

SHAKESPEARE is booming again. Mrs. Potter is reviving *Antony and Cleopatra*; Mrs. Langtry is bringing out *Macbeth*; and charming Marie Wainwright is now playing *As You Like It*.

MME. EMMA ALBANI will sing in Toronto on Monday, February 11th.

How different operatic matters were in America a generation ago! Then old Max Maretzek brought out each new opera immediately after its European production, and with the newest blood obtainable in the world. He brought out *Il Trovatore* in 1855 with Steffanoni, Vestovali, Amodio, and Brignoli, a truly noble quartette. In 1863 he produced *Faust* with Mazzoleni, Gazzaniga, Kellogg, and the elder Ronconi. *Ay di mi!* in those days we could hear singers before they faded into the sere and yellow leaf. This flaunting of senile singers before the public has done as much to bring Italian opera into disrepute as has been done by Wagner and his disciples.

MRS. JAMES BROWN POTTER and Mr. Kyrle Bellew have at last produced the latter's mutilation of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* in New York, and by all accounts have made a nice mess of it. "Octavia" has been left out, being probably too good for such a party. The Potter mouths and rants like Bellew, and the latter is awkward, where he should be most majestic. The play is magnificently mounted, but Shakespeare himself would hardly know it. B. NATURAL.

NOTES.

EVERY time the curtain rises at the Metropolitan there is a deficit between receipts and expenses of \$1,000; that is, the loss during the season is about \$60,000.

OFFENBACH has been revived in Paris, and is to-day as popular as he was twenty years ago. His *Fille du Tambour Major* is turning away hundreds every evening.

THEODORE THOMAS has succeeded in establishing a regular series of orchestral concerts in Chickering Hall, so that he will, after all, be able to keep his inimitable orchestra together.

PATTI sails again for South America on March 5th.

MR. E. J. WETHERILL, Emma Abbott's husband, died at Denver, on the 6th inst., of pneumonia.

MR. F. N. LOHR, of Plymouth, England, well-known as a composer of vocal music, died last month.

MISS AGNES HUNTINGTON is now singing with great success in the Carl Rosa English Opera Company.

MR. W. G. DAVIS, who was for many years the business manager for Joe Murphy, died in Toronto on Tuesday.

A CONCERT lately given at Berlin by 300 trumpeters must have been very enjoyable for those—who were not there!

ANOTHER new opera has been pronounced a success at its production. It is by Emile Mathieu, and was produced at La Monnaie, Brussels. It is entitled *Richilde*.

AT the Christmas performance of the "Messiah," at Westminster Abbey, a policeman who was on duty pulled out a well-worn score of the "Messiah," and followed it diligently.

MR. CHARLES A. E. HARRISS, gave a very successful organ recital at the Church of St. James the Apostle in Montreal, lately, when he was assisted by Dr. Carl E. Martin and Mr. Jameson of New York.

WAGNER'S *Das Rheingold*, the first music-drama of the Nibelungen Trilogy, though the last written, has received its first performance in New York, and has given rise to the usual quarrel between the admirers and detractors of the great master.

LIBRARY TABLE.

THE POETICAL WORKS OF ROBERT BROWNING. Vol. VII.—In a Balcony; Dramatis Personæ. Vol. VIII.—The Ring and the Book, vol. i. London: Smith, Elder and Company; New York: Macmillan and Company; Toronto: Williamson and Company. \$1.50 per vol.

The first of these volumes has for frontispiece a fine portrait of the poet, temp. 1859, engraved by G. Cook from the original by Field Talfourd. The second has a scudo of Innocent XII., dated 1696, and representing the Pope in Consistory, and a reduced facsimile of the title page of *Report of the Trial of Guido Franceschini*.

UNDER THE MAGNOLIAS. By Lyman W. Denton, M.D. New York: Funk and Wagnalls. 12mo. Cloth. Pp. 317. \$1.50.

The very taking title of this neatly printed and tastefully bound volume is apt to mislead the unsuspecting reader. It is not a novel, but a plea for suffrage reform, in which questions of the utmost importance to our Republican neighbours, such as the Negro vote, prohibition, the regulation of immigration, the suppression of monopolies, and the reform and restriction of the suffrage, are treated in the narrative style. The author states, in a very brief preface, that his work might be "denominated 'a true story,' for nearly every character, as well as nearly all the incidents, are from real life."

THE ONLY WAY OUT. By Leander S. Keyser. New York: Anson D. F. Randolph and Company. Pp. 325. \$1.

This work was originally published as a serial in the New York *Christian Herald*, under the title of "The Way Out." It professes to present "a faithful portrait of the honest doubter," and to show the "only way" by which he can escape from perplexing doubt to serene belief. We do not think the book will be very serviceable

to doubters of a sturdy type, but it may possibly confirm those who are inclined to waver in their faith. The purpose of the book is undoubtedly good, and there runs through the story a pleasant thread of romance which may commend it to those who care nothing for the weightier matters of which it treats. The publishers deserve unqualified praise for the neat and tasteful style in which they have brought out this volume.

WE have received the first number of *Canadiana*, a monthly periodical just started in Montreal. It is edited by Mr. W. J. White, M.A., Vice-President of the Society for Historical Studies, Montreal, and published by the Gazette Printing Company. The purpose of this periodical, as stated in its prospectus, "is to foster and stimulate the sentiment which is growing amongst Canadians of interest in the past, pride in the present and confidence in the future of our Dominion. It is intended to furnish historical students with a means of communicating the results of original research, and preserving interesting discoveries." The number before us contains Part I. of a paper on "Canadian Histories," by John Reade, in which he gives an account of Canadian histories from Mrs. Jennet Roy's little compendium, published nearly forty years ago, to Mr. Kingsford's comprehensive work, the second volume of which was issued some months ago and reviewed in the columns of THE WEEK. In his second paper Mr. Reade will give an account of the services of Mr. Douglas Brymner, Dominion Government Archivist, to the cause of historical research. Mr. Brymner contributes to this number some interesting notes and letters on "The Montreal Waterworks." The editor invites the assistance of historical societies and students whose notes and contributions will greatly help to make *Canadiana* a success. Such a periodical is needed, and we sincerely trust it will meet with the encouragement it deserves, and achieve the success its best friends hope for it. The subscription is \$2.00 per annum, to be sent to Mr. Richard White, Managing Director, Gazette Printing Company, Montreal. The Editor's address is Box 1855, Montreal. The very neat cover in which the first number comes bears for a motto John Reade's lines:

Rose wreath and fleur-de-llys,
Shamrock and thistle be
Joined to the maple tree,
Now and for aye!

"WHAT is Known About Shakespeare," "A Finished City," "Palestine," and "Summer Resorts in Australia," are the principal illustrated articles in *Frank Leslie's Sunday Magazine* for February.

Queries for January has a short account of Sir Walter Raleigh's life and work, and a portrait and sketch of Charles Sumner. The publisher has determined to discontinue the offering of prizes in connection with the Question department.

MacMillan's for January has a paper on "Shakespeare's Religion and Politics," by Mr. Goldwin Smith, most of which we reproduce elsewhere. Mr. J. Macdonald Oxley, of Ottawa, contributes to this number an excellent article on "The Indian in Canada."

To the *English Illustrated Magazine* for January, Archibald Forbes contributes "The Old Sergeant;" Hon. Lewis Wingfield, a sketch of "Gwalior," and Oscar Wilde an account of "London Models." Berkeley Castle is described by Elizabeth Bach in her series of "Glimpses of Old English Homes," and E. Marion Crawford's "Sant' Ilario" is continued.

"CHRISTIAN Work Among the Cree Indians" is the title of the opening article in *The Quiver* for February, and this is followed by "A Sermon on Salt," by Rev. Michael Eastwood. "On the Lake of Thun," is the title of a long poem, with illustration, by John Francis Waller. Professor Church continues his papers, "To the Lions"; Hon. Isabel Plunket writes of "St. Colomb's Cathedral, Londonderry," and Professor Blackie on "Presbyterians in Council."

"THE JAPANESE AT PLAY," with many illustrations, is the opening article in the January *Cosmopolitan*. "Madeira," "The Gôta Canal," and "Florence the Beautiful" are also richly illustrated. A novel feature of this number is "The Story of My Career," in French and English, by Jane Bading, the eminent actress. Judge Kelley, Speaker Carlisle, Senator Ingalls, and a number of other prominent politicians take part in a symposium on "Canadian Annexation." Senator Hiscock, of New York, is the only one who is decidedly of opinion that Annexation is not desirable.

Cassell's Family Magazine for February has for its frontispiece a beautiful copy in a terra-cotta tint of "A Girl's Face," after Greuze. The serial, "Mr. Trench, of Brasenose," is continued, and is followed by a paper from the pen of the author of "How to be Happy, Though Married." "Seeing, Reading and Thinking" is the title of this paper, and the matter discussed is the relative value of these three things as sources of education. "Physical Training for Girls," is the title of a paper which illustrates its point with some spirited drawings. "Marie's Bridegroom" is a short story in two chapters which precedes a paper on the interesting subject, "How Children Come to Speak." Lovers of music will be interested in the paper called "Who Reared the Symphony," by Frederick J. Crowest, which is followed by the "Family Doctor's" monthly budget of good advice. Stories long and short, poetry, music, descriptive articles, fashion letters, papers on furnishing and an unusually full "Gatherer" go to make up a rich and full number of this magazine.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

MESSRS. W. D. LIGHTHALL, Arthur Weir, and Watson Griffin, all of Montreal, have been elected members of the Haliburton Society.

MACMILLAN & Co. have in press a new work on Darwinism, by Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, which promises to have much scientific significance.

THE *Wit and Wisdom* of Sydney Smith, and Lockhart's *Spanish Ballads*, with illustrations, will come next in the Putnam's "Knickerbocker Nuggets" Series.

JOHN MURRAY is to publish the speeches and addresses of the Prince of Wales for the past quarter of a century (1863-1888). The book is edited by Dr. James Macauley.

MR. C. BLACKETT ROBINSON has in press, and will shortly issue a volume of poems by Mr. H. K. Cockin, whose popular contributions to THE WEEK have made his name known in other lands as well as in Canada.

OUIDA began her literary career by writing short stories for the English magazines, for which she was glad to receive one pound a page; her English publisher now pays her, it is said, \$7,000 for every book she writes.

MR. DOUGLAS SLADEN, the Australian poet, will visit Montreal at the time of the Ice Carnival, and Washington at the time of the Inauguration, remaining there through March; but New York will probably be his headquarters until summer.

OUR readers should bear in mind the illustrated lectures of Mr. Frederic Villiers, the War Artist and Correspondent of the London *Graphic*, in the Pavillion. Last night his subject was "War on White Sheet." This evening, "Here, There, and Everywhere."

AMONG the recent evidences of newspaper enterprise in Canada, the *Canadian Bookseller* makes some flattering remarks about ourselves, "Witness THE WEEK," it says, "the literary paper of Canada, which enters on its sixth year enlarged in size and increased in influence, and giving nearly one-half more reading matter than formerly."

THE article on "Walter Scott at Work," by E. H. Woodruff, in the February *Scribner's* will contain facsimiles of many interesting pages from the proof-sheets of *Peveril of the Peak* with the pithy criticisms of Ballantyne and replies of Scott on the margin. This literary treasure was purchased in London twenty years ago by ex-President Andrew D. White, of Cornell, who furnishes an introduction to the article.

IN the article on "The Physical Development of Women," which Dr. D. A. Sargent, of Harvard College, will contribute to the February *Scribner*, he says: "Already three-fourths of the school-teaching force in the United States is composed of women, and they will soon be in the majority as instructors in physical training. The gospel of fresh air and physical improvement is being slowly imbibed by our best families, and the stock of fine specimens of physical womanhood is slowly and steadily improving."

THE Young Liberal Club is to be commended for determining to abandon politics for one evening and devote its attention to the less exciting, but no less important, department of Canadian Literature. Those who assembled in the rooms of the Reform Club on Monday evening are indebted to the Young Liberals for a few hours of thorough enjoyment. Mr. Willison's address and Mr. Yeigh's essay were admirable: and the selections from Canadian authors, read by members of the Club, were well rendered, and were, perhaps, as judicious as circumstances would permit. We trust it will not be long before the Club finds it desirable to give a similar entertainment; and we assure them that such meetings will promote, what we are sure they have near to their hearts, the welfare and greatness of the country, just as much as meetings for the discussion of party questions and political problems.

WITH reference to the possibility of the publication of a cheap pirated edition of Mr. Bryce's great work, *The American Commonwealth*, the *Boston Advertiser* says: "Professor Bryce's materials were gathered by the most patient, candid, and acute inquiry in this country, and represent many years of labour on his part and that of his American assistants. He has made admirable use of them in the preparation of a work universally recognized as a monument to our Commonwealth and of the foremost importance to all students of our institutions and people. For such a monograph the nation cannot afford to show itself ungrateful. If a publisher attempts to put an edition of this work on the market to defraud the author and discredit the nation his attempt should be pilloried as peculiarly disgraceful and the edition should be boycotted by honest book buyers."

ACCORDING to the *Bookseller*, Mr. S. R. Hart, of Messrs. Hart & Co., was the originator of the booklets, now so popular in the holiday season:—"In 1879, Mr. Hart conceived the idea of producing a series of booklets, and an edition was manufactured, daintily tied with ribbon, with a hand painted sketch on the cover, and retailing at \$1 each. The idea took so well that during the season of 1881, some ten thousand copies were sold, requiring a staff of thirty artists to finish the covers. Of this number, 2,000 copies were sent to London, England, and several hundred copies to the leading booksellers of New York. Every copy sold, and the idea was then picked up by various art publishing firms and developed until it has assumed its present marvellous proportions; and the ten thousand copies of '81 are dwarfed by the output of ten millions in '88. But just remember that it was a Canadian who originated the idea."