

SOME time ago, the London General Omnibus Company offered a prize of 1000*l.* for the best scheme or invention that would enable it to place an effective check upon their conductors, the chairman publicly declaring that he never rode in an omnibus without noticing embezzlement on the part of the conductor. In reply to the invitation no fewer than 700 schemes were sent in, but they all involved the use of tickets, to which the Company objected. At a late meeting of the Company, however, it was announced that a scheme for checking the conductors had at last been hit upon and would soon be perfected. We shall have great curiosity to learn more of a piece of brute machinery that shall effectually counteract that subtlest of all machinery, human dishonesty.

EPHEMERIDES.

THERE is perhaps no literary exercise more crucial than verbal criticism. And yet it is the one that is most constantly indulged in. I have had several examples within the past few days. One critic, seeing the words *hors de combat*, immediately made what he imagined was a correction—*du combat*. Similarly, on seeing *La Sonnambula*, he thought he was setting things to rights by substituting *Sonnambula*. Again, two poets, in two different American magazines, wishing to commemorate the death of the young Queen of Spain, broke out with an apostrophe to Mercedes, both wrongly putting the accent on the penultimate, instead of the last syllable. A gentleman who wished to read the word right, thereby unfortunately breaking the rhythm, was severely taken to task by a sciolist. Again, a scholar who pronounced the name of the fair Queen of Egypt, Cleopatra, with the accent on the ante-penult (Cleopatra) was at once called to order and told that he should say Cleopatra, with accent on the penult. These critics should have remembered, if they ever knew, that in Greek and Latin prosody, a vowel before a consonant and a liquid is *anacaps*, that is, either long or short, and that in prose it was generally pronounced short. In Shakespeare's tragedy, the name must be uniformly pronounced with a long, because the poet so has it, but that does not alter the principle.

BUT the best recent instance of mistaken ignorance is in the following story from the French:

The colonel—it was in the Guards—was unaccountably late in returning, and the orderly, who had been with him for twenty-two years, got ravenously hungry, and knowing that his kind-hearted master would not object, slipped away for a snack, writing a note to explain the cause of his absence and pinning it to his huge bearskin shako, which he left on a chair, being thus satisfied that it would meet the eye of any one entering the room. He was right. The colonel's wife entered the room, saw that her husband was absent and likewise missed the orderly. The orderly's shako met her eye; then she saw the note. She opened it, and had no longer any reason to wonder that her husband was not there, and that the only thing left of the orderly was his shako. There it was in the soldier's plainest and most painful handwriting: "I'm eaten."

The wit of this no man can see, because the French *double entendre* was not understood by the writer. The original words were *j'ai été mangé*, which mean two things—"I have gone to eat," and "I am eaten." But the joke is utterly untranslatable into any language.

I WAS amazed the other day to read the word "Halifaxian" instead of the ancient and time-honoured "Haligonian." And the term was used in a Halifax paper, edited by one of our purest and most scholarly Canadian writers. Why the change? The ancient appellation was euphonious and overcame a difficulty constantly experienced in other cities. "Torontonians," "Kingstonians," "Hamiltonians," can be nicely pronounced *overotundo*, but "Montrealers," "Quebecers," are exceedingly harsh. The inhabitant of the capital avoids as much as possible to write "Ottawaites," while the resident of the metropolis of New Brunswick finds himself lengthened out to a double-name, "St. John-man." And how about the fellow from Charlottetown? "Victorian" from the Pacific Province hath a classic ring, but just fancy "Winnipegite!"

THOUSANDS, other than mere antiquarians, will grieve to learn that the historical old building on the Gully farm, at Beauport, in which Montcalm spent his last night before his advance on Quebec, has been burned to the ground. Thus another of the old landmarks is gone. Of course it is practically impossible to preserve from the elements all of the ancient national relics which still remain to us, but at least art might be brought in to perpetuate their remembrance. Casts, wooden models, photographs and other appliances should be employed to rescue them from utter oblivion. Unless such reverent care is used, the few of our historical monuments still extant will disappear, leaving not a rack behind.

WHAT is the good about our worrying over the correct spelling of the immortal name of Avon's bard, when he cared nothing about it himself? Or, putting it more strongly, he himself does not appear to have known the correct orthography of his name. A writer in the last number of the *International Review*, going minutely over the whole subject, states that we have five and only five authentic signatures of the poet, and in these the name appears indifferently as Shakspeare and Shakespeare. Hence we have his own authority for either of these forms. The third form, Shakespeare, is found, however, in most of the plays published during the poet's lifetime; in the folio edition of the plays edited by two of his fellow-players; in Meeres, a contemporary; in Ben Jonson, and in Milton's famous sonnet—

"What needs my Shakespeare for his honoured bones."

A. STEELE PENN.

REVIEW AND CRITICISM.

The September-October number of the *North American Review*, among its usual excellencies, contains two papers to which we may refer more particularly. The first is from Mr. Gladstone, and is entitled "Kin Beyond Sea," a designation curious enough, when we observe that it deals almost exclusively with the machinery of the British constitution and Parliamentary practice. The production is altogether the best of the many articles which the distinguished author has lately confided to the press, being written in a calm, impartial mood, and with a breadth of view worthy of so experienced a statesman. We should like to see the paper detached and published in pamphlet form, being convinced that it would have a wide circulation in Canada, as an apt authority to quote from. Incidentally, Mr. Gladstone refers to a subject of keen interest to Canadians at present. We mean the dismissal of Lord Melbourne's Ministry in 1834 by William IV. and the assumption of office by Sir Robert Peel. He argues that the responsibility was entirely assumed *ex post facto* by Sir Robert, upon whom the whole burden of a proceeding "very hard to justify" was cast. He states further that this bold stroke had not, and naturally could not had, the effect which its author intended—the disruption of the hostile majority, for though, at the time, the Liberal majority was reduced from three hundred to about thirty, it soon rallied compactly and resumed power the very next year. It will be remembered that this precedent is precisely the one invoked by Hon. Mr. Joly, in maintaining himself after the vote on the Constitutional question in the Quebec Legislature. The other salient paper treats of Alfred de Musset in a style of fine appreciation. This poet, who is not sufficiently known on this side of the Atlantic, but whose fame will grow, has been pronounced the most perfect poetical organization in the whole circle of modern French literature, and Mr. Perry, the critic of the *North American*, fully recognizes this. He lays proper stress on the fact that de Musset's instinctive taste and sagacity of genius induced him to break from the romanticism of Victor Hugo and George Sand, in which he was early entangled, and set himself in the classic groove. Had he lived longer—he died at the age of 47—and kept clear of the bad habits which consigned him, like Byron and Poe, to a premature grave, he would have rivalled the purity of Racine.

The Canadian edition of the *Fortnightly Review*, published by Rose-Belford, Toronto, contains no less than three contributions on the complicated Eastern Question, the chief of which treats of the Convention with Turkey. The article, which imparts a great deal of information, loses much of its value from its extreme partisanship, the key-note being struck in the opening sentence: "The secret Convention with Turkey of the 4th June is the most startling surprise ever recorded in history." Mr. Anthony Trollope furnishes, in his usually clear and simple mode, an account of Iceland, which he lately visited. He informs us that there is not a tree in all Iceland, and peat is the only substitute for fuel. Speaking of the remarkable erudition of the people at large, he confesses that he had never quite believed in that famous Latin speech of Lord Dufferin, supposing that "it was too super-Sheridanian to have been delivered on the spur of the moment," but he soon learned to think otherwise, when, on riding out to the Geysers, of which he gives a full description, he was met by a person who laid the blame of their fatigue on the "Via lapidosissima." The fourth and last instalment of the "Political Adventures of Lord Beaconsfield" is given in this number, and we shall only say of it that it unaccountably reveals a more kindly and discriminating appreciation of the noble Earl's character than was displayed in the preceding parts.

If the *Fortnightly* is hardly just to Lord Beaconsfield, Alan Brodrick, in the last number of the *International Review*, pays a proper tribute of admiration to Mr. Gladstone, whose career he reviews with thorough knowledge of facts and a high spirit of fairness. President Chadbourne, of William's College, contributes a subtle analysis of the problem of labour. He describes a four-fold poverty:

- I. The poverty of ignorance, which must be aided till its cause is removed.
- II. The poverty of misfortune, which seldom needs more than temporary aid.
- III. The poverty of imprudence, which re-

quires a change of life, making extravagance disreputable.

IV. The poverty of idleness. This is twofold. The idleness that comes from inability to employ one's self must be cured for by supplying labour. The idleness which is wilful should be dealt with by the strong arm of the law.

The paper on "Stanley as an Explorer," gives, in a comparatively small compass, the substance of that traveller's great work, "Through the Dark Continent," and is exceedingly valuable. Leaving aside the geographical discoveries which are of incalculable importance, the results of this wonderful expedition may be thus summed up: It lasted 999 days, and of the 356 souls who entered upon it, only 113 reached its termination. The march thus cost 173 lives, nearly three years of time and only the moderate sum of \$10,000. Yet, as the writer remarks, "the Nile sources remain undiscovered, and it is still in store for Mr. Stanley or some other fortunate discoverer to locate them." The last pages of the *Review* are devoted, as usual, to full summaries of the Literary Movement in Great Britain, France and Germany.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE POLITICAL BRIAREUS.—The irrepressible candidate is a well-known figure, and he is the cynosure of all eyes at the present time. Our cartoon represents the many faces and phases which he assumes to please everybody, where everybody is so hard to please. He has to modify his countenance to suit all moods; to temper his speech to conciliate all opinions, and he must shake hands right and left with everybody who approaches him. Nay he must hunt up everybody and shake hands, however the process may sometimes go against the grain. Nothing more pliant and ductile than a candidate before election. After that event, he is not the same man at all.

THE DUFFERIN MEDALLISTS.—In connection with the Governor-General's visit to Sherbrooke, we publish in the present issue the portraits of two young gentlemen who respectively won the Silver and Bronze Medals given by His Excellency for competition to the School in connection with Bishop's College, Lennoxville. The Silver Medal was given for classics and the Bronze for mathematics, and were won last term by two brothers, sons of Livingston E. Morris, Esq., of Beaumont, near Lennoxville. The youngest, Richard Fairlie Morris, aged 15 years, took the Silver Medal, and the eldest, William Morris, aged 16, the Bronze Medal. In the same connection, and further to commemorate the vice-regal visit, we have added the portrait of Miss Anastasia Dupont, a highly accomplished young lady of Sherbrooke, who was chosen, on account of her standing in her classes, to read the beautiful address prepared for His Excellency by the Congregation Convent at Sherbrooke.

ARCHES AT ST. JOHNS.—It was at this ancient and historic town that Lord and Lady Dufferin closed their triumphant march through the Eastern Townships, on the 20th ult. And it is satisfactory to be able to chronicle that the reception at St. Johns was in every way worthy of the occasion. On the entrance of their Excellencies into the town, they passed under an arch, at the corner of Richelieu and St. George streets, bearing the words "Welcome," and surmounted by an Irish flag with the words "Erin Go Bragh." From this point to the St. Johns' Hotel where the presentation took place, Richelieu street was festooned with flags and bunting. Among the many inscriptions on arches and private buildings were: "Honour to our Illustrious Visitors," "Long Live our Governor," "Lord Dufferin, Canada's Pride," &c. The ornamentation of the dais at St. Johns' Hotel will be seen on the picture.

THE PRESS MEDAL.—This beautiful medal, the work of Mr. J. R. Harper, jeweller, Notre Dame street, was presented to the volunteers of the 5th Military District by the staffs of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, *Herald*, *Star*, *Witness* and *Jester*. The conditions as regards possession are that it must be won twice (not consecutively) in five years before becoming the property of the rifleman. If at the end of five years it has not been won twice by any shot, then all the holders of it during that time fire off for possession. The medal has this year been won by Sergeant Riddell, Montreal Garrison Artillery, with a score of 110 points out of a possible 135.

KINGSTON AND THE MILITARY COLLEGE.—This is a view of the beautiful old city and its harbor taken from Fort Henry. Its main features will be easily recognized, and the more that they have not materially changed, at least the water approaches, for several years. As to the Military College, our readers will find a full description of it in the NEWS of June 9th, 1877; together with an account of "A" Battery, which is stationed there, in June of this year.

THE NAVAL REVIEW AT SPITHEAD.—On Tuesday, 13th ult., Her Majesty the Queen inspected the vessels of the reserve squadron, under the command of Admiral Sir A. C. Key. The Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Beatrice, and the Duke of Connaught were present, and there was a great gathering of yachts and of the public. Unfortunately, the spectacle was marred by bad weather, and the programme had to be modified in consequence. Towards three o'clock Her Majesty was observed to be putting off in a

Royal barge towards the Royal yacht "Victoria and Albert," and soon afterwards the Royal Standard was run up to the masthead, which was a signal for the fleet to salute. A line was then formed of the yachts and tenders following in the wake of Her Majesty in the subjoined order: Next astern of the Royal yacht came the Royal yacht "Osborne," with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and his friends; then the "Enchantress," with their Lordships the Commissioners of the Admiralty; then the "Fire Queen," with the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Fanshawe, flying his flag at the main; then the "Euphrates," with the Lords, Commons, and a large bevy of peeresses and lady commoners; then the "Vivid," with the foreign representatives; and in the rear of these the "Dasher" and "Britomart," with half-pay naval officers and officers of the garrison. In this form the squadron of yachts, with a strong breeze blowing behind them, bore down on the Fleet, which was now seen to be anchored in most admirable order and perfect formation—the larger, but less formidable, vessels forming the Starboard Division, the turret-ships and monitors the Port. These consisted of 219 guns, 72,350 horse-power, 99,549 tons, and 6,691 men. The vessels in two divisions left a broad water-way, down which Her Majesty now steamed. As the Royal yacht approached, the yards were manned, and cheer after cheer rang from the ships. A crowd of small craft followed thickly in the wake and on both beams of the squadron of yachts; and fortunately at this moment the one stray gleam of sunshine which appeared throughout the day shone forth and lighted up the scene. The long, even rows of vessels, the fluttering bunting, and the figures of the men as they stood on the yards presented a fine scene. The Royal yacht now steamed towards the "Warner" lights, passing not far from the wreck of the "Eurydice," which must have attracted Her Majesty's attention, and then turned towards the fleet again. It was not Her Majesty's intention to visit any of the vessels, so that the bad weather did not interfere with that part of the programme; but it was evidently the intention that the fleet should have been got under weigh and have performed some such simple manoeuvre as steaming round the Royal yacht, either in two columns or in single line ahead, and then resuming their stations at Spithead. But it was wise to abandon this project, as from the confined space, the crowds of shipping and small boats, the violent squalls of wind, and the occasional blinding showers, it would have been attended with considerable risk. Her Majesty now made the signal, "Am much pleased, and regret that weather prevents evolutions," with which gracious message, and under the smoke of a second Royal salute, the Royal yacht and her train of followers steamed away towards the Solent.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC

MR. DION BOUCICAULT has dramatised "Clarissa Harlowe." He had a predecessor forty years ago, when an adaptation of the novel was produced at the Olympic, with Madame Vestris as the heroine.

HILARION ESEVA, one of the most distinguished of Spanish composers, died recently at the age of seventy-one. He is as much celebrated for his religious music as for his operas; was director of the Conservatoire of Madrid, and chapel-master to the king.

ROSE EYTINGE says: I have several plays of his (Charles Reade, the novelist's), which I shall produce in addition to my new drama of "The Woman of the People," including one or two dramatizations of his own novels, on which I am justified in relying. Hereafter Mr. Reade proposes confining himself to writing for the stage, and will direct the production of his works in person.

At a French provincial theatre, recently, in a military play, an actor who was performing the part of a general slipped on the stage, and fell ignominiously at the very moment when he was supposed to be conducting his troops to battle. With ready wit, however, he saved himself from ridicule by exclaiming, "Soldiers, I am mortally wounded, but do not stay to aid me. Pass over my prostrate body to victory!"

THROUGH the good offices of M. Meyer, who is at once a Parisian and an Englishman, as at home on the Boulevards as in the Strand, and as familiar with French dramatic authors as with English, a new and original drama by Sardou has been secured for the Adelphi Theatre. The promised play has never been performed in France, and will be produced in New York and London simultaneously next year.

On a certain occasion "Damon and Pythias" was recently being played at a country theatre. In the last act, as Damon was about to be led to execution, straining his eyes in the effort to discern his friend in the distance, and asking, "Is he coming?" a locomotive whistle sounded close by. "He'll be here by the next train," shouted a wag, and in an instant the emotion of the audience was changed to laughter.

MADAME TAGLIANI has beauty and exquisite grace still, although in her seventieth year. She is a woman of much wit and cultivation, and is generally liked in London, where she lives. She is now too old to visit abroad, but at her own parties she welcomes with vivacious charm people of the best society. Until very lately she gave lessons in dancing and deportment to the daughters of the nobility and gentry, but this is now beyond her strength.

SOME curious experiments were made with the Paris captive balloon lately. Some score of musicians, forming half the band which usually discourses sweet strains during the ordinary ascents, went up in the balloon, while the other half remained on the earth. At a height of 100 metres the ruins of the Tuilleries sent back the echo in a very remarkable manner. The aerial music was perfectly audible, and was for a long while a puzzle to the by-passers, who could not make out from what quarter the strange harmony came.

HAMILTON TIE MANUFACTURING CO.—Latest styles of Scarfs for the Fall—Beaconsfield, Pasha, Salisbury, Bismarck, Gortschakoff. The Wholesale Trade only supplied. Hamilton Tie Manufacturing Company, Hamilton, Ont.