

August 15th, 1890.]

THE WORLD ENERGY AND ITS SELF-CONSERVATION. By Wm. M. Bryant. Chicago: S. C. Griggs and Company.

This book has had somewhat the same effect on us as Browning's "Sordello" is said to have had on Douglas Jerrold. He was recovering from a severe illness and had been forbidden to read. During his wife's absence, however, from his chamber, he transgressed the doctor's instructions and read a page or two of "Sordello". Unable to understand it, he concluded that something dreadful had happened to his mind. On his wife's return, she noticed his troubled face, and asked for an explanation. He told her, "Oh! that need not trouble you." She replied, "I don't understand a word of it myself." "Then," said he, much relieved, "thank God I'm not an idiot." "The World Energy and its Self-Conservation" may be very clever and very necessary to the well-being of humanity, but we must confess that we don't understand it. Here for instance is the kind of stuff that puzzles us. "In every act of knowing, whether that act be predominantly perceptive or predominantly conceptive, there is necessarily involved not merely a reference, implicit or explicit of object to object, but also a reference of every object to a self as perceiving and as conceiving." No doubt this is quite true, and yet, thank God, we are not idiots.

WE have received "The Statistical Year Book of Canada," one of the most useful compilations by the Government Press. It is a mine of valuable information.

WE have received number eight of *Knowledge*, a weekly magazine devoted to supplying the latest information on various subjects. It forms a very useful appendix to a good cyclopædia.

WE have to thank Mr. Geo. W. Childs, of Philadelphia, for a copy of his concise and neat little book containing recollections of General Grant. It will be read with interest by every American and many Canadians.

ALDEN's "Manifold Cyclopædia"—vol. XXII., Legal-McClure—has reached us. The work seems to maintain the standard hitherto attained while in this volume the balancing of the space, which was out of proportion, is more even.

WE have received from the Humboldt Publishing Company, of New York, numbers 124-127, inclusive, of their Humboldt Library. The treatises are on "Darwinism and Politics," by David Ritchie, M.A.; "Administrative Nihilism," by Professor Huxley; "Physiognomy and Expression," by Paolo Mantegazza in two parts, and the "Quintessence of Socialism," by Professor Schaffle, the translation being by Bernard Bosanquet.

THE August *Andover* begins its issue with an article by Professor Everett, and Dr. Tiffany contributes a heavy article on "The Westminster Confession and the Thirty-nine Articles." Lieutenant Wadhams considers the treatment of sailors in the U. S. navy, and Professor Taylor and Rev. Charles Beecher also write. Social economics, notes from England and the usual departments serve to fill the number.

PLENTY of useful information can always be gleaned from *Queries*. The current issue contains a short essay by Minnie C. Ballard on a somewhat unknown Swedish poet, Tegner, and his great poem, "The Frithiof Saga." Hans Makart, the Austrian painter, is the subject of illustration this month, and a strong, rugged face is his. Albert Dürer is told of and "What is a Lyric" affords an opportunity of considering that master of lyric art, Shelley.

DR. J. G. BOURINOT, our most distinguished constitutional authority in Canada, has an exhaustive article in the July number of the *American Academy of Political and Social Science*, a quarterly magazine published in the interests of economics, politics and sociology. Dr. Bourinot's paper is an able study on comparative politics and shows clearly the divergencies that exist in the political systems of the Dominion and the United States, and the cause to which they may be traced.

MRS. DELAND's serial "Sidney," now running in the *Atlantic Monthly*, reaches a crisis in the heroine's career and Miss Murfree's "Felicia" continues its even tenor. The feature of the number is Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge's article on "International Copyright." Whittier sends a three-page poem on the town of Haverhill, with nothing particularly excellent in it, and Oliver Wendell Holmes ends his installment of "Over the Teacups," with some sparkling verses, "The Broomstick Train." Ellen Terry Johnson sends an amusing sketch, full of wit, of Madame Cornuel and Madame de Coulanges. Professor N. S. Shaler seeks to explain how the college could be brought into closer touch with the aim of the ordinary student, viz., the gaining of that necessity—a living.

THE August *Forum* opens with a consideration (it is hardly a criticism) of Bellamy's "Looking Backward," by Goldwin Smith. Prince Kropotkin writes enthusiastically upon "The Possibilities of Agriculture," and Dr. Brown-Séquard, of elixir fame asks, "Have we two Brains or one?" If physiologists disagree how shall unlearned men answer? "The Future of Fiction" affords James Sully an interesting subject. The "Formative Influences" paper in this number is by Professor Peabody, and a paper on the "Décolleté in Modern Life" is signed Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. "The Discontent in Newfoundland" is a fair statement of the whole question by Donald Morison. Other papers are by Doctor Lyman Abbott, Senator Chandler and R. J. Burdette.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

CLINTON SCOLLARD, the poet, having married Miss Georgia Brown, of Jackson, Mich., July 3, has sailed with his wife for Europe, and will probably remain abroad for more than a year.

THE Humane Education Society of Boston offers \$250 for the best essay in favour of vivisection, and \$250 for the best essay against it. President Angell, 19 Milk street, Boston, will furnish particulars.

PEN AND PRESS, "a twelve-page monthly magazine devoted to the interests of authors and writers," is to be published by Hicks and Whitley, Rochester, N. Y. The first number is promised for September.

H. C. BUNNER has written a series of short stories for *Puck*, under the general title of "Short Sixes; stories to be read while the candle burns." The first appears in *The Midsummer Puck*; the others will follow, one a week, throughout the summer.

ABOUT the end of the month a new weekly magazine, called *The Young Canadian*, published in Montreal, will make its bow to the public. From a knowledge of its conductors we have little hesitation in predicting the success we heartily wish to it.

AN English edition of *The Ladies' Home Journal* is to be brought out in London on a scale never before attempted by an American magazine, and Mr. Cyrus H. K. Curtis, proprietor of the *Journal*, and Mr. Edward W. Bok, the editor, sailed for Europe last week to perfect arrangements.

THE new editor of the *Atlantic* prefers the view across the elms on the common instead of that over the graves in the Granary burying ground, which was the view the desk of his predecessor commanded from choice. Now every one will watch to see what effect this change will have on the *Atlantic*.

THE last volume of H. H. Bancroft's "History of California" will be issued in San Francisco shortly. It reviews the material, political and social development of the state for the last forty years, speaking plainly about the rage for money-getting and the standard of wealth set up in society.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD has now completed his new epic, "The Light of the World." It comprises six books of blank verse, interspersed with lyrical pieces; an explanatory introduction is prefixed. Sir Edwin has already sold all American rights in his work, we understand, to Mr. Henry Deakin.

THE death is announced of M. Marpon, "the discount book-seller" and publisher of Paris, noted for the editions of French classics which he published at wonderfully low prices. The fortunes of the house of Marpon and Flammarion were made by the writings of Camille Flammarion, the astronomer.

A BOOK which ought to interest all American nature-lovers is in the press of the Putnams. This is Mr. C. S. Newhall's "Trees of Northeastern America," a volume so prepared and illustrated as to help the most ignorant reader to identify all the native and naturalized species in the region named.

"TALLEYRAND'S MEMOIRS" are at last to be published, and the long deferred hope of a multitude of readers in all parts of the world is at the point of being realized. Two volumes of the memoirs will be published before the end of the present year by Calmann Lévy, and three more will soon follow, completing the work.

ANOTHER of the staff-artists of *Punch* is about to court fame in the character of author. Mr. Linley Sambourne is about to start on a yachting expedition to Scandinavian waters, and proposes giving the public the result of his observations, recorded with both pen and pencil, on his return. The title of the book will probably be "The Land of the Vikings."

THE first of *The Speaker's* critical notices of authors, to which we referred last week, is devoted to Cardinal Newman, with whom it deals as one of the great authors of the time. His great literary characteristics, the writer remarks, are "his force, his fancy, his oratorical rush upon his opponent," and the solid thought which lies at the bottom of all he says.

"DANS LES TÉNÉBRES DE L'AFRIQUE" is the French equivalent for "In Darkest Africa," chosen by the translator who is understood to be M. Elie Reclus, brother of the geographer. The German title is the more literal, "Im Dunkelsten Afrika." The books are published at 30 frs. and 22 marks respectively.

ANOTHER volume of hitherto unpublished writings of De Quincey is in preparation—compiled from the work of De Quincey during the time he was editor of the *Westmoreland Gazette*. Philosophical, political, and literary topics are discussed in these essays, now dug out of the files of a long forgotten journal.

J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY desire it to be known that the statement that they have discontinued the publication of non-copyrighted books is entirely false. They have, on the contrary, just completed arrangements with a number of foreign authors and publishers for a simultaneous issue of their works in the United States.

FROM Cairo, by way of Germany, is reported the discovery of a Coptic manuscript which contains much new light upon the Council of Ephesus in 431. It consists of a series of letters written from Ephesus by Cyril, Patriarch

of Alexandria, to his agent at the Court of Theodosius II., and a report by this agent, Victor the Younger, on the result of his negotiations.

COL. T. W. HIGGINSON thinks that \$5,000 a year is good pay for the average literary worker, and that even less might satisfy a man of modest aims. Thereupon the *Lounger* of the *Critic* asks him, "How many literary workers make so much per year? And is not that sum, or a larger one, made annually by many a physician or lawyer who is intellectually no better equipped than men of letters whose earnings average less?"

THE story of Mr. Jephson's nine months of travel in the Soudan, while in Africa with Mr. Stanley, will be narrated by Mr. Jephson himself in a volume to be issued this fall. Mr. Stanley has described Mr. Jephson as "a pronounced Eminite," so that his book will give a more favourable account of the Pasha than does Stanley's. It is expected that Mr. Rose Troup's account of the rear guard (Major Barttelot's) will be published about the same time.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN propose to complete their cheap reissue of Charles Kingsley's works by the addition of nine volumes of sermons, to appear at monthly intervals between now and February next. The entire series will thus consist of twenty-nine volumes. We doubt, says the *London Academy*, whether there is any other author recently dead, novelist or not, whose popularity can be attested by such evidence.

IN London last month there were sold at auction some forty MSS. of works chiefly by Wilkie Collins, together with a few by Dickens. A collection relating to the play of "The Frozen Deep," the joint production of the two authors, was knocked down for £300; the original MS. of the "Woman in White" fetched £320, that of "No Name" £55, "Armada" £101, "The Moonstone" £125, and "The New Magdalen" £22. The MS. of "The Perils of Certain English Prisoners," the Christmas *Household Words* for 1857, by Dickens and Collins, with notes and letters by the former, was sold for £200. The total of the sale reached over £1,300.

THE business hitherto carried on by the Dominion Illustrated Publishing Company (Limited) has been purchased and will be continued by the Sabiston Lithographic and Publishing Company, of which Mr. Richard White is President and Mr. Alex. Sabiston is Managing-Director. It is hoped to add to the interest and value of the paper, both from a pictorial and literary standpoint, and to extend and improve the business in its various departments. The business will be carried on in the meantime at the old premises, 73 St. James Street, Montreal, under the management of Mr. J. P. Edwards, to whom all communications in connection with accounts due the old company and new business should be addressed.

DR. HOLMES, Mr. Lowell, Mr. Whittier—in fact, all but three of the surviving "Forty Immortals" elected by the readers of *The Critic* in 1884—have taken part in the election of successors to the nine members deceased within the past six years. A detailed report of the balloting in *The Critic* of July 19 shows the result to be as follows, the names being arranged according to the number of votes received: Richard Watson Gilder, Rev. Dr. Phillips Brooks, Prof. Charles Eliot Norton, Prof. Francis J. Child, Frank R. Stockton, Henry Charles Lea, Dr. Andrew D. White, Joel Chandler Harris and Dr. Horace Howard Furness. Dr. Brooks and Prof. Norton tied for second place, and Mr. Lea and Dr. White for fifth.

IT is said that Sir Walter Scott used to pay \$750 a year on letters and parcels received by post. Once a bulky package came to Sir Walter all the way from the United States, for which the famous Scotch author paid something like five pounds sterling postage. He tore off the wrapper, when out fell a MS. called "The Cherokee Lovers," sent by a lady of New York, who requested Scott to read and correct it, write a prologue, have it produced on the stage of Drury Lane, and negotiate for a copyright. In about a fortnight another large, bulky letter arrived, C. O. D., calling for five pounds sterling postage, and this the author thoughtlessly received and tore open. Out jumped a duplicate copy of "The Cherokee Lovers," with a letter from the same lady, saying that, as the weather had been stormy, and the mails so uncertain, she thought it prudent to send a duplicate, as the first copy might have been lost. This little affair cost the gifted gentleman fifty dollars.

HAROLD FREDERIC, whose novels, "Seth's Brother's Wife" and "The Lawton Girl," have recently come from the press of the Scribners, is an industrious and energetic literary worker, and, although only thirty-four years of age, has had a remarkable and interesting career. In spite of early disadvantages, he educated himself, and worked his way through the editorial offices of the *Utica Observer* and *Albany Express* to the position of special London correspondent to the *New York Times*. Many of the scenes and incidents which the novelist portrays in his books are drawn from his own life in the interior of New York State, where he was born and spent his boyhood days. Frederic now has but little work to do, and for it receives a most comfortable salary. He has plenty of leisure time at his disposal, and this he devotes to his books. He is a careful and painstaking writer, and several of the best literary critics of London believe that he possesses a reserve power which he has yet to show to the literary world. His position gives him admission to the best literary circles of London, and he is very popular.