

HOME

Vol. IV.]

TORONTO, JANUARY 16, 1886.

[No. 2.

Pisa.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE ancient city of Pisa presents probably the most wonderful group of buildings in the world—the Cathedral, Leaning Tower, Baptistery, and Campo Santo, the general relations of which are indicated in the engraving. The Cathedral is a vast structure, dating, except its restorations, from the eleventh century. Its alternate bands of black and white marble, with its magnificent facade of columned arcades, gives it a unique and striking appearance. The

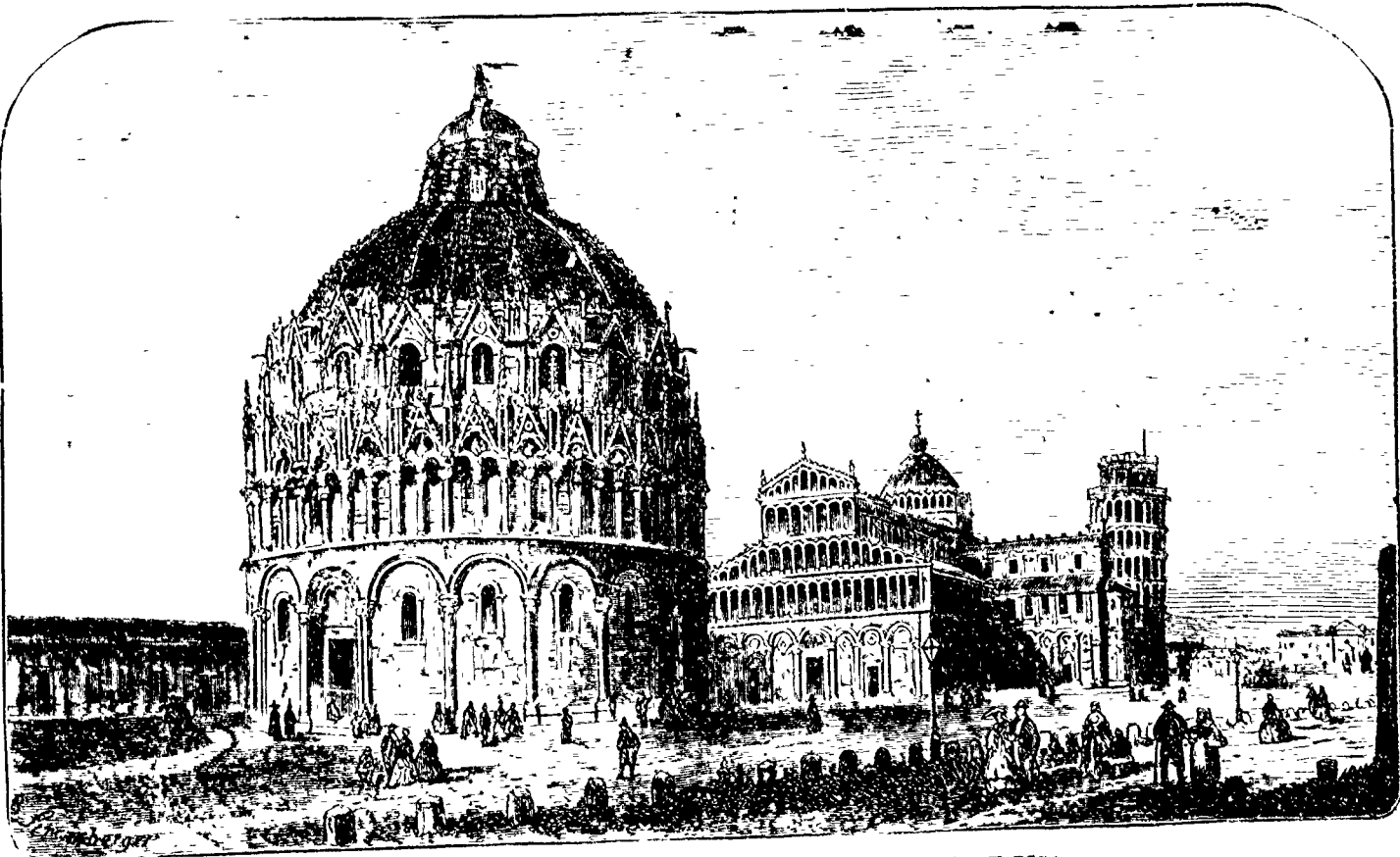
whose awaying to and fro is said to have suggested to Galileo the idea of the pendulum. I visited, in an obscure back street, the house in which the great astronomer was born.

The Baptistery is a circular marble building, a hundred feet in diameter, surrounded by columned arcades, and surmounted by a lofty dome. The pulpit and large octagonal font are marvels of marble fretwork—like exquisite lace hardened into stone. That which, to me at least, gave its chief interest to the building, was its exquisite echo. My guide sang over and

place where he is going to fall, for to fall seems for the moment inevitable. Yet for five hundred years and more, this lovely "leaning miracle" has reared its form of beauty to the wondering gaze of successive generations.

The Campo Santo is a large quadrangle surrounded by spacious arcades, with Gothic tracery of exquisite beauty. The enclosure contains fifty-three ship-loads of earth brought from Mount Calvary, in order that the dead might repose in holy ground. The engraving is one of several illustrating some of the most striking scenes in Europe,

abominations; and see if they could not bring the work of God into competition with the work of Satan; for he could give no other appellation to that sensational literature which was so enormously diffused. He believed it was corrupting the morals of the population—young and old—not a branch—more especially the younger portion. He believed it would sap the very foundation of domestic life, and introduce a new system of feeling on the point of morals. It was not confined to the lower classes, but was found also in the highest classes of



THE CATHEDRAL, BAPTISTERY, AND LEANING TOWER AT PISA.

effect of the interior is of unusual solemnity and awe. From the vast and shadowy dome looks down, in act of benediction, a mosaic effigy of Christ, by Cimabue, in the austere Byzantine style, of date A.D. 1302. The gilded roof is supported by sixty-eight ancient Greek and Roman monolithic marble or porphyry columns, captured by the Pisans in war. No two of these columns are quite alike in height or thickness; but a sort of symmetry is given by adding capitals and bases of different heights. The effect of the whole is far from unpleasing. In the nave hangs the large bronze lamp,

over again a series of notes, and the softened sounds fell back from the lofty dome, faint and far, yet clear and distinct, and with an unearthly sweetness, like elfin notes in fairy land. More famous than any other building of the group is the Leaning Tower—a structure of remarkable beauty. It consists of eight stories of marble colonnades, rising one hundred and seventy-nine feet high, and leaning thirteen feet out of the perpendicular. It causes a strange sensation of fancied insecurity to look down from the overhanging edge of the airy structure. One involuntarily begins to pick out the

which will appear in early numbers of the *Methodist Magazine*.

Printed Poison.

SPEAKING of vicious literature, Earl Shaftesbury says: "Could any man doubt that in the day in which we live the press had acquired a power of such magnitude that it ruled the destiny of the nation? Could any one doubt that it was their duty as well as their interest to do all they could to purify it? And if they had a powerful press on one side, they must have on the other a press that would meet all the other

society and, unless corrected, it would subvert the whole system of morality in this great empire. He was not exaggerating the matter, he had been obliged to look into it, and could give them proofs of the way in which it was working upon the public mind. The literature, like the amusements of the present day, were not like those which prevailed when he was a young man, and which were rife among the masses of the people. There was now a certain amount of refinement among the poorer as well as the higher classes; many would now be disgusted with the literature and amusements that were