

The concert by the Jarvis St. Baptist Church choir will be given in the church on the evening of December 19th, when Spohrs oratorio, "The Last Judgment," will be performed.

The new opera house in New York was opened last Monday evening with a performance of "Faust," and is a magnificent building. It is lighted with 10,000 incandescent lights, 5,000 of which are for the stage.

The Toronto Ladies' Quartette, consisting of Mrs. d'Auria, Mrs. Wilson Lawrence, Miss Edith Miller and Miss Bridgeland, have been engaged to sing in Montreal on December 7th. Mr. J. D. A. Tripp, solo pianist, has also been engaged.

Mr. W. E. Fairclough's third organ recital will be given to-morrow afternoon, December 2nd, in All Saints Church. A most excellent programme will be performed. Mr. H. W. Webster will assist and sing "The joy of my heart is ceased," by Moliere.

Mr. W. H. Hewlett, the talented organist of Carlton St. Methodist Church, gave an organ recital on Saturday afternoon last in St. Luke's Church, consisting of works by Bach, Saint, Saens, Wagner, Salome, Guilmant, Henselt and Lemmens.

A concert was given in the Church of the Redeemer last Monday evening, and although it was exceedingly wet and disagreeable a large audience was present. Mr. Walter H. Robinson was the musical director, and can be congratulated on the success of his concert.

The Laura Schirmer-Mapleson Opera Co. performed De Koven's comic opera, the "Fencing Master," every evening of last week, with matinee on Thursday and Saturday. The opera is taking, and most gorgeously put on, the scenery being most effective. So much has been said regarding De Koven's originality, or rather the lack of it, that a criticism of its intrinsic merits is unnecessary. There are many effective parts in the work; for instance, the chorus which ends the first act is quite thrilling, but it is evident that although De Koven is exceedingly clever in writing a pleasing score, and has quite a melodic gift, he is not a creator, or originator of new effects by any means. The opera doubtless owes considerable of its success to the splendid staging, the pretty chorus girls, and the excellence of two or three of the principal characters, among them Mme. Laura Mapleson is most prominent. All sang and acted their parts in very good style, in two or three instances genuine talent and dramatic ability were exhibited. The chorus and orchestra were fair.

LIBRARY TABLE.

SELECTED PAPERS FROM THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE CANADIAN MILITARY INSTITUTE. NO. IV.

It goes without saying that in any branch of the service of the state, in order that you may have efficiency you must have progressive study and intelligent interest in matters essential to the successful working of such department. This neat pamphlet, of some 200 pages, shows that our military arm is not behind hand in that regard. Besides containing a number of useful reprints and matter of detail, there are six able and serviceable lectures which have been delivered before the Institute. Major C. D. Mayne's subject is "The Fundamental Principles underlying the Battle Tactics of the different arms." Lt.-Col. W. D. Otter has a practical paper on the adaptation of the administrative system of a British regiment to the Canadian Force. That hot subject "Fire Discipline" is competently treated by Lt.-Col. A. H. Macdonald. An interesting reminiscence is that of Surgeon-Major W. N. Keefer on the Khyber Column in the last Afghan War. The strategic value of Canadian Railways is discussed by Lt.-Col. T. C. Scoble, and the management of a City Corps is considered by Lt.-Col. H. Smith. Apart from military men, many a layman will read with interest these capital papers.

THE CENTURY GALLERY. Selected Proofs from the Century Magazine and St. Nicholas. New York: The Century Company. 1893. \$10.00.

We are free to confess that as often as we have turned the pages of the last number of The Century or St. Nicholas and lovingly lingered over the exquisite illustrations, which for years have ranked these periodicals in the van of the world's monthlies, we have longed to have them more permanently placed before us. Such tasteful, finished and charming work of artist and engraver—showing from time the progressive advances of the art of the modern illustrator, though a source of periodic delight with the accompanying letter-press, yet well deserves the separate presentation and higher recognition here given it. To the express demand for re-publication, in some such form as the present, there has been in tens of thousands of homes wherever the English tongue is spoken, and these cherished magazines are welcome favorites, the unexpressed longing shared by ourselves. And now on the threshold of the merry Christmas-tide, which never fails in bringing good gifts to men, comes to our library table this superb gallery, comprising some sixty-four engravings selected with fine discrimination from the Century and St. Nicholas volumes of the past ten years. Here we find art treasures old and new, but few of which we can refer to, leaving our readers the delight of acquiring and enjoying them at their leisure. Rembrandt's "Head of a Man" looks out upon us with realistic power, and George Frederick Watts' "Love and Death" impresses the beholder by its strong dramatic significance; Rousseau's "Twilight" appears with its subdued and poetic charm. But we may not linger over Vierge's fierce "Fight at the Barricade," or Bastien Le Page's reverent and touching "First Communion," and other favourites. Masters of long ago and of to-day throng before us and we are at loss to know which to praise most, the creative genius of the painter and sculptor or the decorative skill and cultivated taste of the illustrator. No better evidence could be afforded than is here given, of the delicate and progressive development of the engraver's art. Enclosed in a chaste and appropriate portfolio, with folding covers, accompanied by a table of contents containing requisite information as to each picture, artist, and engraver, the proofs are printed on heavy plate paper in size suitable for framing. Together they form a charming collection for either library or drawing room: separately, beautiful and suitable adornments for the walls of homes where taste and refinement have their proper place.

SALIENT POINTS IN THE SCIENCE OF THE EARTH. By Sir J. William Dawson, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R. F.G.S., etc. Montreal: W. Drysdale & Co. Price \$2.00.

It is to be hoped that Sir William's statement in his brief preface, to the effect that this work "is intended as a closing deliverance on some of the more important questions of geology" may meet with refutation from his own facile pen, in the form of later treatises through many years to come. He tells us that this elegantly printed and bound volume, with its 500 pages and forty-six illustrations, contains much that is new as compared with his preceding works, and the revision of what is old. Certainly, the veteran geologist's style has taken new turns in this labor of love. He dedicates his individual chapters to men eminent in science, and enlivens the somewhat arid waste of physics with an occasional flow of imagination almost poetic and always devout. An unearthly visitor takes him up to the milky way and begins to show him how worlds are made, but the strain is too great, and after a few pages, Sir William descends to the ordinary scientific level of Lord Kelvin, Croll, and similar mortals. In the chapter on The Imperfection of the Geological Record, the author very mildly calls evolution theories in question. The history of the North Atlantic is a paper full of interest, and, though that on The Dawn of Life contains little new matter, its successor, What may be learned from

Evolution as to the origin of life, will repay perusal. Dealing with The Apparition and Succession of Animal Forms, the writer still opposes creation to evolution. The Genesis and Migration of Plants is fitly followed by an excellent popular chapter on The Growth of Coal. Much attention is given to The Oldest Air Breathers, the batrachians, saurians, insects and land snails of the carboniferous and allied formations, and their story is pleasantly told. Markings, Footprints and Fucoids is necessarily more brief and void of general interest. Predetermination in Nature seeks to draw a line between what is fixed and unchangeable and what is capable of development in cosmic forces. Sir William ironically terms his next chapter The Great Ice Age, and then proceeds to show that there was no great ice age, and that the Glacial Period was very recent. He discusses the various hypotheses as to The Causes of Climatic Change, and seems to find the chief to be the changes in the distribution of land and water on the earth's surface brought about by the elevation or subsidence of the former. The next paper treats of the Distribution of Animals and Plants as related to Geographical and Geological changes, and, while it regards insular faunas and floras, agrees neither with Agassiz nor with Darwin. The botanist will hail Alpine and Arctic Plants in connection with geological history, dedicated as it is to Professor Asa Gray, and its incident of a botanico-geological excursion in the White Mountains. The chapter on Early Man is dedicated to the late Sir Daniel Wilson, and adds the Camstadt to the other skulls of prehistoric craniology. The last paper is Man in Nature, and declares that man is and is not part of nature, that he is an imitator of nature, sometimes at war, sometimes in harmony with nature. Nowhere does the pious Christian appear more prominently than in this last chapter, in which both nature in general, and man in particular, are found more or less out of harmony with the Divine. Sir William has spoken from the silvery eminence of his seventy years, and the eyes and ears that seek after wisdom will be open to his words spoken and written, but callow youth with its eye-glass will wink and cynically smile at the salient points and pass them by as fossil truths. A more popular title might have helped this book of our greatest Canadian geologist, now retiring upon his laurels, but his name upon its title will be a guarantee to all who know it, that nothing base is there, nor aught that is idle and fanciful, but the honest hard work of an earnest and diligent seeker after truth.

PERIODICALS.

The December Quiver begins with it a spirited sketch of the capture of a slaver, well illustrated, and has its usual complement of papers full of profitable and recreative reading—including serials, short stories, poems, etc. This number begins a new volume.

After losing sight of the irrepressible Walter Blackburn Hart, the castigator of Andrew Lang, etc., whose name was in so many papers a while ago, we have found him discoursing on "The Mystery of Style," in a "library corner" of Worthington's Magazine for December. As chirpy and confident as ever is W. B. H., with a somewhat overplentitude of 'I's to the page and a turn for moralizing that seems, alas! somewhat cynical. This is a bright, cheery number of Worthington's.

The well-remembered face of the late Sir Daniel Wilson appears as a frontispiece to the Popular Science Monthly for December. Horatio Hale contributes a praiseworthy sketch of Sir Daniel which will find many interested Canadian readers. Professor Huxley's Romanes address is finished in this number, and a short reply is hazarded by Robert Mathews. Leslie Stephen's contribution to the subject, "Ethics and the struggle for existence" is re-published from the Contemporary Review. Professor Warren Upham discusses the age of the earth. Professor Jordan has an interesting paper on "Bob," a Borneo