

Mr. Wm. Buell, the Reform candidate. At the general election in January, 1848, being again solicited, he accepted the Reform nomination and was elected for Leeds over Mr. Ogle R. Gowan by a majority of sixty, the vote standing—for Richards 984, for Gowan 924. At the general election of 1851 he was again returned for Leeds, this time increasing his majority over Mr. Gowan to 133; the vote standing—for Richards 1,205, for Gowan 1,072. On the retirement of Messrs. Baldwin and Lafontaine from power in October, 1851, he joined the Hincks-Morin Administration as Attorney-General for Upper Canada, his colleagues being the present Sir Francis Hincks, the late Judge Morin, the late Sir E. P. Taché, Mr. Malcolm Cameron, the late Mr. James Morris, the present Governor Caron, the late Doctor Rolph, the late Judge Chabot, and Mr. Justice Drummond. Mr. Justice Sullivan, of the Common Pleas, dying, Mr. Richards was appointed to succeed him on 22nd June, 1853, and many will remember how unfavourable were the predictions made of his judicial career, owing to his seeming want of experience, but the result has shown Mr. Richards to be one of the best Judges ever appointed to the Canadian Bench. The other two members of the Common Pleas at the time were the late Sir Jas. Macauley and the late Chief Justice McLean. Subsequently the present Chief Justice in Appeal, Mr. Draper, and Chief Justice Hagarty became members of the Court. In July, 1863, on the appointment of Mr. Draper to be Chief Justice of Ontario, Mr. Richards became Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and in November, 1868, on Mr. Draper's retirement to the Court of Appeals, Mr. Richards succeeded him as Chief Justice of Ontario. Last year he was named as arbitrator on behalf of Ontario in the settlement of the North-West boundary. He married in 1846, Deborah Catharine, daughter of Mr. John Muirhead, barrister, of Niagara, who was a great grandson of the celebrated Colonel John Butler, known in the revolutionary annals, and the organizer and commander of the Butler Rangers. Mrs. Richard died March, 1869. It is a singular coincidence that the three sons of Stephen Richards, William, Stephen, and Albert, should have gone to the bar, become Queen's Counsel, and attained to the position of Ministers of the Crown. It would almost seem natural for the whole three to reach the Bench. We may add there is but one opinion as to Mr. Richards' fitness for the high office to which he has been named. An able jurist, of a keen logical mind, and possessed of a large experience, he is eminently adapted for the Presidency of the highest Court in the Dominion. For the above sketch we are indebted to our able contemporary, the *Mail*, of Toronto.

THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER.

'Tis the last rose of summer
Left blooming alone,
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone,
No flower of her kindred,
No rosebud is nigh,
To reflect back her blushes,
Or give sigh for sigh.
I'll not leave thee thou lone one,
To pine on the stem;
Since the lonely are sleeping,
Go sleep then with them,
Thus kindly I scatter
Thy leaves o'er the bed,
Where thy mates of the garden
Lie scentless and dead.

BOSTON PHILHARMONIC CLUB.

This very excellent Club gave one of their enjoyable concerts at the Mechanics' Hall on Friday Evening Sept., 24th, and if a large and enthusiastic audience constitutes a "success," the successful elements were all present on that occasion. The Hall was crowded almost beyond comfort, and seven of the eleven numbers of the programme were redemanded in the most persistent and prosperous manner. Estimating the money value of the audience to the Philharmonic Club at \$500, for which eleven pieces of music were to be performed, and assuming that the music was a fair return for the money, a very simple arithmetical calculation will show that the audience, by obtaining eighteen pieces instead of eleven, made some \$320 hard cash on Friday evening, which was a very clever thing to do in these dull times. This, however, *en passant*.

The Club is composed of the same gentlemen who visited us last winter, and they were accompanied at this time by Mrs. Anna Granger Dow, the accomplished vocalist.

Without reviewing all the numbers of the programme at this rather late day, we shall mention a few of them, and make our remarks somewhat of a general nature.

The selections of the evening were, of course, the movement from the Beethoven Quintette in C minor, and the Scherzo from Mendelssohn's Midsummer-Night-Dream Music, the latter skilfully arranged for the Club by Mr. B. Listemann. The enjoyment of the playing in the Quintette was greatly marred by the constant interruptions of the incoming audience, many of whom were late, but had not sufficient regard for those who were in time to wait quietly at the door until the piece was finished. Judging by what little of the music we were able to catch between the frequent passages of creaking boots *obligato*, we imagine that the players acquitted themselves very well indeed. In the Scherzo, just mentioned, so bright and delicate and graceful, the rendering was exquisite and really left nothing to be desired. A hearty *encore* elicited the march from the "Ruins of Athens," which suffered in comparison with the Scherzo, probably because of the inability of so few instruments to produce the very peculiar effects the music permits of when treated by a full orchestra.

Weber's *Invitation to the Waltz* was open to the same criticism as the last piece mentioned, but was well-played, and gave entire satisfaction to the audience.

One more number by the Club, the *Dissolving Views*, completed the concerted pieces. It is a pity that it has to be spoken of, but a greater pity that such excellent musicians should have catered to a popular taste to the extent of playing a second time music so unworthy of them. The *Zither obligato* by Mr. Weiner was pretty enough in its way; as would have been a solo on the accordeon or concertina, we presume; but when first class musicians draw crowded houses because they are first class musicians, the intelligence and culture of the audience deserve respect. We do not say this with any desire to be severe upon the members of the Philharmonic. They unquestionably had as poor an opinion of the hodge-podge they played as did many of their listeners. They fell into the error however of imagining that a Montreal audience can bear only a little good music scattered through a programme of selections of an inferior quality, when the fact is that probably few, if any, audiences on this continent hear more good music than our own. Not in Montreal, most certainly; but the people who compose these audiences were either born and educated in Europe, where they were familiarized with music of the highest order performed in the best possible manner, or they visit the capitals of Europe very frequently, and listen to the first musical talent of the world, time and time again. To imagine, therefore, that a programme which would be thought scarcely good enough to be performed in Boston is almost too good to be given in Montreal, is a very great mistake indeed, although, unfortunately, by no means an uncommon one. Artists of all kinds should understand, once for all, that their best efforts are not beyond the taste or appreciation of those who attend concerts here, and that in proportion as they indulge their own tastes and perform only the best music, to that extent they gratify those who are listening, and secure for themselves opinions which will ultimately prove of material and lasting benefit to those who have created them.

The solo playing was hardly so good this time as when the Club was here before. Mr. B. Listemann has great execution, but is wanting in style, and, besides, plays out of tune frequently. Nevertheless, he is so earnest and sincere, and conscientious in all his efforts that adverse criticism is disarmed at the outset. In the Quartette, however, he is most admirable, and to his taste, knowledge and artistic cultivation a large share of the undoubted success of this Club is due.

Mr. Hartdegen is the finest violoncello player we have ever heard in this city. The ease and precision with which he overcomes the most astounding difficulties, the beauty and grace of his phrasing, the quality of his tone and the rapidity of his execution, all alike challenge and hold the listener's unbroken attention. It would be as invidious as unjust not to mention, also in high terms, Mr. Belz and Mr. Weiner, both of whom are excellent artists.

Mrs. Dow, who is well and favorably known here, and, on her first appearance, created quite an impression by her brilliant execution of most difficult and trying vocal passages and the clearness of her voice, although her style was somewhat cold, sang *Qui la voce*, from *Puritani*, and a couple of ballads. Her voice, for some reason, did not sound quite so well as we have heard it at other times. Her rendering of *Qui la Voce*, however, was artistic and careful, and although nothing particularly striking was noticeable in the performance, yet as a whole it was very pleasing. Mrs. Dow's ballad singing loses through her indistinct pronunciation. Modern ballads can ill afford to lose anything, and if so important an item as the words be taken away, there is very little left. Just here let us ask why we do not oftener hear Robert Franz, or Schumann, or Mendelssohn when a song is wanted, instead of the dreary waste of Molloy, Pinsuti, Clay, &c., to which we are so constantly treated? Surely there are better songs than these last named individuals can produce.

We have one word more before we close this notice. The Mendelssohn and Beethoven Quintette Clubs dispense with a piano altogether in their concerts, and, consequently, the accompaniments to the solos, when played upon the different instruments of these Clubs, form one of the most delightful features of their entertainments. The few opportunities of judging the Philharmonic Club's ability in this direction afforded on Friday evening, proved, most conclusively, how far superior to the piano accompaniment the other is, and we know that we but express the general feeling of the audience when we hope that this ubiquitous instrument may henceforth be banished from their programmes.

QUEBEC HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

We have received a copy of the transactions of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec for the sessions of 1873-74 and 1874-75. Besides the business reports of the Council, Librarian, Curator of the Museum, and Treasurer, the work contains five papers of more or less interest. Shall we say that we have been disappointed in the volume? It may appear ungracious to do so, in one sense, as we must take it for granted that the present officers of the Society are doing all they can to further its interests, but in another sense, considering the apathy of the Province at large, it may be as well to acknowledge at once that we have been profoundly disappointed. The Historical Society of Quebec is an old and

respectable institution. It has done a great deal of good in its day. It has had a watchful eye over many of our most precious archives. It has published many valuable researches into the antiquities of the country. It has formed the nucleus of an interesting library. It has laid the foundations of an important national museum. But, like so many of our Canadian institutions, its present activity is not at all commensurate with its former zeal, and its past services have not borne all the fruit which was expected of them. Into the question of blame it were idle to enter. We are certain, as hinted above, that the fault lies not with the actual officers. Rather shall we lay it at the door of our general public, throughout the Province, the current of whose ideas flow in quite other channels.

In the neighboring Republic, nearly every State has its Historical Society, and it is astonishing what an amount of rare material has been delved out by each. These Societies have fine buildings appropriated to their use. They hold regular meetings, monthly or otherwise. It is considered an honor to belong to them. They are liberally patronized. Not only are set papers submitted to them, but when any body makes any discovery within the precincts of the State heat once draws up an account and sends it to the Society. It is read there by one of the associates, a report of it appears in the daily papers, and it is filed in the archives of the Society for insertion in the annual Transactions. These Transactions are neatly printed and the series of them constitutes an invaluable collection. From our personal knowledge, the Historical Society Rooms are among the sights exhibited to visitors at Boston New York, Detroit, Baltimore, Chicago and St. Louis. Inhabitants of these cities take pride in displaying their treasures to strangers.

Is it because Canada, in general, and Lower Canada, in especial, is the most historical country of this continent that the Quebec Historical Society is the most neglected? Formerly its name seemed to confine it to the ancient city, but now that the Province bears the same appellation, the Quebec Historical Society appears to the whole Province and should be patronized by it. Its headquarters should naturally be in the largest city, as is the case in all the States of the Union, but, under the circumstances, the claims of the City of Quebec must be held paramount. We find on its list of membership a number of residents of Montreal and other parts of the Province. If these cannot conveniently attend the periodical meetings, there is nothing to prevent them sending their papers to the secretary who will make it his business, as well as pleasure, to read them. We should recommend a report of the proceedings in all the Montreal papers as well as in those of the Capital. We should also favor a general and united effort towards making the Historical Society more popular among all the educated classes of the Province. An appeal to this effect from the officers and other prominent members would, we are confident, be strongly favored by the press, and for our part, we can promise the use of our own columns to that end.

The papers in the present volume are all able and worthy of being preserved. Colonel Strange, Dominion Inspector of Artillery, contributes a study on Sieges, and the Changes produced by Modern Weapons, which we reviewed some months ago when it appeared in a separate pamphlet form. The President, James Douglas jr., has an article on the present state of Literature in Canada, and the Intellectual Progress of the People during the last fifty years. This was published some months ago in the *Canadian Monthly*, where it received deserved attention from ourselves and the press generally. William C. Howells, the American Vice Consul at Quebec, and brother of the author-editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, furnishes some interesting pages on the Settlement of the Valley of the Ohio, a subject intimately connected with the history of New France, as many a name of town, river, and mountain attests to this day. But the two papers which come more immediately within the scope of the Society, are those of the veteran Mr. Langton, Deputy Minister of Finance and Auditor-General of the Dominion, on the early French Settlements in America, and of James Stevenson, Quebec, on the Currency with reference to Card money in Canada during the French domination. The first of these contributions is a brief, clear and accurate summary of the early annals of the country. The second partakes more of the nature of a monograph and is absolutely valuable. We should like to see Mr. Stevenson continue his labors in this interesting field and exhaust the subject. The paper, as should always be done in such cases, is illustrated with several curious facsimiles.

French Canadians have, as a rule, given much attention to the antiquities of the Province. Some of them have acquired quite a reputation for their researches in this department. We would suggest that the results of their labors should be inserted in the Transactions of the Society. Or, let there be a French section of the Quebec Historical Society. In this way, we should acquire an additional fund of information concerning a thousand historical details which are at present floating about uncollected, and running the risk of being lost forever. We are pleased to learn that the Society is about to issue a new edition of the "Mémoires sur le Canada depuis 1749 jusqu'à 1760," originally published by it in 1838.

THE QUEBEC GRAPE.

Three or four years ago, at our first visit to the Montreal Horticultural Exhibition, we were astonished at the size and quality of the fruit there displayed, but what surprised us most

was the apple and the grape show. We had heard of the Canadian "Grise" and "Fameuse" which we there saw in all their ripe splendor, but we were not prepared for the immense variety of other species spread before us. Similarly, the clusters of grapes were a revelation to us. When we had inspected them we concluded, of course, that they were all of hot-house growth, but our wonder reached its climax when we were informed that many of them had been raised in the open air. Since then, the culture of grape in these latitudes has always had a singular interest for us and it was with pleasure that we were enabled, a few months ago, to insert a number of entertaining papers thereupon, in the columns of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. This year we have had the privilege of viewing, and, what is more to the purpose, of tasting, as many as ten varieties of grape grown in the open air. They were from the well-known vineyard of Mr. W. W. Smith of Phillipsburg, Eastern Townships, who has done so much to acclimate this luscious and wholesome fruit in the Province. Owing to the wet and cold Spring, grapes were at least a fortnight more tardy this season than usual, yet as early as the first week in September, Mr. Smith gathered many ripe bunches, which must be regarded as a remarkable success. The varieties which have come under our notice are the Adirondac, the Rebecca, the Hartford Prolific, the Roger Hybrid No. 3, the Royal Muscadine, the Diana Hamburg, the Concord, the Delaware, the Diana, and the Union Village. These were all delicious, though one or two had a slightly acidulous taste. But the queen was the Adirondac which is Mr. Smith's favorite, and must be every body's favorite. The bunches are abundant and long, the berries large and round, and the flesh melts into the mouth without perceptible pulp. The Hartford Prolific is something akin to the Adirondac, the flesh being sweet and juicy. The Delaware is another old favorite, with its smaller sized berry and highly vinous flavor. Similar to it is the Diana. The Concord is a large grape, but its taste is slightly tart. But the variety that we liked best of all is the Rebecca lying beautiful among its dark and purple neighbors on account of its coat of pale green, bordering on yellow. There is an aroma about this grape which is inviting, and the deliciousness of its flavor is the perfection of fruit taste. The pine apple and the strawberry cannot surpass it. Our conclusion is that, as the cultivation of the grape in the open air is so feasible, entailing no expense nor extraordinary labor, it should be indulged in by all our fruit growers and thus made cheap upon the market.

THE BIBLE.

It is now considerably over half a century that the work of spreading the Bible has been prosecuted in Montreal. A long series of years filled with active labor and restless zeal, and exhibiting results which must be in the highest degree gratifying to those who have been engaged in the task. It is right that with the propagation of literature, much of which is so light, flippant and even deleterious, the Good Book should have its agents and colporteurs distributing it as a corrective and an antidote. We have received the Fifty Fourth Annual Report of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society for 1874, and from it we learn the extent of the labor accomplished. Two new Branches were established at Alexandria and St. Lamberts. The former place is the county town of Glengarry. The addition of these two new Branches makes the number of the Branches and Depositories connected with the Auxiliary two hundred. The financial transactions of the Branches show a notable increase of contributions. Last year a total on account of Free Contributions and of Purchase Account of \$8,316.79 was received, as compared with \$7,808.51 for 1873—being an increase of \$508.28. The Free Contributions were \$6,079.87, as against \$4,881 in 1873, denoting an increment of \$1,198.87.

Five Colporteurs were in the employ of the Auxiliary, all of them English-speaking, and two speaking Gaelic as well. For special reasons, as in former times, colportage among the French Canadians has been temporarily discontinued. The business of the Bible House is represented as very prosperous. The number of copies of the Scriptures, and of Portions, sent forth from the Bible House during 1874 was 17,818, being an increase of 5,157 over the number issued in 1873. The receipts on account of sales at the Depository amounted to \$2,765.10 against \$1,821.24 for the previous year, showing an increase of \$943.86. The receipts from all sources, including a balance of \$5,515.56 from 1873, amounts to \$21,619.04, being an increase, as compared with 1873, of \$2,181.90. The total expenditure amounted to \$16,639.93, being \$2,709.98 in excess of the expenditure for the year preceding. Thus there was a balance in hand of \$4,979.11.

Among the numerous and interesting appendices we find the report of the Ladies Bible Association of Montreal, which is a pathetic record of good accomplished among the sick and suffering, the lowly and the sinful of this great city. The ladies employed in the work make the goal a special object of their mission.

The report of the Travelling Agent and Colporteurs show that there are Depositories, Branch Societies and Stations pretty well over the Province of Quebec and reaching into Ontario, at least as far as Brockville and Prescott, thus showing the important standing of the Montreal Auxiliary.

The pamphlet closes with copious details of the work done by the Parent Society in France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Russia and Italy.