

finds out that "Ampton" means Wolverhampton, that "Caster" means Doncaster or Lancaster, and at his journey's end, that "Lunnon" means London. Now there is nothing so slovenly as this on the Grand Trunk; the names of all the stations are intelligibly sounded from Sarnia to Toronto, and Toronto to Montreal, if we except "Vaudreuil," and certainly that is a puzzler. No slight acquaintance with French caught at school, and renewed by an occasional trip to Paris would ever help you, and you would never dream of "Foudroy," meaning "Vaudreuil" any more than the *habitant* in Bonsecour's market would believe you wanted to buy his potatoes if you asked for "Pommes de terre" instead of "Patates."

An English cockney, too, just set down in Canada does not get on well, until he mends his elocution. We recollect a conceited individual who had just landed as he said from the "Hango Saxon," who thought no small beer of himself, and therefore asked for a "glass of hail." The puzzled look of the sprightly hostess of a country inn was a good subject for Wilkie. We had half a mind to tell her to fetch some iced water, as the nearest approach to "hail" that could be suggested, when her husband, formerly a White-chapel butcher, came to the rescue, and quickly brought a foaming glass of beer, remarking that Lachino beer was equal to "Lunnon hail." He had not quite forgotten all his own cockneyism, but our new acquaintance soon floored him, with "Do you know where I could find a 'Collage Horny,' with a nice little farm attached?" After a considerable ransacking of our brains we guessed he meant *cottage ornée*, and we guessed right. Alas! a plain shanty was the real want, and the cockney and his *cottage horny* came to grief for lack of funds to keep up his notion of cheap colonial life.

It would be easy to deal with words coined in America, but the subject is rather trite, nor do such words as "Goaleadateness" and the like take deep root in Canada; most of them are already weeded out of our vocabulary, and, now the reciprocity treaty is at an end, we would take every newspaper heavily that used them. Word-making is nevertheless a trade, and if we may judge by the advertisers, the demand exceeds the supply. The poets who write for Warren's blacking, or for Moses in the Minorities, have in the long run been remunerated as well as was the poet laureate by the publishers of "Cornhill." The renowned George Robins, the immortal knight of the hammer, it was stated, employed a double first class man to compose his advertisements—many of which are worthy of preservation as "curiosities of literature;" they were unique and inimitable—take for instance the description of Fonthill Abbey printed as an introduction to the particulars of the sale of that magnificent property. It was the best specimen of advertising ever issued before or since, and proved so successful that it was used as a precedent for similar sales ever after. These poets were also entrusted with the manufacture of new words for quack medicines; and Rowland paid handsomely for his famous word "Kalydor," which has proved an inimitable trademark for upwards of fifty years. The ingredients may have been imitated, but the name could not be, and that was just what was wanted. Almost all other trade words are mongrels half Greek, half Latin, with some French and English compounds, but a classic can find no fault with "Kalydor." What would he say to "Hydropult," manufactured to mean "an engine to throw water?" The word-coiner had "catapult" probably in his head, which is "an engine anciently used to throw stones." But as catapults is a Latin word, he did not help himself by affixing a bit of Greek. Probably he thought a catapult was "an engine to throw cats," and he might just as well have said "waterpult" at once. Then we have Eccaleobions, "I call out life," Antigrapelos "skin against wet," the North American Penetanguishene "shifting sand," "Tyndinaga," "Orilia," &c., being just as intelligible and far more euphonious. Then we have compounds of French and Latin to please your fair readers, "sanslectum crinolines," and "pompadour japons, and a host of others, clos-

ing with "opponax," which used to mean "a stinking gum with an acrid taste," now advertised as a modern perfume.

If we are to have new words, let us make them of dry well-seasoned material from the dead languages, as "viaduct," a word admissible anywhere; and yet only co-eval with railroad engineering, at any rate unknown to Johnson. But when we go to living language, we make a mongrel, take "reliable" for instance. How the press, the legislature, and the clergy came to countenance this word (and in Canada they all have), we know not—it was not wanted. Of course by "reliable" is meant "worthy of reliance," just as by "pitiable" is meant "worthy of pity," but there is no substantive *rely* but *reliance*, and it should be "relianceable." Admit "reliable," and a litter of mongrels would soon follow, as "defiable," "repliable," &c., &c.

The Saturday Readers will begin to say:

"What's in a name? that which we call a rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet;"

just as if Shakespere had a contempt for words and names. At all events, this hackneyed quotation is often used for that end. The reverse is the fact. Upon the force of names (and names are but words), upon "Montague and Capulet" hangs the whole drama of Romeo and Juliet.

BLASÉ.

#### BRITISH AMERICAN LITERATURE.

We understand that the Rev. J. D. B. has been for some time engaged in an extensive and useful work, the idea of which was originated some years ago by the highest of our Lower Canadian educationists—viz., "The Battles of the World in Ancient and Modern Times," arranged in alphabetical order, and forming a dictionary of reliable information, drawn in *extenso* from the best of histories and despatches. It is also intended to give a chronological appendix of the battles and principal events connected with the different countries of the ancient and modern world. The book will consist of at least 500 pages, and be clearly printed and neatly bound.

PROFESSOR BELL, F.G.S., the able young Canadian geologist, of Queen's College, Kingston, is preparing for the press a scientific treatise on petroleum, having special reference to Canada.

MR. FENERTY, of Sackville, Nova Scotia, has in contemplation the publication of a collection of his miscellaneous pieces in verse; and L'ABBE CASGRAIN, of Quebec, who has already made important contributions to our rising and growing literature, is engaged in writing a life of the late Mr. F. X. GARNEAU, the historian of Canada.

#### QUEBEC LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society, the following gentlemen were elected to conduct the business of the Society for 1866:—

President—E. D. Ashe, Esq., Capt. R.N.  
Vice-Presidents—Rev. J. Douglas, Wm. Jas. Anderson, Esq., M.D., James M. Lemoine, Esq., and Hector Fabre, Esq.

Treasurer—Henry Fry, Esq.  
Corresponding Secretary—W. D. Campbell, Esq.

Council Secretary—C. L. J. Fitzgerald, Esq.  
Librarian—J. W. Cook, Esq.  
Curator of Museum—S. Sturton, Esq.  
Curator of Apparatus—Theophile Bedard, Esq.  
Additional Members of Council—C. G. Holt, Esq., Jas. Stevenson, Esq., Thelesphore Fournier, Esq., and Dr. Marsden.

Assistant Secretary—Wm. Couper.

#### LITERARY GOSSIP.

Temple Bar has, we understand, been sold to Mr. Bentley for the sum of £2,500 sterling.

Yet another translation of Homer. It is said that King Otho is employing his leisure in translating the Iliad.

A New Weekly Journal, similar in character to the *Field*, has just made its appearance in London. It is entitled "Land and Water: a Journal of Field Sports," and the department of Fisheries and practical Natural History will be conducted by Mr. Frank Buckland.

We see it stated that a vast collection of letters, notes, and memoranda, said to fill 10 chests, illustrative of the literary life and labours of Walter Savage Landor, has been handed over to Mr. John Forster as the materials from which to write the poet's life.

A London publishing firm has been recently trying to prevail on the Poet Laureate to permit the introduction into England of the American editions of his works, alleging as a reason that they are quite as well if not better printed, and that they are so very much cheaper, than the English editions. Another reason adduced for their introduction there, we believe, was the desirability of circulating Mr. Tennyson's writings amongst the working classes. Notwithstanding these representations, the Laureate has declined to permit American reprints of his poems to circulate in England.

Mr. Charles Knight is about to re-issue, in cheap weekly numbers, his excellent "English Cyclopædia." It is to commence with the division of "Arts and Sciences," and will be followed immediately by "Biography," "Geography," and "Natural History;" all increased in value by means of supplements now being prepared. We read in the prospectus:—"To the members of mechanics' and literary and scientific institutions, working men's clubs, and other associations for the purchase and common use of otherwise inaccessible works of research and reference, this mode of re-issue seems particularly well adapted; whilst there are, doubtless many individuals who, unable to pay large sums at once, would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity, by easy payments at short intervals, of possessing so useful and extensive a work as "The English Cyclopædia."

An enterprising dealer in London announces a volume elegantly "got up," with beautiful vignette monograms, colored engravings, etc., entitled "Essay and Essence," containing a poem, "Odor of Hybla; or, Floral Sprites," and says that "the volume, besides its literary and artistic attractions, contains within it a casket of new and choice perfumes appropriately called "Floral Sprites." This is an unusual combination of the intellectual with the material, but not altogether an unpleasant one.

An "Annotated Book of Common Prayer" is announced for speedy publication in London. It is to be produced on an enlarged scale of critical research and comment, more thorough than any previous work of the kind, and worthy of the present state of liturgical knowledge, useful alike to the clergy and the laity. It is edited by the Rev. John Blunt, assisted by various writers of eminence. It will be carefully printed from the "Sealed Book." The original texts of all parts that have been derived from ancient sources, both Latin and old English, will be set side by side with the English of the Prayer Book. It will also contain historical ritual and expository foot-notes, separate essays on important subjects, historical introductions to each division of the Prayer Book, and illustrations of the last revision from the MSS. of Bishop Cosin and Archbishop Sancroft.

The Irish "Literary Man" has come with other things to the surface, during the Fenian trials in Dublin. The chief of these, named O'Keefe, put in a plea for mitigation of punishment, on the ground that he only wrote what he could get paid for, and he was especially paid for asserting that the country was oppressed and discontented. Further, this projector of a republic complained that the Government did not interfere with the Fenian press, and prevent the writers getting into trouble, by a process of *warnings*, such as are employed by the Imperial Government of France. To an advocate of the liberty of the press, this complaint assumes a comic aspect. We must add, that the *Dublin Evening Mail* properly protests against O'Keefe being considered as a type of the "Literary Man" in Ireland.