THE WEEK to say who those 'demagogues' are whose tools the workingmen are, and at the same time name those 'ward bosses' it advises the workingmen to throw over, and of whom the workingmen are so tired, etc. Evidently THE WEEK is possessed of this most important information, and it is hoped that it will soon be public property, as we are nearing the time when sound judgment will be very necessary in selecting a Mayor and Council for the city for the year 1896. But above and beyond all this, the poor, ignorant, though sometimes 'respectable' workingmen will not know what to do or how to act until they are set a good example by the 'better class' which THE WEEK has in its mind's eye."

D. J. O'DONOGHUE, Secretary.

95 D'Arcy Street,

Toronto, Nov. 10, 1895.