

Literature and Art.

SPECIAL NOTICE:—Our Music Editor, "Sharp Sixth," will furnish critiques of music publications sent in for review, and also critically notice public performances of high class music. Tickets for concerts, or compositions for review, must be addressed "Sharp Sixth," care GRIP Office.



THOMAS CARLYLE, the grand old Scottish sage, passed away to his final rest on Saturday morning of last week. Extended notices of his life and works have appeared in all our leading dailies, and will form the theme of many pens in the columns of our weekly contemporaries. The portrait given above is copied from an authentic likeness taken in the year 1866, and published in connection with his address on "The Choice of Books," delivered on his induct on as Lord Rector of Edinburgh University.

Rev. Dr. Talmage lectured at the Grand Opera House this week.

We have received the first number of the *College Journal*, the organ of the Demill Ladies' College, Oshawa. It is up to the average of such publications, and is to appear quarterly. Of the making of college papers, assuredly, there is no end!

We hope to see the Pavilion crowded on Tuesday evening, 15th inst., at the grand concert to be given by Mr. Fisher's Choral Society. The attractions of the programme, the names of the soloists, and the high reputation of the conductor should conspire to ensure a grand audience.

Mrs. A. L. Alger's translation of M. Coquelin's charming volume has just been published by Roberts Bros., Boston, under the title of "The Actor and His Art." M. Coquelin is recognized as the first comedian of France, and his book is pronounced exceedingly interesting, sensible, sound and fascinating.

The *Canadian Illustrated News* for this week contains pictorial representations of the snow blockade on Yonge Street and the R. C. Yacht Club Ball at the Grand Opera House. The execution of the artistic work of the *News* has improved markedly under the supervision of the new editor, Mr. Graham.

Rev. DeWitt Talmage proposes to settle the question of amusements by "The New Spectacular." This is the name he suggests for a Reformed Amusement Institution to be established in every town, under the direction of a board of managers, half of whom shall be church members in good standing. The plays and actors admitted on the stage of the "Spectacular" are to be unexceptionable in point of morality—though they need by no means be dull. Mr. Talmage feels confident that this would prove not only a moral boon but a good paying speculation.

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Literature and Art.

The Editor will be pleased to receive Canadian items of interest for this column.

The Toronto Opera Co. will present the *Bells of Normandy* at the Grand Opera House on Friday and Saturday evenings of this week, and give a Saturday matinee. Mr. W. F. Tasker will, as usual, conduct the music. A first rate performance may be anticipated, as the tuneful opera has been well rehearsed.

Canada is bound to have a satirical literature of her own at all events. Within the last few years three or four political squibs of considerable merit have been published. The author of "H. M. S. Parliament" is understood to be at present engaged on a companion burlesque, his model being the "Pirates of Penzance." This is not intended for the stage, however.

Our excellent exchange, *The American*, of Philadelphia, has inaugurated a Symposium with a view of eliminating the Solid South idea from national politics. It thinks the best means to this end is to give Southerners a chance to freely express their views through a Northern medium—a privilege they have never before had. Articles from the leading statesmen of the South are to appear in the course of discussion. The current issue contains the first three, which are very ably written. *The American* deserves high praise for its patriotic enterprise.

It looks as if every large city would, in the course of time, have its own comic weekly, in which colored illustrations are made a feature. New York has two; Philadelphia has "Freaks," which has made a good beginning; and now Louisville comes forward with "Straws," which will be a success unquestionably, as it is backed by large capital, and a first-class lithographic establishment. The first issue (Jan. 22) is an excellent one, and gives every promise of a bright future.

GRIP'S ALMANAC FOR 1881.—We have received from the publishers a copy of this humorous yearly publication which has eclipsed itself in all previous efforts. GRIP is the only paper of its kind which has ever succeeded in the Dominion in establishing for itself a world-renowned popularity—a fame it justly merits—although several have been previously introduced. In fact it has become a household word. The Almanac is profusely illustrated with "komikal kuts" of every conceivable kind, and its typography is unsurpassed. It is needless for us to refer to the qualifications of Mr. J. W. Bengough as a "Cartoonist"—under whose especial supervision the production emanates—but would advise our readers to procure a copy at once, as they will be amply repaid. Published by Bengough Bros., proprietors of GRIP, Toronto. Price 25 cents.—*Petrolia Advertiser*.

We commend this paragraph to the notice of our citizens. It is from the pen of our esteemed brother Bray, of the *Montreal Spectator*:—"I am glad to see that it is under discussion at Toronto to have a free library. Of course the City Fathers, with their proverbial stupidity, have voted it down; but some among them have a care for the intelligence and moral welfare of the people, and they are determined to raise the question again and carry it. It is to be sincerely hoped that they will succeed, for a public free library is a great boon in any town. Especially in Canada do we need it. As a whole we are not a reading people; young men can rarely and with great difficulty be got to take an interest in any kind of literature, save and except the newspapers; they can only live by evening attendance at clubs or parties, or by indulging in long talks and frequent drinks in a saloon, and what is required for their mental and moral improvement is the creation of a new set of interests. If young people could be induced to read good healthy books, the tone of society would soon be changed for the better."