

SERVANTS' REGULARS.

To the uninitiated we may explain what "regulars" are. They are a commission or percentage, paid by tradesmen to servants for a presumed agency on the part of such servants in obtaining for those tradesmen the custom of their employers. In detail they are worked very much as follows. The cook in a large establishment expects a fee from the butcher when the latter's bill is paid. The cook likes, if possible, to be allowed to take the cash or cheque to the butcher. This simplifies the process, and enables her to press her claims in person. The grocer in like manner has to disgorge a percentage on his bill. The coachman has a variety of sources for regulars; he expects them from the corn chandler and the hay and straw dealers, from the coachbuilder, from the harness maker when a new saddle or harness enters his domain, from the horse dealer when a horse is sold to the employer. The farm bailiff expects his dues from the iron merchants who sell fencing or feeding troughs to his master; the head gardener looks for fees when he dispenses his patronage to horticulturists and seed merchants. These fees are supposed to retain the goodwill of the employer through his servants as his agents.

THERE was a great deal of strategy about Gambetta, though he trusted to the inspiration of the moment to shape and colour the material he had in his mind. I have often heard his friends regret that he had not made in the tribune speeches he had poured forth to them in the privacy of conversation. Even a few days before his death, excited by remarks in the papers, which he insisted on reading to the last, he raised himself up in his bed, and, to a friend who had watched him through the night, delivered one of his most impressive and comprehensive speeches on the present and future policy of his country. Driving one day with a young deputy from Paris to Versailles, he said, 'Do not speak to me: I have a long and important speech to make, which I have not even had time to think over.' The silence, therefore, remained unbroken, and on looking round his friend saw that he was not deep in thought, but fast asleep, nor did he wake till they reached Versailles; he laughed and shrugged his shoulders when reminded of the speech he had intended to prepare, and which he made that afternoon as brilliant and finished as though he had taken voluminous notes and committed them to memory.—*The Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE "dime novel" is a very small volume, but, like nitro-glycerine in small packages, it compresses a large amount of destructive energy. It seems to have had a singularly fatal influence over small boys, since cases are constantly cited in the daily press, where boys, after saturating themselves with such literature, have been found as organized bands of plunderers, or engaged in highway robbery after the style of the James Brothers. It has recently been discovered that the greater portion of the thrilling and darkly suggestive stories of the dime novel literature have been written by a "stout, hearty young man," named Badger, residing in Kansas. He receives \$100 for a five cent story and \$200 for a ten cent story, and these productions he reels off with great celerity, acknowledging to his friends that he is "a pretty good liar." Doubtless if the young man, who leads a rather secluded life, it is said, knew what trouble he has occasioned fond mothers, and to what extent his thrilling tragedies have diverted the boys from their studies and led them in forbidden paths, he might use his powerful pen as a deterrent of youthful crookedness.

BOOK NOTICES.

REMINISCENCES OF A CANADIAN PIONEER. By Samuel Thompson. Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Co.

The author of this interesting volume of reminiscences is one of the many who were induced to come West from the Old Country in search of fortune by reading Dr. Dunlop's "Martin Doyle"—just as "Orley Farm" has been the means of turning many a young man's thoughts, not to love, but to law. Though crossing the Atlantic in 1832 was a very different undertaking than in these days of economic and cheap travel, Mr. Thompson and his brother set out from "London town" with light hearts, each confident of making a competency in five or six years. It took the young adventurers four months to fetch "Muddy Little York," via Lake Ontario. The author's description of the Toronto of those days—and again on his visit in 1848—reads curiously to those acquainted with the prosperous city of to-day. His account of roughing it in the bush is exceedingly graphic. The chapter on "Society in the Backwoods" is evidently the work of a thoughtful observer and student of human nature. Mr. Thompson visited Toronto in 1837, and his recollections of the "rebellion," which broke out during that year embrace some incidents not hitherto made public or authenticated. Having been a printer in London, England, it was to be expected he would return to his old love, and the chapter on "Newspaper Experiences" is one of his best. Mr. Thompson occasionally finds prose inadequate to the expression of his thoughts, and breaks out into poetry with more or less success. Dr. McCaul, who in 1846-48 edited the *Maple-Leaf*—which has not been surpassed, if equalled, in combined beauty and literary merit by any work that has issued from the Canadian press—so encouraged Mr. Thompson in this direction that the latter writes, "Had I met with Dr. McCaul thirty years earlier, he would certainly have made of me a poet by profession." Which only goes to show how fortunate it was for the "pioneer" the meeting took place so late as it did. The chapters on "The British America League" and on general politics, whilst they are strongly indicative of his political bent, are not by any means marred by it. Very appropriately he concludes his book by a forecast of the future of Canada from the standpoint of a Federalist.

FRENCH POETS AND NOVELISTS. By Henry James. London and New York: Macmillan and Co.; Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchinson.

This delightful work is too well and favourably known to require lengthened notice here. The present beautiful edition is from a revised text; but it is somewhat disappointing that Mr. James has not included the paper on Sarah Bernhardt which he promised long ago.

MEXICO FROM THE MATERIAL STANDPOINT. By Alex. D. Anderson. Washington and New York: Brantano Bros.

In this book the author of "The Silver Country" gives an exhaustive review of the resources of Mexico, which country, he claims, is "one magnificent but undeveloped mine,"—the American India in commercial importance, her Italy in climate and attractions, her "sister Republic, friend and ally, in international politics." On the completion of its isthmus highway it will become "the bridge of the commerce of the world."

SILVIA DUBOIS. By C. W. Larison, M.D. Published by the Author: New Jersey.

This "Biography of the slav who whipt her mistress and gained her freedom" is printed in the phonetic spelling, and ought to have had the effect of curing the author of his vandalism. It is preceded by an explanatory chapter on the system of spelling adopted—a very necessary precaution, as the letterpress has a more forbidding appearance than Sanscrit or old German text. Even if there were sufficient ground for the addition of such an alphabet as is here used, it would be impracticable, as the cost of "fonetic" type would render its general use commercially impossible. For which lovers of English literature will be devoutly thankful.

A STUDY OF "THE PRINCESS." By S. E. Dawson. Montreal: Dawson Brothers.

Mr. Dawson's essay is already so well known to cultured readers in this country that in announcing a new edition it is unnecessary to add to the many deserved eulogiums it has received. Lovers of Tennyson are indebted in no small degree to Mr. Dawson for a better comprehension of the laureate's often misunderstood work; and in elucidating some difficult passages, the critic has not only given birth to some original ideas, but is always in possession of an intelligible reason for the faith that is in him. He was unquestionably well advised in giving to the world Mr. Tennyson's letter in this edition—a letter whose contents must have been highly gratifying to Mr. Dawson, and containing a revelation of the laureate's method of construction which will be read and remembered with interest. The most diligent student of "The Princess" will discover in it new beauties after perusing Mr. Dawson's thoughtful and polished little work.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE *Art Interchange* for May 22 will be accompanied by three illustrated supplements—a coloured plate of two heads, a coloured suggestive design, and designs for half-a-dozen dessert plates.

MRS. SOPHIE B. HERRICK has prepared for the June *St. Nicholas* a paper on bee-hunting, which will open a field for sport and profit that will be new to many readers. It is entitled "Queer Game."

HENRY IRVING'S "Impressions of America" are published. The book is generally looked upon as a piece of literary flunkeyism, and surprise is everywhere expressed that Irving should have employed Joseph Hatton to be the Boswell to his Johnson.

A BOOK has just been made at the Government printing office at Washington which contains 10,000 pages and weighs 140 pounds. It is one foot and four inches in breadth, and is bound in sheepskin and Russia leather.

"LITTELL'S LIVING AGE" for May 3rd, contains "Historic London," "Christopher North," "Preachers of the Day," "King John of Abyssinia," "Indians of Guiana," "Poisonous Reptiles of India," "An ancient Manuscript," "The Italian in Life and on the Stage," etc.

IN January the Hon. Mellen Chamberlain delivered an address on "John Adams, the statesman of the American Revolution," before the Webster Historical Society. This paper has just been published in pamphlet form by the society, Boston, and is full of excellent reading.

THE current number of *Littell's Living Age* contains articles on the following subjects:—"The Monastic Knights," "An Idle Hour in my Study," "Bourgonet," "A Hampshire Trout," "Heine's Reminiscences of his Father," "The Removal of the Pope from Rome," "Hampstead Heath," "The Trade in Modern Antiquities," etc.

SOME time ago the Hon. Donald Ferguson delivered a lecture on "Agricultural Education," before the Y. M. C. A. of Charlottetown, which was so favourably received that he was induced to print it—the more so, that he was not able to deliver the lecture in various parts of the Province, as he was on several occasions invited to do.

A UNIQUE contribution to the history of the war in Egypt in 1882 will appear in the June *Century*. It is the diary of a young daughter of Gen. Stone, Chief of the Khédival staff. The family of Gen. Stone were in Cairo during the bombardment, and were in constant danger of massacre by the Arabs, from which the tact and courage of Mrs. Stone alone delivered them, her husband being on duty at Alexandria.