

different publications from his pen, most of them not rising beyond the dimensions of a pamphlet, and all treating of religious subjects or devotional exercises. Now of these, nineteen have reached the enormous aggregate of about 740 thousand, one of them, "The Earnest Communicant" being set down as in the 180th thousand. Of the others one has reached the 25th edition, another the 16th, and another the 3rd. Here is practical evidence of the extraordinary popularity of Bishop Oxenden's writings, and the convenient form in which he has prepared his several little works for the public proves that his object was to reach the masses of the people rather than to win the applause of the critical and the erudite. In this object the facts just stated show beyond doubt that he has won unexampled success. These works, we understand, may all be obtained of the booksellers in Canada.

The Most Rev. Bishop Oxenden belongs to a very old Kentish family, one of his ancestors having been knighted in 1606. The Baronetcy was first created in 1678, when the title was conferred on the grandson of the first Knight. The present Baronet, Sir Henry Chudleigh Oxenden, is the eldest brother of His Lordship, and the 5th Baronet. Ashton Oxenden was born at the family seat, Broome, Co. Kent, in 1808. He spent his school days at Harrow, and afterwards graduated at University College, Oxford, taking his degree in 1832. In the following year he was ordained and appointed to the curacy of Barham, in his native county, which he held until 1848, when he became Rector of Pluckly in the same county, which position he held until his elevation to the Episcopate. Dr. Oxenden was consecrated Bishop by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, other Bishops assisting, in Westminster Abbey, on the 1st of August, 1869; and on the 5th of the following month was installed as Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan of Canada at Christ's Church Cathedral in this city. For ten or twelve years before he left England he was a member of Convocation, being one of the two members from the clergy elected to represent the Arch-diocese of Canterbury in that assembly. Since His Lordship's arrival in Canada his life and the record of his labours are written in the hearts of his people, and his character is held in safe-keeping through the respect and esteem of the whole community, which he has so deservedly won by his unostentatious and gentle manners, no less than by his untiring devotion to the varied and onerous duties of his exalted position.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

The Legislature of Ontario has now before it an amended school law which promises to make considerable improvements in the curriculum of common education, by introducing the study of the sciences as applied to some of the general branches of every-day work. This will, doubtless, prove of great advantage to the rising generation of the Upper Province, and, we doubt not, will stimulate the Legislature of Quebec, which has already shown commendable zeal in the matter of education, to make still further efforts to supply means for developing and improving the intelligence of the Province. But there is a kind of education which, as yet, scarcely comes, except incidentally, within the scope of the schools, and that we have called "physical education," for the want of any more exact phrase by which to designate it. By this we mean the education of the eye, the ear, the hand, &c.; in fact, the education of the senses and of the muscular system of the body. As a rule, it is only incidentally that these are educated. The eye is taught, simply because the mind has to be reached, and it is an exceedingly convenient vehicle for carrying information thereto; the same may be said of the ear; and with respect to the hand, it would only be taught to suffer were it not that the young élève must learn to write and "cypber." The training of these important members is, therefore, entirely incidental. They are not recognised except as mere accessories to the acquisition of an object beyond them. Now, we think it is possible that this system might be improved upon with very great advantage. The German watchmaker who, when he took his children to school, warned the teacher never to strike them on the hand, because he desired to bring them up to his own trade, was more of a philosopher, and a truer friend to human progress, than many of the professional teachers of youth who are loaded down with all the honours the universities can bestow. The cruel, barbarous practice of beating the hands, thereby not only damaging the delicate sense of touch, but also injuring the flexibility of the joints of the fingers, ought to be abolished at once, and this, a purely negative step in the art of physical education, we suggest would at least be an important step towards making it practicable with improved chances of success. There are other portions of the body besides the hand, the head, the ears, and the mouth, upon which vindictive or punitively disposed preceptors might vent their corrective sympathy; yet these are the places ordinarily chosen, not only by teachers, but even by parents, and it is, we think, a crime under all circumstances to strike upon any one of them.

If the organs of the senses and the seat of reason are held sacred from physical infliction, both in the family and the

school-room, nature will at least have the opportunity of developing her resources; but there is much more to be done in the way of educating or drawing out the latent powers with which she endows her offspring. It is exceedingly pleasant, for instance, to hear baby talk, therefore father, mother, nurse, and admiring friends think no time wasted in trying to put its meaningless prattle into the form of intelligible words. So with respect to walking; everyone will help to teach baby how to put down its foot, step out, and so on. But when the little one can chatter enough to tell its wants, and walk, so as not to be a load in anyone's arms, is it not true that in very many cases physical education ends there, or is left to necessity or the force of circumstances? The dancing or the drawing school may come, after a long time, to atone in part for early neglect; but here again the muscular system is only put under training as a means to an end, whereas it is undoubtedly true that were the muscles and the senses taught, merely for the development of their own power, the process would not only lead to higher capacity for enjoyment, but to much greater adaptability for acquiring knowledge, and far readier capacity for turning it to practical account.

WINTER SCENES IN QUEBEC.

The scenery around the ancient Capital is about the grandest in Canada. Of a summer evening nothing can be more delightful in panoramic effect than a stroll on Durham Terrace, overlooking the river with its many hundreds of ship-lights glistening on the water, and the distant highlands mingling indistinctly with the floating clouds. Our present view belongs, however, to a different season. Snow covers the whole expanse, and ice in clumsy boulders is floating down towards the sea. There is a wondrous sameness about Canadian scenery in winter. The snow is so much alike everywhere; and it fills up chasms, smooths inequalities, makes mounds here, hollows there, and altogether puts a face upon nature which is entirely its own. But even the snow cannot dim the glories of Quebec scenery. From the Citadel, built by nature, looking towards the east the eye ranges over a great part of Lower Town, takes in the Custom House, the Market, the Harbour, Commissioners' stores, &c., &c., with Beauport to the left in the distance. Our illustration is from a photograph by Messrs. Livernois & Biennu.

THE THISTLE CLUB CURLING RINK.

Of all the "national games," properly so called, none have more devoted partisans than "curling." The Scotsman prides himself upon that game as being peculiarly his own. To the indifferent on-looker, especially if he is not a Caledonian, and has heard nothing of the mysteries and the technicalities of curling, the spectacle is indeed an odd one, to see something approaching to a dozen, apparently rational men, frisking about on the ice, some of them with brooms in their hands, others tossing mighty stones along a previously prepared track, and all watching anxiously to see where the "halt" will be made. But curling is too much of a national institution in Canada to require any special description. In fact, we believe the game is better known in this country than in many parts of Scotland. It is a healthful, refreshing exercise and when topped off with a dinner of "beef and greens," offers one of the most pleasant modes out of all the variety which our bracing Canadian climate affords, of spending a winter's afternoon. On the 17th of last month the Thistle Club, of this city, opened a new rink on the upper end of St. Monique Street, and our artist has given an illustration of the proceedings.

"TRAINING."

We are sure our lady readers will thank us for the very faithful reproduction of Levasseur's engraving of Hamon's beautiful picture bearing the above title. Though it is a picture for the summer time rather than the winter, yet even the winter calls upon the patrons of flowers and tender plants for care and protection. In this issue we give a short article on the culture of house-plants, the directions of which, if followed, will enable many of our fair readers to have plants in the spring fit to set out in the garden plot, that would otherwise perish either from the cold or the stifling stove-heat of the house.

GENERAL FAIDHERBE.

Louis Léon César Faidherbe, now Commander-in-Chief of the French Army of the North, was born at Lille on the 3rd of June, 1818. He was educated at the college in that place, entered the Polytechnic School in 1838, then went on to the military school at Metz, which he left in 1842 with a lieutenant's commission in the 1st Regiment of Engineers. He served first in Algeria, where he remained throughout 1844 and 1845. Having obtained the rank of Captain, he sailed in 1848 for La Guadeloupe, where he acquired much colonial experience, and became injured to life in the tropics. Having failed in obtaining an appointment at Senegal, he returned to Algeria in 1850, where he constructed the outlying fort of Bou-Saada, took part in the campaign of Kabylia, under Gen. Saint-Arnaud, and also in the expedition of Gen. Bosquet to the Algerian highlands. The services he performed at the time of the disaster which then occurred were rewarded by the Cross of the Legion of Honour. At the end of that year, 1852, he was, at his reiterated request, sent to Senegal. Here he soon gave proofs of remarkable administrative ability, and after two years' residence, showed such knowledge of the needs, the dangers, the economy, and the practical policy of the colony that, in 1854, he was made Governor of the French possessions in Senegal. M. Faidherbe now devoted himself to the fulfilment of the task he had so long wished to take in hand—the thorough renovation of the colony. He carried on a successful warfare with the Moors of Furza, but his principal warlike achievement was the struggle he carried on for some time, and over a great extent of territory, with the prophet El-Hadjj-Omar, who had conceived the idea of founding a vast Musulman empire in Central Africa, and driving out all foreign intruders. He compelled the apostle of Islam to submit in 1860, and left Senegal to command the subdivision of

Sidi-bel-Abbas, having been made Lieutenant-Colonel of Engineers in 1855, and Colonel in 1858. But his absence was soon felt in the colony; his policy was not maintained, his instructions were neglected, and everything retrograded. On the 30th of May, 1863, M. Faidherbe, raised to the rank of Brigadier-General, resumed the reins of government in Senegal. Two years after, his health requiring his return to a less murderous climate, he took the highest command in the subdivision of Boue. M. Faidherbe has written much on the manners, language, and history of the African nations, as well as on the topography, geology, and archaeology of the districts they inhabit. He is a member of the Geographical Societies of Paris, London, and Berlin.

THE ONTARIO TEAM FOR WIMBLEDON.

The idea of sending twenty riflemen from the Province of Ontario to compete next summer at Wimbledon with the best shots of the mother country is received with enthusiasm in all quarters of that Province. Col. Skinner finds it impossible to reply to the large number of letters he receives asking for information respecting the marksmen to be taken by him next summer to England. He has requested us to state, for the benefit of all who are interested in the great event, that his "team" will be composed entirely of "regularly enrolled volunteers in the Province of Ontario;" and that the Snider-Enfield will be the rifle used. If, however, a candidate for admission to the team is a good "small bore shot," so much the better; but no man will be selected exclusively on that account. Mr. Gzowski, the President of the Ontario Rifle Association, is in correspondence with Lord Elcho, and when the required information is received it will be made public.

THE USES OF SNOW.

The snow which falls upon the earth is a tender mantle to infant food-plants which would otherwise perish of frost. In what is called an "open winter," you may see whole fields of young rye and wheat and clover, all pulled up by the frost and laid on the top of the ground to wither and die in the spring sunshine. The frost heaves up the earth, and with it the plants; slight thaws permit the earth to settle and renew its hold, and so successive freezings and thawings gradually uproot entire crops. "Winter killed," is the sad verdict of the farmer, as he contemplates the loss of his labour and seed in the spring; and "winter killed" might be appropriately spoken of the suffering and dying victims of starvation prices which follow the destruction of crops.

True, Nature sometimes in her zeal to protect, covers too deep, and smothers the young plants; tucks in the coverlid so tight that the unseasonable warmth of the earth stimulates their vitality into an attempt at growth, which fails for want of air and light. But such disasters are comparatively rare, and open winters are the most deadly to grain crops. It is also true that in the large territories devoted to grain growing, when a crop fails in one locality it succeeds in another, and so the food-supply keeps pretty steady pace with the demand, but it is none the less true that in many places winter wheat or rye could not be successfully grown without snow to protect these crops from frost.

But snow has another important office to perform. It is a fertilizer. Ask the experienced farmer, and he will tell you that the late snows of spring falling upon the springing crops makes them look green and vigorous, and really nourishes them. It is the bearer of ammonia, an important element of the food of plants, which it collects from the air. We have known thrifty farmers to rise early to plough in a light snow before it melted, being aware of its value, though, perhaps, not realizing in what its virtue consisted. It is also, without doubt, true that open winters are more favourable to the spread of disease than the contrary. It is an old proverb that "a green Christmas makes a full churchyard."

DEATH OF AN ITALIAN COMPOSER.

Mercadante is dead. He was the last of that splendid galaxy of Italian composers, in which Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti and Pacini were the brightest stars. Born in Altamura, in southern Italy, in 1798, he brought out his first opera at Naples in his twenty-first year. The work called "The Apotheosis of Hercules" is now quite forgotten, as is the case indeed with most of Mercadante's early operas. The three works on which his reputation will live are "Elisa e Claudio," "Il Giuramento," and "I due Illustri Rivali." In the latter occurs an exquisite tenor aria, *In terra ei divisero*, which Brignoli used to sing here some years ago. The "Giuramento" is the only one of Mercadante's works which can be said to be known to the American public. It has been sung here by several opera troupes, and will be given this month at the Union League Club theatre by Ronconi's party of amateur singers.

Mercadante wrote a great many operas for Naples, Milan, Venice, Turin, Mantua, and Paris; but few of them can be termed successes. In 1836 a work of his was produced with Grisi, Rubini, Lablache, and Tamburini in the cast, but even under such exceptionally favourable auspices it failed to please. It is difficult to tell why Mercadante did not make a better impression. His scores show that he wrote melodies which, if not strikingly original, were certainly graceful and elegant. There are passages in the "Giuramento" which are worthy of any composer; but yet Mercadante never succeeded in winning the popularity awarded to several of his contemporaries in the art of musical composition. His masses have perhaps met with more general acceptance than his operas.

At the time of his death the veteran composer was in his seventy-third year, and occupied an important position as director of the Conservatory of Naples. Of late years his sight has been much impaired.

Mercadante was six years younger than Rossini, and during his whole career was overshadowed by the genius of this eminent composer. While Mercadante was composing his elegant but half-forgotten works, Rossini was producing those ever fresh operas, the "Tancredi," "Barbiero," "Gazza Ladra," "Semiramide," and "William Tell." Bellini and Donizetti both flourished, wrote and died, while Mercadante was laboriously pursuing his career. It will be seen, then, that the man whose death we now record had to compete with the greatest of modern operatic composers, and when they died, or, as in the case of Rossini, ceased to write, he found himself face to face with the rising popularity of Verdi and Pirella. That under such circumstances his operas should be known at all, shows that he was a composer of genuine ability.