

THE McDOWELL COMPANY.

E. A. McDOWELL occupied the Grand all last week, producing "Rosedale," "The Black Flag" and "The Private Secretary." "Rosedale" is a play of some dramatic interest and affords opportunity for a considerable amount of light comedy. It was well played all round, and it was evident that there was no "tail" to the company. Mr. Hagan made a good gypsy, and the several scenes were effectively mounted. "The Black Flag," a melodrama by Henry Pelit, of essentially English interest, was played to a thin house. It is a piece abounding in strong situations and good comedy, and is full of go from start to finish. John Buney made a good Lazarus, while the cabin boy was well played by an intelligent little lady. E. A. McDowell gave a forcible delineation of the hero, Harry Glyndon.

DR. HUBERT PARRY has chosen Milton's "L'Allegro" as the subject for his Norwich Festival cantata next autumn.

THE management of the great music festival which is to be held at Gloucester in 1892 have commissioned M. Gounod and Sir Arthur Sullivan to write new compositions for it.

A BANK cashier at Heilbronn, named Lang, finding that he has a splendid tenor voice, has abandoned his situation to study for the opera at Frankfort-on-the-Main. Several opera-houses are trying to secure him.

DUFRIEHE, the renowned baritone, lately sang at the Spanish court the poem "Children," words by Boyer and music by Massenet, awakening great emotion, especially in the Queen, with reference to the recent serious illness of her son.

ON the occasion of the revival at Vienna of the "Armida" of Gluck, the critic Hirschfeld gave a *soirée* at which were executed parts of all the famous operas written upon the theme of "Armida," including Lulli's (1686), Sacchini's (1738), the chorus of demons from the "Armida" of Handel (1711), and the chorus of furies from Sarti's (1785).

"THORGRIM," the new opera written and composed expressly for the Carl Rosa Opera Company by Joseph Bennett and F. H. Cowen, was produced at Drury Lane, under the composer's direction, on Tuesday evening, April 23. The story of the new opera is founded upon an episode in the ancient Icelandic Saga, "Viglund the fair."

THE famous conductor of La Scala, Franco Faccio, is seriously affected by an incurable malady of the brain. His mental faculties have received a severe shock; that of recognition seems almost lost. The one fixed idea which dominates is the thought of his friend, the composer and poet, Arrigo Boito, for whom he calls continually, and who alone has the power to quiet him. Signor Boito, with truly paternal affection, does not leave his friend for a moment.

LIBRARY TABLE.

POEMS. By A. C. Stewart. Toronto: Hunter, Rose and Company.

We are of opinion that the author would be more profitably employed in endeavouring to increase the commercial instead of the literary wealth of the Dominion. It is difficult to believe that the publication of such stuff is meant to be more than a bad literary joke.

AT A GIRL'S MERCY. By J. K. Ludlum. New York: Street and Smith.

A story of the War of the Rebellion. The interest centres on the refusal of a girl to forgive a man who had offered her a deadly insult, though her father's life hangs on the pardon. She holds out, and at last finds her enemy "At a Girl's Mercy."

THE POCKET ATLAS AND GAZETTEER OF CANADA. By J. G. Bartholomew. F.R.G.S. Edited by J. M. Harper, M.A., Ph.D., Quebec. Toronto: Hart and Company.

This small volume of 276 closely printed pages and 36 maps and plates gives in its combination form much more complete and detailed information about its subject than one usually finds in any general atlas or gazetteer. It is the first of a series of such dainty little volumes dealing with the principal divisions of the world, and has had the advantage of being specially revised by a well-known Canadian *litterateur*, J. M. Harper, of Quebec, whose name is familiar to readers of THE WEEK. The book is handy and exceedingly useful, gazetteer and atlas being connected by means of index letters.

AMINTA. A Modern Life Drama. By Cornelius O'Brien, D.D., Archbishop of Halifax. New York: Appletons.

A didactic poem in three books. Such is the character of this unassuming little volume of 189 pages. Aminta, the heroine, if such she may be termed, is an agnostic; Coroman, her lover, has wandered to Metz, flying from an evil past, and arrives in time to rescue Aminta from the violence of Gonzalez, a rejected suitor. Mutual love ensues. Aminta's sire, a stern old infidel, refuses to recognize Coroman's suit. Finally Coroman relinquishes his love. From Matilda, one of her maids, Aminta, in her mourning for Coroman, learns the way of the cross, and through the tale of the Prodigal Son is brought to repent-

ance. The scene then changes to Rome, whither Coroman has wended his way, after having studied Kant, Hegel, Fichte, and other like literature, in search for ultimate truth. In Rome, he is led to follow two figures to a church, and there he meets Matilda, now a nun, and Aminta, and from the supernatural loveliness and rest of the former's face realizes the vanity of seeking truth anywhere but in religion. Gonzalez has, too, sought Rome to expiate his sins in a monastery, and through his arguments and a vision of St. Agnes, Coroman is converted and enters a monastery, which seems to be the common goal of all the principal actors in the drama. The poem is very unequal, soaring sometimes to heights of passion, at other times halting, long drawn out and tedious. It is, evidently, intended as a warning against free-thought, though we cannot agree with the reverend author that it is a very real life drama. We trust it is not.

EPITOMES OF THREE SCIENCES. By H. Oldenberg, J. Jastrow, and C. H. Cornell. Chicago: Open Court Publishing Company.

Comparative Philology, Experimental Psychology, and Old Testament History are the three sciences or fields of knowledge epitomized in this book, and the three have been selected because they each have an almost direct bearing upon modern religious views. As language is of natural growth, so also is the human mind of natural growth, and the two, it will be readily seen, bear most directly upon belief. The third essay, written by one whose standpoint differs from that of the first two writers, is intended to enforce the fact that moral truths will never suffer from the most critical investigations of science. For instance, the moral truths taught in the Old Testament do not lose their value because the Old Testament ceases to be held as an "absolutely reliable and literally inspired revelation from God." Science will doubtless conflict with belief until belief is perfected. Yet belief in sound moral ideas can never be antagonized by science, though it must be admitted that before subjects of "faith" scientific criticism must necessarily halt. Indeed, true scientific criticism, as Professor Cornell remarks, carries with it its own corrective.

THE *Quiver* for June is an excellent number. A new serial begins as the old one is drawing to a close. Short papers on "Some Marvellous Works of God," describing California's wonders, and on "Restlessness," as well as a dissertation on "Old English Parochial Psalmody," with a number of very fair poems and sundry articles fill the issue.

Belford's Magazine for June leads off with an interesting *excursus* on "The Race Question," the solution of which is placed with the negro; Grace Channing contributes a pleasant short story; Donn Piatt discusses Robert Cummins Schenck, and Louise Chandler Moulton performs a like service for "Margaret Woods—Her Prose and Poetry." Anthony Comstock finds a congenial subject in "The Extirpation of the Crime Breeders of the Day a Public Necessity." Rossiter Johnson has a short article on Browning, while a paper of much interest is by Col. Preston Johnston, entitled "Reminiscences of Gen. Robert E. Lee." Poetry, a short story, and other papers, editorials, book reviews, and a complete novel, entitled "The Woman's Version," make up the number.

IN turning the pages of the *Nineteenth Century* for May, perhaps the article that will attract most attention is "The Story of a Conspirator," by the Duke of Argyll. It concerns itself with Wolfe Tone, the Irish agitator, who committed suicide while under sentence of death. "The Comte de Clermont" is another interesting paper by Baron Rothschild, recalling the times of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Louis. There are three papers on the Irish Question by Messrs. Davitt, Power, and Lord Ebrington, M.P. Geo. J. Romanes has an article on "Darwin's Latest Critics," and an interesting paper on "The Newspaper Press" is signed Frederick Greenwood. Prof. Huxley writes on "Government," and the King of Sweden on "Charles XII. of Sweden." Other papers are, "Development of the Labour Movement," "England and Germany in East Africa," "The Good Time Coming," "The Art of the Painter Etcher," and "Left Leggedness."

A RATHER stern picture of Murat Halstead greets us on turning to the frontispiece of the *Cosmopolitan* for June. There is a wealth of finely illustrated articles and travel papers. A feature peculiar to American journalism is the paper, illustrated, of course, entitled, "Side Glances at American Beauty." S. G. W. Benjamin tells of what he saw regarding "Farm Life and Irrigating in Persia," while Allan Forman discusses—with his pen, not his teeth—"Soft Crabs, Canvasbacks, and Terrapin." "Reporters" find a historian in Geo. J. Mansoy, and "The Coaching Era" is a pleasant and well illustrated paper by H. C. Taylor. Lafcadio Hearn has a study of "Half-Breed Races in the West Indies," and Elizabeth Bisland gives the third stage of her "Flying Trip Round the World." Agnes Repplier, W. S. Walsh, Edward King contribute interesting articles, and Rollo Ogden gives an illustrated well written account of "Leading Writers of Modern Spain." Louise Chandler Moulton has a short story entitled "A Guest at His Fireside," and Murat Halstead's "Review of Current Events" closes an exceptionally good number.

THE robes of humility often deceive; and the shoemaker's downcast look may indicate simply a wish to find out how long the wayfarer can go without ordering a new pair of shoes.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

MESSRS. METHUEN AND COMPANY announce "Curiosities of the Church," by Mr. William Andrews.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS has published a new volume of short articles under the title, "Nouveaux Entr'actes."

MR. THOMAS RITCHIE, of Belleville, has an able article in the May *Knox College Monthly* on "The Church and the Labour Question."

It is announced that Mr. Weeden's work on the "Economic and Social History of New England" will not appear until autumn.

MESSRS. RIVINGTON AND COMPANY will shortly publish a new text of the "Divina Commedia," revised and edited by Mr. A. J. Butler.

"Four Great Teachers: Lectures on Ruskin, Carlyle, Emerson, and Browning," by Joseph Forster, is announced as in the press by Mr. George Allen.

SEVERAL critics predict for "The Master of the Magicians" a popularity like that which "Ben Hur" has enjoyed. The third edition of it is already ordered.

THE race of pigmies, discovered by Stanley in Africa, were photographed by him, and one of the pictures is reproduced in his article in the June *Scribner*.

THE *Indipendente* of Trieste says that the first number of the Roman journal, *La Nazione Italiana*, the organ of the Dante Alighieri Society, has been seized at the frontier.

THE third volume in the Riverside Science Series will be devoted to "Heat." It is written by R. H. Thurston, of Cornell University, and will be published immediately.

GRADUATES of Harvard, and all who know the rare charm of Dr. A. P. Peabody's character, will welcome a book by him, entitled "Harvard Graduates Whom I Have Known."

EX-EMPRESS EUGENIE is preparing a memorial volume containing letters of her husband and son. The proceeds of the sale of the book are to go to the fund for the relief of widows made by the war of 1870.

AN anonymous work, entitled "God in His World: An Interpretation," said to be by the editor of one of the leading American magazines, is announced as to be published immediately by Mr. Elliot Stock.

DR. CARL LUMHOLTZ is making ready to visit a remnant of the Aztecs believed to be surviving in the mountains of Northern Mexico. Dr. Lumholtz's record of this quest will, of course, be forthcoming before a great while.

MR. THOMAS A. JANVIER has made a hit with his "Aztec Treasure House," just concluded as a serial in *Harpers Weekly*. People are beginning to compare him with Rider Haggard. The romance referred to is soon to be put between covers.

THE following new volumes of verse are announced for immediate publication by Mr. Elliot Stock: "The Proving of Gennad," a mythological romance by Landred Lewis; "Lostara," a poem by Lydia Walters; and "Songs of Siluria," by M. E. and T. S.

"WHAT'S the News?" is the title of an article by Eugene M. Camp which appears in the June *Century*, and which, by the consent of those interested, gives figures as to cost of special despatches in certain of the daily papers; paper bills, etc.

SHORTLY after Stanley's book is published a book will appear by Mr. Jephson on the same general subject. Mr. Jephson resided for nine months with Emin, and accumulated materials for a picturesque narrative. The *London Times* made him a handsome offer to publish his narrative in a series of articles in that journal, but he preferred to keep it for book form.

WE note several interesting musical announcements. Frederick J. Crowest has written a "Life of Cherubini" for Sampson, Low and Company's "Great Musicians" Series; a memoir of Jenny Lind is in preparation by Canon Scott Holland and W. S. Rockstro, founded on letters, diaries, and other original documents (Murray); and Edward Heron-Allen is preparing a bibliography of works on the violin and other instruments played with a bow in ancient and modern times (Griffith and Farran).

WE have received a letter from the well-known French Deputy, Leon Say, of which we append a translation. It is intended to correct some statements of our Paris correspondent in the issue of April 11:—

"MR. EDITOR,—Some one has sent me an article published in THE WEEK of April 11. You do me the honour to notice me and my family (in mistake) for that of the French economist, J. B. Say. I would ask leave to correct a few errors, which might harm me, as well as to serve the interests of truth.

"I am a Deputy, I possess a *modest* fortune, and I am not a manufacturer. The sugar refinery which bears my name does not belong to me—I have no interest in it. The reputation for riches which is given me through confusion of name brings upon me an innumerable quantity of demands which I am not able to satisfy. Finally, my grandfather's family (J. B. Say) have no connection with the Says of England. His grandfather was born at Nimes in France, and not in England. My grandfather's family were driven from Nimes by the persecution of Louis XIV.; they took refuge in Geneva, and returned to France about the middle of the eighteenth century. I am a Calvinist, it is true, but possess no authority in the church.

"I pray you, Mr. Editor, to receive the assurance of my deepest regard. LEON SAY."