

THE Canadians certainly deserve praise for the public spirit which they have shown in building railways and digging canals. Had the same enterprise contended with a climate better disposed towards man's industrial efforts, the world would be constantly expressing its admiration and wonder. No less than twenty millions have been expended on the canals of the Dominion, and the furnishing of a railway to the far-away settlers in the North-West was a thing which no amount of grumbling about monopoly will ever bring into a bad light.—*Chicago Current*.

HAPPY in their patriotism, the Welsh cherish their vernacular with a fidelity not displayed across the Channel—for Irish has no literature, and as a spoken language is dying fast—yet they have put aside that antagonism to England and the English which once characterized them. They have suffered like the Irish from an alien Church and English land laws, but neither has precluded their progress in well-being and civilization. They rightly regard the past as historical, and as concerns existing grievances they stand shoulder to shoulder with sympathetic Englishmen, not forming themselves into a separate party. The Scotch also cherish nationality intensely, but their symbolism and sentiment have no taint of sedition.—*London Daily Telegraph*.

If a man could eat as much in proportion as a bird, he would consume a whole round of beef for his dinner. The redbreast is a most voracious bird. It has been calculated that to keep a redbreast up to its normal weight, an amount of animal food is required daily equal to an earthworm fourteen feet in length. Taking a man of average weight, and measuring bulk for bulk with the redbreast, I tried to calculate how much food he would consume in twenty-four hours, if he ate as much in proportion as the bird. Assuming a sausage nine inches in circumference to be a fair equivalent of the earthworm, I find the man would have to eat sixty-seven feet of such sausage in every twenty-four hours. I mention this in order to illustrate the amount of work which is done by insect-eating birds.—*Southern Planter*.

A GREAT many English persons, who merely run over to Paris for a brief holiday, imagine that the gay capital, as they are fond of calling it, is a paradise of cheap and generous plenty. To those who have a larger and more extended experience the contrary seems the case. Within the past ten years the price of everything may be said, without the least exaggeration, to have doubled. Rents are higher, and what with Government protective duties and municipal *octroi* tolls, meat, wine, bread and vegetables have risen in price to an enormous extent. Protection has brought matters to such a pass in Paris and the large towns of France that general discontent is felt among the important classes of the population whose means are comparatively limited. The case is worse with workmen and others.—*London Daily Telegraph*.

EVERY morning's paper at New York contains the details of some new elopement of a young woman, sometimes with a coachman, sometimes with another young man. The parents who have lavished affection and luxury perhaps, upon their daughter awake to find themselves suddenly and brutally disowned by her and abandoned to the sneering wonder of the world. Sometimes the father is completely broken up, closes his home and flees, carrying his desolation with him to some secret place; sometimes, he grimly refuses all reconciliation, says "let her go," and locks in his heart the unspoken grief and nameless sting that ages men, that stills the blood and bows the bravest frame. The untrusting mother staggers beneath the betrayal of her love and the ingratitude of the daughter she has borne. How can girls be so lacking in filial regard, in the rudest sense of gratefulness and in the most ordinary prudence?—*Springfield Republican*.

DR. CRICHTON BROWNE, at the instance of Mr. Mundella, has been enquiring into the working of the English Board School System, and, much to the disappointment of Mr. Mundella, concludes that the mechanical and pedantic fashion in which the Educational Department does its work is the cause of a certain amount of juvenile insanity. Dr. Browne supports his opinion by evidence which appears satisfactory to everybody who does not look at it with the eyes of an official committed to the present system. He saw numbers of children in the schools he had visited who looked ill from overwork and want of food. He quotes statistics to show that there has been an increase of some forms of nervous disease among young people since the School Board began to work. On the face of it that does look as if the things had some connection with one another. To come to smaller matters, he heard complaints of headache and want of sleep.—*Saturday Review*.

THE PERIODICALS.

THE publishers of the *Canadian Methodist Magazine* are deserving of great credit for the general excellence of their monthly, more especially when it is remembered that the magazine only appeals to one section of a yet limited community, and that it is issued at a popular price. The October number is a strong one, principal among its list of contents being: "The Lord's Land," No. II., by Rev. Hugh Johnston, illustrated; chapter ten of Lady Brassey's sail "Round the World"; a third contribution by John Cameron, Esq. (editor of the *Globe*), upon his experience "At Naples and up Vesuvius"; "An Alliance for Popular Education," by Dr. Vincent; "A Visit to New Orleans," by Ella R. Withrow; "The Atlantic Cable and its Workings," by Rev. Henry Lewis; and editorial notes. Commenting upon "Imperial Federation," the editor writes: "We believe that the alliance will be nearer in time and closer in character than the seer of Boston expects. We hope that men now living shall see it."

WHEN the first number of the *Andover Review* made its appearance it met with a most favourable reception. It has steadily gained in influence. What its promoters promised they have faithfully fulfilled. It is eagerly looked for by its increasing number of readers. The *Andover* is a thoughtful exponent of progressive theology, without being revolutionary or extreme. The October issue contains a number of admirable papers. It opens with "Adjustment," a poem in which truth and beauty are linked, by the venerable J. G. Whittier. Professor Harris ably discusses "The Function of the Christian Consciousness," and William M. Bryant continues his exposition of "Buddhism and Christianity." Principal Grant, of Queen's University, has a characteristic paper on "The British Association at Montreal," in which *suo more* he gives expression to his large-hearted contentions, and "shoots folly as it flies." Not the least interesting features of the *Andover* are its short but clear-sighted editorials and conscientious book notices. Were it not against our principles, we should say this sterling theological monthly has "come to stay."

THE first number of a new literary venture, entitled *The Brooklyn Magazine*, is to hand. It is described as a "monthly periodical for the entertainment of the people," and includes comments upon "literature, society, the drama, military matters, and fashion."

WITH the October number of the *English Illustrated Magazine* begins a second volume. Three chapters of a new story by Hugh Conway take first place, and are followed by an exceedingly interesting article on "The Horse: Ancient and Modern," by Alfred E. T. Watson, profusely illustrated. The cuts accompanying William Sims's paper on "Loch Fyne" are a distinct advance upon anything hitherto attempted in the history of English popular magazines. Similarly the sketch of Heidelberg is capitally illustrated. A complete novelette entitled "The Little Schoolmaster Mark," is the last item on the list of contents.

MR. ALDEN'S *Choice Literature* for October contains the following selections from the English magazines and reviews:—"The Women of Chaucer," by Alfred Ainger; "Longer Life," "Dynamite," and "Beaumarchais," from *Cornhill*; "Mohammedan Mahdis, II.," by Professor W. Robertson Smith; "Jacob's Answer to Esau's Cry," Brooke Lambert; "The Steppes of Tartary II.," Rev. Dr. Lansdell; "About Old and New Novels," Karl Hillebrand; "Greece in 1884," Professor J. P. Mahaffy; "Afoot Across St. Gothard," James Baker; and "The Conflict with the Lords," Goldwin Smith.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE "English Illustrated Magazine" will celebrate the Christmas season by issuing a double number.

MACMILLAN AND Co. will shortly issue a new edition of Charles Kingsley's poems, with a number of important additions.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for an issue of the *Illustrated London News*, in the United States, on the same day as its publication in England.

"THE Princess Casamassima," Mr. Henry James's new transatlantic novel, is said to be his longest and most carefully elaborated work of fiction.

WITH its issue of October 11, *The Current* will appear in its new cover, and will be cut and pasted. The improvement will be a marked one, and the cover design itself is said to be a noble art study.

WE understand that Mr. John Morley is engaged upon a life of John Stuart Mill for his series of "English Men of Letters," and for the same series Sir James Fitzjames Stephens has undertaken to prepare a volume on Carlyle. Mr. Traill's "Coleridge" will be published in the course of October.

THE reprints of the great English magazines issued by the Leonard Scott Publishing Company, Philadelphia, are now issued at so early a date and is so attractive a style that we are not surprised to hear of their increasing popularity.

It is said that the just-published "Memoirs" of Lord Malmesbury are highly spiced with gossip affecting the private life of many prominent English living and dead politicians. The book is the talk of the clubs, and is being reproduced in liberal quotations by the daily press.

SAMPSON, LOW, MARSTON AND Co., announce a new edition of "The Hundred Greatest Men," with special introductions by Matthew Arnold, Taine, Max Muller, Renan, N. Porter, Helmholtz, Froude, Professor Fiske and the late Dean Stanley, and a general introduction by R. W. Emerson.

THE publishers of the *Fortnightly Index* (Ann Arbor), in a prospectus of work for 1885, announce that the editorial control of this "the strongest educational journal in the West" will remain in the hands of Professors Alexander Winchell, Charles K. Adams, William H. Payne, and Charles H. D. Douglas. The *Index* is doing good work.

WHETHER the report be true that the *Manhattan* has permanently suspended publication is only known to those behind the scenes. No issue has appeared for October, however, and we fear the chances of our bright and clever contemporary's continued existence are very small, though an announcement has been put forth to the effect that a double number will appear in November.