

that there are only two ways in which a distinctively Canadian periodical can be established. Either the policy of protection must be extended to it, as it has been with success to the sugar and cotton industries, and outside competition made impracticable, or some one of the millionaires, whose numbers are pleasantly increasing in our midst, shall have to adopt the establishment of a magazine as his form of benefaction in preference to endowing a hospital or founding a college for women. The first method would be suicidal to the intellectual interests of Canada, the second is eminently Utopian, and so the summing up of the whole matter seems to be that there is slight prospect of Canada having a representative national periodical within the near future.—*J. Macdonald Oxley, in North American Review.*

THE FALL OF FICTION.

It seems to be in the nature of most fashions, good or bad, at last to beget their contraries, and it is the principle or law underlying this curious but familiar fact that we are disposed to refer what would otherwise be a somewhat perplexing phenomenon in the fiction of the passing hour. For some time past the fashionable tendency has been largely in the direction of a certain conscious, not to say wilful, thinness of narrative material. The old merits of fulness and "body"—virtues apparently hereditary in that lineage of robust minds which can be traced backwards without a break from George Eliot to Fielding—have been growing rarer and rarer. In their place the art of making a very little go a very long way has been carefully cultivated by undoubtedly dexterous hands. It has almost reached the point of sheer bravado in some developments of the "society" novel, notably a species grown in American soil, or rather in New York conservatories and forcing-beds, and distinguished by an elaborate triviality which no amount of cleverness can render other than vapid. Such a fashion can never in the nature of things be long-lived. Those miracles of inexhaustible nothingness, in which the tiniest rivulet of incident just trickles across a continent of dialogue, cannot long be interesting, even as miracles, in an age to which the miraculous does not make a permanently successful appeal. Moreover, along with this slightness and attenuation, so unimpressive by contrast with the traditional weight and bulk of English intellectual bullion, there has been the inevitable concomitant of languor and *ennui* and enervation, and it is these which have produced at last that recurrent phenomenon in the natural history of fashions to which allusion was made in our opening sentence. For, if the immense popularity of Mr. Rider Haggard's stories has any symptomatic significance, the stage of languor has at last reached its term and is being succeeded by a frantic rebound to the opposite extreme of spasm. From elegant listlessness fiction has suddenly leapt into paroxysmal life. From coma it has passed into convulsions.—*Fortnightly.*

MUSIC.

THE AGRAMONTE CONCERT.

THE first gathering of the season for musical purposes took place last Thursday evening, when Mr. Emilio Agramonte gave a concert at which some of the ladies and gentlemen who were his pupils during the summer took part. As in most pupils' recitals, there was a very strong suspicion of amateurishness in the manner and singing of the performers, in spite of the fact that some of them have had considerable professional experience. In this respect the concert lacked animation, but it showed a number of promising voices who sang pleasantly, if one may be allowed this expression in speaking of performances from which all the individuality of the singers has been excluded to make room for the ideas of the teacher. Mrs. Agnes Thomson has developed more dash and *aplomb*, and sang her Lucia aria with conscientious fidelity and breadth, and with a tincture of enthusiasm. Mrs. Mackelcan was in glorious voice, but her singing is still marred a little by a thickness and heaviness of tone. When once Mrs. Mackelcan is rid of this drawback her singing will have little to be desired. Mr. H. M. Blight and Mr. J. F. Thomson were the best performers among the gentlemen; in fact, as is frequently the case, our Torontonians surpassed the foreigners, the non-resident ladies and gentlemen secured by Mr. Agramonte hardly justifying their appearance at a dollar concert. A pleasing variety to the vocal numbers was offered by Mr. Carlos Hasselbrink, a violinist of excellent parts. His interpretation and general performance strikes one as more matter of fact than ideal, probably on account of his long association with orchestral duties, yet his playing was unique in the completely satisfactory feeling it gave every listener. Similarly pleasing were the accompaniments played by Mr. Agramonte, which were perfect.

B NATURAL.

THE first American newspaper, *Public Occurrences*, was issued on the 25th of September, 1690, and, according to Samuel Merrill, in his interesting work on "Newspaper Libel," Mr. Harris, its sole publisher, editor, and reporter, thus announced his intentions in his prospectus: "It is designed that the Country shall be furnished once a month (or, if any Glut of Occurrences happen oftener), with an account of such considerable things as have arrived unto our Notice. In order here unto, the Publisher will take what pains he can to obtain a Faithful Relation of all such things; and will particularly make himself beholden to such Persons in Boston whom he knows to have been for their own use, the diligent Observers of such matters." *Public Occurrences* did not reach a second number. It was interdicted as contrary to law, and nearly fourteen years elapsed before a second attempt was made to give the "Country" another newspaper.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE

"LANDMARKS OF HISTORY," by the Editor; "Princetoniana," by Rev. Prof. Wallace; "North-West Notes," by Rev. David Savage, and a review of *Robert Elsmere*, by Rev. Dr. Stafford, are the principal original articles in the *Canadian Methodist Magazine* for October. These, with the selections, make an excellent number of this compact little monthly.

A DESCRIPTION of the United States Soldiers' Home at Santa Monica, with a great many illustrations, is the leading feature of the *Overland Monthly* for September. "The Grand Canon of the Colorado" and a second paper on "Overland Staging on the Thirty-Second Parallel Route Fifty Years Ago," a full complement of fiction and verse, and several short articles make up the number.

Temple Bar for September has some additional chapters of the serial stories "From Moor Isles" and "The Rogue"; a most interesting sketch of the late Dr. Hook, Dean of Chichester, entitled "A Great Yorkshire Vicar," an essay on Montaigne, a short story, "Criselda," a study of "Disraeli's Women," a criticism of Matthew Arnold's poetry, and two or three pieces of verse. A good number.

THE leading article in *The Contemporary Review* for September is "The Present Problem in India," by Sir William Wilson Hunter. W. Holman Hunt's "Reminiscences of John Leech," the artist of *Punch*, "A Winter in Syria," by Sir M. E. Grant-Duff, and "Impressions of Petersburg," by W. T. Stead, are some of the interesting papers in the number which concludes with a criticism of "Mr. George Wyndham's Treatment of Irish Statistics," by Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin.

In the October *Atlantic*, besides the additional chapters of the serials "Passe Rose" and "The Despot of Broomsedge Cave," the only fiction is a short story "In a Border State," by Patty Blackburn Semple; but "The Tutor of a Great Prince," "Garibaldi's Early Days," "Iceland, Summer and Winter," and "The Pioneers of Ohio," will be found to possess much of the charm of fiction with the merit of fact. There is only one short poem "My Fatherland," by William Cranston Lawton.

THE *American Magazine of History* for October has for frontispiece a fine steel portrait of Colonel William Leete Stone, from whose entertaining Diary of "A Trip from New York to Niagara in 1829," numerous extracts are given. The opening article "The City of Prince," by Lee C. Harry, relates a romantic chapter in Texas history, with which, we imagine, few are familiar. Other articles are "The Site of Old Fort Massachusetts," by D. D. Slade, M.D.; "Vindication of General Samuel Holden Parsons," by Hon. George B. Loring, and "A Boston Newspaper of the Revolution, 1778," by Hon. Horatio King.

THE October number completes Volume XV. of *St. Nicholas*. It has all the distinguishing excellencies of its predecessors. The illustrations are numerous and beautifully executed. The frontispiece and the fine full page wood-cut from an etching of Velasquez's "The King's Dwarf and His Dog," will be particularly admired. Some readers will be inclined to regret that the story of the adventures of "The Little Confederates" is concluded in this number, but they will find ample compensation in "The Boy Bears," "From House to House," "The Bilged Midshipman," and many other stories and legends equally interesting.

THE October number of *Lippincott's Magazine* is a special E. P. Roe number. A portrait of the novelist forms the frontispiece, then follows a story by him entitled, "Queen of Spades"; an autobiography in which, under the title of "A Native Author Called Roe," he tells the story of his life in a very modest, straightforward and interesting manner, and "Some More Words About E. P. Roe," by W. S. Walsh. John Habberton, the author of "Helen's Babies," begins in this number a new serial "At Last: Six Days in the Life of a Teacher." The series of short stories "With Gauge & Gallow," by Judge Tourgee, is continued. Two other short stories, some verse, and the matter contained in answers to "Our one hundred questions," make up an exceedingly good number.

THE September number of *The Theatre* contains a number of excellent articles. Mr. Edgar S. Kelley, the music composer, has written upon "The Aesthetics of Baseball." Mr. C. M. S. McLellan continues his bright talks under the heading of "In the Lime-light's Glare." William Armstrong writes entertainingly upon the subject of "A Bundle of Programmes." Desher Welch's obituary of Lester Wallack is forcible; and other articles by William Sage, John Reginald Blake, and a London letter from Charles Millward, are especially interesting as being written without restraint. There are also portraits of William Warren and the late William Davidge, some bright bits of poetry, and a story entitled "The Bishops and the Ballet Girls."

Outing for October contains a varied and interesting list of subjects. Noticeable articles are:—"The Boat Clubs of Chicago," "One Man's Work for Cycling," "Memoirs of Yacht Cruises," by the late Capt. R. F. Coffin; "A Talk About the Pigskin," a review of riding for both sexes; "Wild Duck Shooting," by William G. Beers; "Spear- ing Fish at the Lachine Rapids," by H. B. Stephens; "Paddles and Palettes," illustrated by the author, E. L. Chichester; "The Training of a University Crew," by F. A. Stevenson, Captain of the Yale Crew of 1888; "How to take a Tramp Trip," by Lee Merriweather; and "Coursing in Ireland," by Robert F. Walsh. Fiction is well represented by a powerful story, "Elin' off Goose P'int," by Scott Campbell, and "Yaleta," an interesting tale of adventure among Mexicans, by E. Hough.

THE frontispiece of the October *Century* is a portrait of Emma Lazarus, and the number contains a very appreciative sketch of her life and works. "An English Deer Park," by Richard Jefferies is the opening article. Janvier's "Mexican Campaign" is concluded, two short stories, "A Strike," by Maude Howe, and "An Idyl of Sinkin' Mount'in," making up the fiction of the number. "Army Hospitals and Cases," by Walt Whitman, consists of verbatim extracts from letters written by the poet to his mother during the second year of the war. "Frontier Types," by Theodore Roosevelt, is a good piece of descriptive writing, and the illustrations speak for themselves. "The Toomsak Forwarding Prison" is the subject of Mr. Kennan's Siberian paper. We cannot further enumerate the contents of what we consider an exceptionally good number of the *Century*.

LORD WOLSELEY's paper on "Military Genius" opens the September *Fortnightly*. In it he criticises several great generals and shows the immense value of "personal magnetism" for the success of a commander in the field. In "The Fall of Fiction" an anonymous writer subjects Mr. Haggard's novels to a scathing criticism. He not only denies to the author of *She* knowledge of his art, but accuses him of "an ignorance of the principles of syntax which might discredit any schoolboy." Mrs. Lynn Linton's "An Eighteenth-Century Abbé," Col. W. W. Knollys' "A Hundred Years Ago," and Prof. E. Dowden's "Shakespeare's Wisdom of Life" offset the heavier papers in the number. "The Present Session," by Arthur A. Baumann, M.P.; "Imprisonment for Debt," by