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Editorial Topics.

GONE DOWN.

THE Divinity corridor is deserted, save for a few ambitious spirits who are taking double work—Arts and Divinity. These number only two or three. The rest have gone down. Some of them we shall not see again as students, though we hope to as grave and sober parsons. Others are at work as lay readers in different parts of the country for the summer months, and will be back again in October. The Divinity men leaving in April makes quite a difference in College, it is needless to say. From the standpoint of the men themselves, while there is much to commend the early breaking up of the Divinity Class, there are not a few regrets that they have to forego the pleasures of the summer term.

THEIR HANDS FULL.

THE Imperial Government have their hands full at present, as usual. John Bull is a fighting man, and is never content unless he has Tommy Atkins dancing a war dance in some far corner of the world. John never fights without an object though, and he generally gets what he is after. The present expedition to the Soudan is being conducted in his usual thorough and energetic style. The South African situation has become extremely grave. The Transvaal question is still an issue. The recent alliance between President Kruger and the President of the Orange Free State hath not a friendly look, taken together with the former's reluctance to discuss the situation with Mr. Chamberlain. We should not wonder if John Bull will have a chance to let slip his dogs of war in this quarter before things are settled. What the results of the Venezuela Commission will be we cannot say, but the question of relations with United States is a vitally important one and likely to crop up often unless some understanding is arrived at. At home the Education Bill is causing considerable stir. This remarkable Bill is somewhat of a startler. Its enemies denounce it as revolutionary, but its friends say it is so only in appearance. At any rate it promises to be an interesting issue. Notwithstanding all these worries John eats and sleeps and makes money apparently quite contentedly.

THE University of Cambridge may be a little UP TO DATE. fossilized in some things, but it is certainly up to date in its choice of prize subjects for 1897. "The Munroe Doctrine" is the subject for the prize English essay, and "A Defence of James Jameson and the South Africa Reform Committee," the subject of the prize Latin essay.

DOMINION ELECTIONS.

THE long and dreary session of the Dominion Parliament is over at last, and the Remedial Bill question is to go before the country. Elections have been fixed for June 23rd, nominations June 16th. It will be a hard fight. The Liberals are confident and truly it seems their golden opportunity. With the Conservative party itself divided on the question, the Liberal chances seem better than they have been for many a year. The Conservatives, however, are noted for their rallying powers. They are a clannish crew. The sound of "the old flag and the old policy" has been a trumpet call in the past to many a successful contest, and we feel inclined in consequence to put our money on the Government. Time alone can tell the result, and we are looking anxiously for June 23rd.

EASTER IN TORONTO.

TORONTO is noted as a church-going city, and it certainly seems so to judge by the services in the city churches on Easter day. The churches were filled to overflowing and the number of communicants in some of them ran up into the hundreds. Apropos of Easter we see from a contemporary that the Easter offerings in some of the New York churches were enormous. In Calvary church \$63,000 was given toward an endowment fund. At Grace church and the Church of the Ascension the offertories were \$35,000 and \$15,000 respectively. Truly our American brethren are open-handed.

THE POET LAUREATE.

IN another column may be seen a poem by Alfred Austin, the new poet laureate. To those who know nothing more of Mr. Austin and his work than what can be gathered from the criticisms of the press, which have been almost universally hostile to him since his appointment, he does not appear in a very favourable light. We, however, consider him a much maligned man and a few words of appreciation both of the man and his work will be in order. Mr. Austin can certainly write beautiful poetry as a perusal of his poem "Longing," in this number of THE REVIEW, will show. Its music, its subtlety of thought, conception and expression certainly entitle it, to our mind, to the first-class rank of short poems. In fact all his shorter poems show him to be a possessor of the true poetic genius, and if he is not quite so happy in his more ambitious attempts we must not therefore join in the scathing criticisms lately launched against him by the press. He is a poet. Let us be thankful for his work and give him his due. To those who love verses which breathe the voices of the woods and streams and flowers, and which speak of the gentler, humbler emotions of men, Mr. Austin's poetry will have an irresistible attraction. As to the man himself, he is through and through an Englishman. He believes in England, her government, her institutions, her present greatness and future glory. The reader will find no startling remedies for existing social or political diseases in his