

that of perhaps the first exponent in fiction of Irish life and character of to-day. It is a faithful picture of life, and land, and sea; intense in its interest, pathetic in its surroundings and dramatic in its close. To those who are not familiar with the works of the Hon. Emily Lawless, we heartily commend this volume which appears in the excellent dollar series of Macmillan and Company. We might add that the accompanying map of the Aran Islands adds to the interest of the story.

DEBRET'S PEERAGE, BARONETAGE, KNIGHTAGE, AND COMPANIONAGE. Illustrated with 1,400 Armorial Bearings. Royal Edition. 1892. (179th year of publication.)

DEBRET'S HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE JUDICIAL BENCH. Illustrated with 800 Armorial Bearings. 1892. London: Dean and Son.

It may be said by some that Canada is a democratic country, and such a book as Debrett's Peerage is out of place on Canadian shelves. Those who incline to that view attach but little weight to the intimate relations which exist between one part of the British Empire and another. So long as the Dominion of Canada is part and parcel of the great British Empire, so long shall the vast amount of accurate and instructive information gathered with unusual labour and scrupulous care within the covers of this bulky yet beautiful volume prove of more than ordinary interest to Canadian readers. Though the most is made in the press of to-day of the disgraceful conduct of an occasional peer, who is unworthy of his rank and lineage, but little mention is made in contrast of the meritorious lives of the majority of the peerage, and of their salutary influence upon the State. The honours, preferences and dignities of rank in our Empire are open to Canadians as they are to Australians or other members of its world-wide possessions, and in the very preface to the volume we find reference to Baron Mount Stephen and the Baroness Macdonald. Throughout its pages we further find the name of many an honoured Canadian who, for public, judicial or other valued services to the State, has received merited distinction. It is hard to conceive anything of public utility related in any way to the classes treated that cannot be found in this volume; it in fact contains important and helpful details which are not included in any similar compilation. The latest information attainable before publication has been comprised in it. Quite apart from its ordinary use, the mass of detailed information of a biographical, historical, or even antiquarian, character with accompanying dates make the volume a most serviceable book of reference.

The companion volume supplies full and satisfactory information as to the personnel of the House of Commons and the judicial bench, and will be found an excellent aid and book of reference in that regard. In it will be found amongst other useful general matter an explanation of technical Parliamentary expressions, with brief descriptions of the duties of the higher officers of state.

A TRAMP ACROSS THE CONTINENT. By Charles F. Lummis. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

It is something out of the ordinary for even an enthusiastic pedestrian to walk 3,507 miles in 143 days, but then our author was "young (26), with educated muscles and full experience of the pleasures of long pedestrian tours," and "furthermore, he wished to remove from Ohio to California." Add to these inducements the remaining requisites that he "was perfectly well and a trained athlete," and "an American" who "felt ashamed to know so little of my own country as I then did and as most Americans do." So our author, in other respects suitably equipped, on the 12th of September, 1884, left Cincinnati for his tremendous tramp. This is one of those books which recall to our mind the old adage, "Truth is stranger than fiction." We wish to do justice to its writer, and, though some of the incidents recorded in it are so marvelous and thrilling as to be suggestive of romance, yet we do not forget the words of the preface which assure us that the book is "a truthful record of some of the experiences and impressions of a walk across the continent." Then, again, when we become restive and captious at the style, or inclined to resent some of the liberties with words, we bethink ourselves that the author says that what we are reading "was written in hurried moments by coal-oil lamps of country hotels, the tallow dips of section-house or ranch, the smoky pine knots of the cowboy's or the hunter's cabin, the cracking fagon of a Mexican adobe, or the snapping greasewood of my lonely campfire upon the plains; and from that vagrant body and spirit I have not tried to overcivilize it." It is indeed a graphic and spirited narrative of unique travel, and, in part, of thrilling adventure, undergone by a young man of scholastic attainments, of superb physique and indomitable will and rare pluck. There is an honest manliness of tone and kindness of disposition which make us overlook much that would otherwise seem conceited and exaggerated in the narrative. Take it all in all, it is one of the most interesting and instructive books of its class that we have met with. It takes us to out-of-the-way places, among strange races; we read of curious customs and quaint industries; the account of the greyhound "Shadow"; the broken arm and its setting by the sufferer; the perilous jump in the ground canyon of the Colorado; of the fight for life with the mad hound, and the horrors of the desert tramp, are vividly and

touchingly told. Mr. Lummis has given us a book of rare interest that will be very widely read.

THE THREE FATES. By F. Marion Crawford. London: and New York: Macmillan and Company.

Mr. Crawford's new novel has for the scene of its operations the city of New York. The author is nothing if he is not versatile, and though the change of scene and mode of life are so different under the circumstances of this tale from those with which we have been accustomed to associate Mr. Crawford's name, yet the same skill which marked his stories of the East and of sunny Italy is found here as well. We cannot help thinking that in the picture of the early life and the journalistic and literary training of George Winton Wood we may have revealed to us some phases in the author's own life. As Dickens was supposed to have offered himself to the public in David Copperfield, and other authors have in certain of their works been supposed to have taken their readers more or less within view of their own personal experiences, so one might suppose that for us, too, Mr. Crawford was lifting the veil. The story of the upbuilding of the literary life of the hero, from his beginning as a contributor of short book notices to a daily newspaper to his attainment of distinction as a successful novelist, is very interesting. The large experience, broad culture and precision of knowledge which are brought to bear upon this branch of the story make the book one of exceptional significance to all who are engaged in literary work or who aim at literary distinction. We do not remember of having read elsewhere of anyone who attained such facility of composition and rapidity of production as George Wood possessed. To prepare a plot in about an hour and to write from eight to ten hours at a time for the few weeks in which the work is completed, or to create a novel in twenty-nine days, is extraordinary work, even though done at Cupid's command. The title is taken from the three women who at different times engage George Wood's affections, and who each exercise a moulding influence on his character. He appears a fickle lover, one who, when relieved of one entanglement, soon consoled himself with another, and yet whilst each lasted satisfied that it, and it alone, would last forever. But, after all, it seems that in him literature dominated every affection and would yield place to none. Mr. Crawford has given us a novel entirely different from anything yet written by him. It, as well as its predecessors, prove him to be one of the most original and perhaps the most versatile of living novelists. The knowledge of human nature, the analysis of character, the conception of the plot, the development of the story, the novelty of the subject matter and the fine workmanship which mark it throughout cannot but add to its author's high reputation.

PRELUDES AND STUDIES. By W. J. Henderson. Longmans, Green and Company.

This book contains many thoughtful arguments upon what most people might deem mere abstruse subjects, yet are they full of the deepest interest to all musicians and those musically inclined. In the opening study of "Der Ring des Nibelungen," parts of which have appeared in the New York Times, the axiom is set forth that the reason for these music dramas gaining universal popularity is their being "great dramatic poems set to music, for which the future will award Wagner a rank as librettist equal to that which he holds in music." The primary postulate of Wagner's theory was ever "The Play's the Thing." An interestingly detailed account is then given of the origin, rise and universal power of the "Nibelungen" tribe, caused by the forging of a ring out of the golden Rhine waters by Alberich, a dwarf; as also the latter's seizing the wonderful Tarn Helm, that enabled the possessor to change his form at will. Wotan, the spouse of the Goddess of Marriage, assisted by Loge, seizes Alberich and wrests the Tarn Helm from him; Wotan then drags Der Ring off Alberich's finger, who then lays his curse upon it and disappears. The power of Wotan, which depended upon his holding all contracts inviolable, is eventually lost by his falsity. This in turn he essays to restore by making his own kith and kin to right a wrong by sinning. Here ensues the immoral blot of Wagner's libretto—the breaking of the marriage laws by Wotan's relatives, Siegmund and Sieglinde, leading to the sequels of the Nibelungen tetralogy. Mr. Henderson admits freely that Wagner is often too "talky," and consequently tiresome to many throughout his works. "The Philosophy and Humanity" of this work is dwelt upon at length, Mr. Krebhoil, the author of "Wagner as I Knew Him,"—Wagner's friend and historian—being forcefully quoted in sustentation of our author's opinionative statements. As a proof that Shakespeare and Wagner are alike in their treatment of "love at first sight," exposed in "The Flying Dutchman," "Lohengrin," "Tristan and Isolde," and the meeting between Siegmund and Sieglinde, also that of Siegfried and Brunhilde, Rosalind's description of how "your brother and my sister no sooner met but they looked, loved, sighed, asked the reason and sought the remedy" is quoted. This passion is also the theory of Goethe's "Faust," where he sings: "The woman's soul ever leadeth us upward and on." Wagner's treatment of the mythological story has been criticized by many, but his display of poetic power at all times in modernizing and adapting it is indisputably great. The publishers have issued this valuable Wagnerian guide in cloth and gilt. The book is as clear and distinct in its typography as it is

in its style and diction. Under the heading, "Comments and Commentators," Mr. Henderson takes issue with Sir Arthur Sullivan's dictum that "Wagner did not know how to make a libretto, etc.," holding that though Wagner, as in "The Flying Dutchman," wrote, at times, thin, poor stuff, yet that work was amongst the great composer's earliest; but, later on, Wagner developed great inherent qualities as a writer. Mr. Henderson next touches upon the "Evolution of Piano Music" from 1364, when Francesco Landini, a blind organist of high repute flourished in Venice, when the Monochord was the fashionable instrument, down to the modern school citing as exemplars. Von Bulow, D'Albert and Rummel (curiously excluding Liszt, Rubenstein and other virtuosi) describing the "Laying of the Foundations" of piano playing; the "Development of Technique," the "Modern Concerto," and a sketch of some living players. "Schumann's Programme—Symphony" is next referred to and cited as being "a free expression of his emotions; Schumann's sensibility, his keen subtle perception, strong sense of humour and vivid imagination rendered him incapable of writing music for music's sake only." In 1840, incited by his ardent love for Clara Wieck, he turned his attention from the piano to the oldest and most expressively flexible instrument, the human voice, composing over one hundred songs, "of which the world will never tire, they will stand as the soul-hymns of men." Schumann, while being reckoned as second to Beethoven as a symphonist, "yet surely had a great claim to a place of his own as a genius of the first order."

In the notice in our last issue of the article "Cross Currents of Canadian Politics," which appeared in the June Westminster, we overlooked the fact that the writer, at page 661 of the number, had used these words: "One of the most influential of these (objections)—to many minds—is the unfortunate circumstance that, through the narrow protective policy at present dominant in the United States, reciprocity would necessarily involve discrimination against Great Britain, which would seem unnatural, if not disloyal, in one of her dependencies; and further, that it would in time lead in the direction of assimilation with, and eventual absorption in, the American Republic." We cheerfully reprint the extract in simple justice to the writer of the article, and regret that it escaped our observation at the time of writing the notice referred to.

THE Californian Illustrated for July has an excellent article by Chas. T. Gordon on the Yosemite Valley, fully illustrated. Monterey is described by an artist with pen and pencil; "A Coaching Trip through Lake County of Northern California" is pleasant reading; "The Game Fish of the Pacific" are not neglected; "The Schools of San Francisco" are also written up in this number.

A NEW serial is begun by Arabella M. Hopkinson in the July number of Cassell's Family Magazine entitled "Barbara Merivale." The scene of this story is in England, and an American family is introduced to the readers. "Through an Eastern Desert on Foot" describes a tramp from Port Said across desert and up coast to Jaffa. "The Mystery of the Aurora" is a scientific paper. "What a Pretty Complexion!" is by the "Family Doctor." "Rose-Growing at Hollybush" is by a "Practical Gardener." "Chit-Chat on Dress" has illustrated letters from Paris and London. An article on "Swedish Embroidery" contains full instructions for making it.

THE July number of the Magazine of American History opens with an article by the editor, "The Beginnings of the City of Troy," containing among other illustrations a full-page fac-simile of the quaint old Dutch map of the province and city of New York, made about 1656. "Fort Harrison in History" is a paper by A. C. Duddleston, describing the defence against Indians by Zachary Taylor in 1812. "The Pre-Columbian Literature of America" is the title of a paper by Professor Cyrus Thomas. The Hon. S. H. M. Byers contributes a sketch of "Switzerland's Model Democracy; or, Popular Government Without Spoils," as it is styled. "President Lincoln's Portrait" forms the frontispiece of the number.

MR. JOSEPH KIRKLAND proves his knowledge of the subject by the clear and full way in which he guides the readers of the opening article in Scribner's for June "Among the Poor of Chicago." Professor N. S. Shaler's article on "The Depths of the Sea" is very interesting, and the illustrations increase the interest. Leroy M. Yale's "Getting Out the Fly-books" will be pleasant and seasonable reading for anglers, and many besides who would like to, but cannot, get out their fly-books. "The House Over the Way"; "The Pianner Mares," and the end of "The Wrecker" provide an ample supply of fiction. Mr. Thomas Bailey Aldrich, under the heading "White Edith," amplifies an early poem of his which was published in Scribner's Magazine for January, 1888. It is a venturesome step, but Mr. Aldrich has acquitted himself admirably.

MR. LAFCADIA HEARN gives an account of the methods of the Japanese landscape gardener of the old régime in the July Atlantic Monthly. Eben Greenough Scott contributes an analytic paper on General McClellan; Edward G. Mason has a paper on Chicago; Mr. Crawford's "Don Orsino" is well sustained; Mr. Merwin has an article on "Arabian Horses," which is well informed and will interest all lovers of the horse; Mr. Gamaliel Bradford, jr., has an essay on "The American Idealist"; "Looking Toward Salamis," by William Cranston Lawton, and Miss Vida D. Scudder's "The Prometheus Unbound of Shelley," are well