

the family of a humble Danish shoemaker was gladdened by the birth of the child who was to gladden the heart of childhood the world over. And now full of years and of honours, after a guileless, happy life, his child-like spirit has departed from the world which he made so much the happier by his presence. The King and Queen of Denmark were present at his funeral, and floral wreaths were sent from distant lands to deck his grave. His charming books have been translated into most of the languages of Europe, and even into that of Greenland.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

ONE of the characteristics of our modern civilization is the overstrain of body and mind which its weary workers undergo. Anything, therefore, which brings innocent relaxation and recreation to the masses of our cities, confined month after month in shop or factory, is greatly to be commended. We sympathise, therefore, with the growing custom in most of our towns and cities of giving Public Holidays; when loom and mill, forge and factory, for a time cease their din, and by means of cheap excursions, the toiling multitudes have an opportunity of breathing the fresh air, and looking on the fair face of rural nature and being gladdened by her genial influence. For the benefit of the many who cannot leave the city—weary mothers with their children and the poor who cannot spare the means—our Civic Fathers, we think, should provide a free concert in the public parks or gardens which are growing up in most of our towns. The beauty of tree and flower, the charm of music, and the cultivation of the social affections cannot fail to have a humanizing and elevating influence on society. Patriotic speeches by local orators would furnish a stimulus to the intellect and to the patriotism of the multitude. Such gatherings would also facilitate the acquaintance under innocent auspices of the young

people of opposite sexes. They have too few such opportunities. God ordained the family life. It is the bulwark of national and social virtue. The sexes are designed to exert an ennobling, inspiring, purifying influence each on the other. The social philosopher, therefore, will rejoice at the exercise of this grand educative influence, which is so often lost by the separation of the sexes. He will recognize the profound wisdom of the words of Britain's "Flower of Kings," on the potent influence of true womanhood, the converse of which is equally true of that of noble manhood:

"For indeed I knew
Of no more subtle master under heaven
Not only to keep down the base in man,
But teach high thought and amiable words
And courtliness and the desire of fame,
And love of truth and all that makes a man."

THE OLD CATHOLICS.

AN important Conference of Old Catholics, at which representatives of the Greek Church and of English and American Churches were in attendance, has been held during the month of August in the City of Bonn, Germany. A common confession of cardinal doctrines was adopted, allowing members of either the Greek or the Old Catholic Churches to enjoy the privileges of each other's services without subscribing to a retraction of the particular doctrines of their Mother Church. Such a union, it seems to us, must be vague and ineffective for practical benefit.

We would call special attention to the very timely and instructive article on "The Present Monetary Stringency," prepared at our request, by Warring Kennedy, Esq., one of our most successful and enterprising Toronto merchants. We hope also to be able to enrich our pages with professional opinions on some of the more important topics of the day. We desire that this department may reflect current opinion on the leading subjects of thought, so as to make it of permanent value as a historic record of passing events.