

With the issue of the 8th July, the popular sportsman's paper *Forest and Stream* began the twenty-first year of publication. The *Forest and Stream* was the pioneer journal on this side of the Atlantic devoted to shooting and fishing, and in a review of their work the editors note the marvellous growth in popularity of these sports.

A Unionist rival to the famous Eighty Club is in the field—'The United.' Mr. A. J. Balfour is taking a prominent part in connection with it. It might have followed the American parallel more closely by calling itself 'The Union League,' after the clubs formed in New York and elsewhere at the time of the Civil War—to 'save the Union' on the other side.

The second volume in Distaff Series of books, written, edited and made by women, is published by Harper & Brothers, under the title, 'The Literature of Philanthropy.' Its editor is Mrs. Frances A. Goodale. It will be followed about the middle of August by 'Early Prose and Verse,' edited by Mrs. Alice Morse Earle and Mrs. Emily Ellsworth Ford.

Charles R. Hildburn has compiled a quarto volume of about 500 pages on 'The Issues of the Press in New York, 1693-1783.' It contains the full titles and whenever the originals were accessible the collations, of 1,500 items, and reproductions in facsimile of fifteen of the most important books printed in New York before 1784. The edition of this useful bibliography, now printing, is limited to 450 copies.

Sheridan's great grandson has placed at the disposal of Fraser Rae the carefully preserved papers of Sheridan which Moore inspected but could not print. Mr. Rae will use this material in expanding his biography of Sheridan which has been long out of print. The material includes letters that passed between Sheridan and his first and second wives and those written by him and the Prince of Wales, as well as a corrected copy of 'The School for Scandal.'

Anson D. F. Randolph & Co., New York, have nearly ready 'Shakespeare's Female Characters,' by Helen Faucit (Lady Martin), 'Across France in a Caravan,' by John Wallace, with fifty illustrations; 'Where We Went Gipsying Across the Sea,' by William Wentworth, in two volumes; 'Pictured Palestine,' by the Rev. H. Neill; 'Memoirs of a Sacra,' by Prof. J. R. Harris; and 'Men's Thoughts from Famous Women,' and 'Men's Thoughts from American Statesmen.'

We regret to note the death of Mrs. Gilly, sister-in-law of our valued contributor, Senator Boulton, which sad event took place at Shellmouth, Manitoba, a brief few weeks since. Mrs. Gilly had resided with the Senator and his family since 1880, having accompanied her sister, Mrs. Boulton, to the North-West in September of that year. The late Mr. T. D. Gilly, whose widow she was, came to Canada in 1871, after having served for twenty-nine years in the 'Home Office' in London, the most important branch of the English Civil Service. He journeyed with Senator Boulton in 1880, to Manitoba, and died shortly after his arrival at Portage la Prairie.

The second season of Kleiser's Star course will be held in the Pavilion Music Hall. The following are the dates: 1893, October—The Eugene Musin Grand Concert Co. November—Russell H. Conwell, in 'Acres of Diamonds;' or, Where to get Rich and become Great. December—James Whitcomb Riley, the famous Poet, and Douglas Sherley, the Southwestern Author, in 'An Evening from their Own Works.' February—Robert J. Burdette, the celebrated Hawk-Eye man, in 'Our Mission in March.' A. A. Willits, the brilliant actor of Dayton, Ohio, in 'Sunshine.' Subscribers have first choice of seats. No new applications are to be made to, Grenville P. Kleiser, 82 Yonge Street, Toronto.

A contribution to Canadian biographic literature, will during the present month be placed

upon the market by the Methodist Book and Publishing House, in a Life of the late Senator John Macdonald, founder of the dry goods house of John Macdonald & Co. The matter for the book has been prepared by Rev. Dr. Johnston, late of this city, resident now in Washington D.C. It will include extracts from Senator Macdonald's writings and public addresses, and will be embellished by photographic portraits and several illustrations. Senator Macdonald filled a large place not only in the commercial, but in the political and religious life of this country; and a well-written sketch of his life such as this promises to be, will be welcomed as preserving to us the memory of a prominent Canadian.

Mr. Grant Allen's last book contains a collection of his more recent short stories, mostly those, he says, that have been written to please himself rather than the editors to whom they were submitted. 'Ivan Greet's Masterpiece,' which gives its title to the book, will be remembered by the readers of *The Graphic*, and so will 'Karen.' 'The Conscientious Burglar,' in *The Strand Magazine*, and 'Pallinghurst Barrow,' in *The Illustrated London News*, are doubtless also familiar to large circles. There is a pathetic passage in the preface as follows: 'Many of these stories I like myself. I hope "The Pot-Boiler" and "The Minor Poet" may soften the hard heart of the man who reviews me for *The National Observer*.' Messrs. Chatto & Windus have issued it uniform with other volumes by this author.

To readers and admirers of 'Ben Hur,' it will be pleasing to learn that a new story from the pen of its author, General Lew Wallace, will soon be issued from the press of Messrs. Harper and Bros. in the United States and England, and the Methodist Book and Publishing House in Canada. This new story is entitled, 'The Prince of India; or, Why Constantinople Fell,' and like General Wallace's preceding works, it is an historical romance. The story begins in 1395; its continuous movement, however, is in a period from 1445 to 1453, the date of the conquest of the old Byzantine capital by Mahommed II. The assault and sack of the city, and Mahommed's entry into Sancta Sophia (the final degradation of Christianity in the East), forms the catastrophe of the book. Speaking generally the book is a tale of love, war and religion. The incidents are natural, rapid in occurrence, astonishingly varied, and from first to last subservient to the catastrophe. While Minister to Turkey, General Wallace was afforded exceptional opportunities for the collection of those materials which he has woven into romance, and in 'The Prince of India' the result appears in all the realism of a style which gave to 'Ben Hur' a popularity that indicates for the new book an immediate and large demand.

## HUMDRUM OCCUPATIONS.

The Prince of Wales, in the interesting little speech which he made at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, in opening the National Workmen's Exhibition, lamented the effect of the subdivision of labour in depriving the labourer of any opportunity of taking pride in his work. If a man only makes a small part of any product, he said—for instance, the head to a pin, or even the pin to a head—he can hardly throw his mind, still less his soul, into that very fragmentary achievement. The consequence is that the maker of such fragments finds it impossible to express his higher nature in the work by which he lives. He becomes a mere mechanic, a mere drudge; and though the consumer benefits, and benefits largely, by this subdivision of labour, getting both vastly cheaper and generally vastly more effective products by means of it, the operative suffers, having nothing to do into which he can really pour his heart and soul.

The Prince of Wales is quite right in his inference; but it may fairly be doubted whether to the majority of men it is a great misfortune to have an occupation which does not absorb the attention and elicit the character of the man, as any artistic occupation absorbs his attention and elicits his character. Are humdrum occupations without great advantages? Consider only that almost all occupations, even when requiring at first very considerable skill and delicacy of manipulation, tend to become humdrum so soon as the art is acquired of doing them with the highest efficiency. Unless the method of doing them has to be varied in every separate case, the art soon becomes a sort of tact hardly requiring the serious attention of the artificer. Look at a woman with even the most elaborate fancy work. As soon as her fingers are well trained to it, and discharge their function as they ought, you see that she hardly needs to think at all of what she is doing, and that heart and soul wander off to the topics which interest her most. You see a smile steal over her face as she remembers her children's quaint little vagaries, or she sighs as she thinks of the dying mother or the anxious husband. Her heart and soul are no longer in the mere work, elaborate though it be. The stitch has been thoroughly learnt, the practice of it is merely automatic—"reflex action," as the physiologists call it—and the heart and soul are at liberty to expatiate on any subject which most deeply interests her. In a word, even the difficult technique in which she is engaged, has become for her a humdrum occupation.

Now, when Nature takes so much pains to reduce the organization of even the highest skill to an automatic process, is it likely that there can be any great misfortune in the mere fact that a constantly increasing proportion of the work of the world tends to become automatic, and falls naturally into the character of humdrum work? We suspect that it is no misfortune at all, that it may be on the whole a beneficent provision for liberating the heart and soul of the worker to dwell on the class of subjects which best feed—or, at all events, in the higher class of minds best feed—the heart or the imagination. We remember hearing how three sisters, all of them women of a good deal of intelligence and warmth of character, were once comparing their favorite occupations. One of them said she enjoyed her music so much; another that reading poetry was her chief delight; while the third, and certainly the cleverest of the three, said: "Well, for my part, there is nothing that soothes me so much as patching an old chemise." The truth was that that not very intellectual occupation set her mind and heart free to dwell on the thoughts and objects which most deeply interested her, while at the same time giving her the soothing feeling that she was doing something useful, and contributing to the economy and comfort of the household. Indeed, we doubt very much whether it is either always, or often, a great blessing to have for your chief work in life that which takes up your whole attention, and admits of no excursions beyond its range. It may be a very great blessing when the subjects of thought on which the mind chiefly dwells are of a very painful and unnerving kind. But in nine cases out of ten, this is not so; and the only effect of an occupation which concentrates the whole energy of the mind, is to exclude from a man's thoughts those casual glimpses of his fellow-creatures'