

demolished, so far as destructive criticism can do it, the fabric of Christianity, and yet he is endeavouring to build upon the old foundation a fancy edifice of his own with a scanty portion of the old material he has scattered around him. Mr. Symonds, whose literary papers are always welcome, contributes a biography and criticism of Boiardo and the *Orlando Innamorato*, with translated extracts. Mr. Jevons' paper on "The Use of Hypothesis," is an able defence of judicial theory in scientific investigation as opposed to purely empirical induction. On this point he is at one with Mr. Herbert Spencer, who distinctly denies that "no *à priori* reasoning can conduct us demonstratively to a single physical truth," citing Newton's Laws of Motion as a case in point. Sir Charles Dilke's paper on "Free Schools" shows considerable ability and no little familiarity with the subject. His main proposition is that education, to be effective, must be compulsory; and that before it can be made compulsory it must be free. He very justly objects to the "remission" system as relieving a class who are not always deserving, and pressing hardly upon the honest who are barely able to pay the fees. On the other hand, we think Sir Charles mistaken in contending that education is a primary duty of the State. The only proof offered is that as the State already pays three-fourths of the expense his view is virtually admitted. But this is merely to shirk the question. The obligation to educate a child naturally and properly devolves upon its parents. When the State undertakes the duty, it does so as a matter of expediency, because it is, in the end, more economical to have an intelligent people than an ignorant one. Failing, as it invariably does, to enforce their duty upon illiterate, careless or selfish parents, it is better that the State should take the matter in hand than that it should be entirely neglected. It is comparatively easy to make a man provide food for his children, but to compel him to have his children educated is not so easy a task. This objection apart, the paper is a very useful one. The *Fortnightly* concludes, as usual, with Mr. Frederick Harrison's incisive remarks on "Public Affairs." The clear and vigorous English of these papers is extremely refreshing. In the current number an honest view is given of the present difficulties of the Liberal Party. The writer does not think the Conservative reaction has yet set in, but he frankly confesses that it is imminent. There are three parties in England—not two—Conservatives, Whigs, and "The People." The Whigs are but cunning Tories, and only serve occasionally as leaders of the people; without the latter the Whigs are like Sir Garnet Wolseley without his army. Mr. Harrison is utterly opposed to the proposition that Mr. Gladstone should theatrically announce "startling novelties" for next session. Extension of

the county franchise should be granted, but the people who talk about a reform in the Land Laws do not know the laws they want to reform or the reforms they want in the laws. The Church question is dismissed, likewise, as belonging to the next generation. On French affairs the writer takes comfort even in the triumph of "the Right." McMahon is only a stop-gap, and "despotisms of the grand kind are not founded without a flash of enthusiasm round either a principle or a man. They are not the prizes of a stop-gap. They are not, and least of all in France, to be held by nonentities."

*Blackwood* opens with another instalment of Lord Lytton's "Parisians." The story is now drawing to a close, but as our readers will have an opportunity of perusing it entire in the copyright edition now in the press of Hunter, Rose & Co. we make no remark upon it in this place. The most entertaining paper in the number is that on "Ceremonial"—the first of a series on International Vanities. The essay unfolds the history and present state of court etiquette and ceremonial diplomatic and maritime, interspersing his principles with anecdotes of a most amusing character. The reader will find, perhaps to his surprise, that what we regard as food for ridicule, was, and even now is, to some extent, serious matter enough in court circles. "Phidias and the Elgin marbles," by Mr. Story, is intended for classical and art-students. They will be astonished to learn that the great sculptor had no share in the design or execution of "the marble statues in the pediment of the Parthenon at Athens," the metopes or *bassi relievi*; and that it "is exceedingly doubtful whether Phidias ever made any statues in marble." "A Story of the Rock" is an erotico-military tale of Gibraltar. The Educational question is treated historically in a paper designed to show the constituencies that the Conservatives are the true friends of popular instruction. The last paper dated from Paris is a lament over the Comte de Chambord's obstinacy and the dire calamities all Europe will suffer in consequence.

The *Contemporary Review* comes so late to hand that we can only give a summary of its contents. The ablest paper is the first by Mr. Fitz-james Stephen, on "Parliamentary Government." To it as well as to the Rev. Mr. Knight's last words on the Prayer Question, we may perhaps return in a future number. Dr. Carpenter contributes an interesting essay on "The Physiology of Belief," and the Rev. Mr. Capes a "Criticism of Mill." The number closes with Mr. Gladstone's letter on Evolution, in reply to Mr. Herbert Spencer. It is ingenious but not satisfactory. The Premier had said, "upon the ground of what is termed evolution, God is relieved of the labour of creation; in the name of