

IN EXCELSIS.

At evening's close a warrior youth
Came toiling o'er the mountain's crest:
The warrior pilgrim sighed—"In truth
"I am a-weary. Give me rest!"

A tattered banner in his hand
A tale of deadly fight expressed;
Sunk his tired footprints in the sand;
A weary wanderer seeking rest.

His broken sword—his armor's rust,
Of the World's brunt had borne the test:
His features were befouled with dust:
Faintly he murmured, "Let me rest!"

"The evening wanes; the dying sun
"Is sinking lurid in the West;
"Life's day is done. Life's fight is won.
"I am a-weary. Let me rest!"

A marble edifice he found;
Entered a self-invited guest:
Sank in a swoon upon the ground,
"I am a-weary. Give me rest!"

And as in pain he lay, and groaned,
A maiden asked him his behest:
Lifting his heavy eyes he moaned,
"I am a-weary. Let me rest!"

Then, as he lay, an ice cold kiss
Upon his lips the maiden prest:
Softly he murmured, "Who is this
"That gives the weary wanderer rest?"

Ice was her touch and chill her breath;
She lulled the tired head on her breast,
And softly murmured, "I am Death,
"Tis I who give the weary rest."

Then on his vision rose a city,
The end of his world-weary quest:
And o'er the gates, thrown wide in pity:
"Enter Ye Weary. Here Is Rest."

The maiden left him at the portal
Of the bright mansions of the blest,
To sojourn in a youth immortal
In Heaven's serene, eternal rest.

Montreal.

NED P. MAH.

Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

SYNODS, CONFERENCES, ETC.—The seventeenth session of the Ontario Annual Conference of the British Methodist Episcopal Church opened at the Bethel Chapel, St. Catharines, on the 21st ult., and continued until the 25th. The next Conference will be held in Hamilton. The Synod of the Church of Scotland of the Lower Provinces met at Pictou on the 24th ult. The Rev. Donald McRae was appointed Moderator for the ensuing year. On the same day the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces met at Truro. The Rev. Isaac Murray was elected Moderator. The Synod of the Diocese of Quebec (Anglican) opened at Quebec on Tuesday.

NEW CHURCHES.—The foundation stone of a new Presbyterian Church was laid in Paisley, Ont., on the 24th ult. The corner stone of a new church at Napanee, Ont., was laid on Dominion Day, by P. G. M. Bro. Simpson, of Kingston.

CLERICAL NEWS.—At the last council of the R. C. Bishops, recently held in Quebec, it was decided to erect a new Bishopric at Sherbrooke, the jurisdiction of which would include sections of the dioceses of Three Rivers and St. Hyacinthe. The geographical position of the Eastern Townships has necessitated this ecclesiastical addition. The names of three candidates for the new See have been despatched to Rome. The Bishop of Huron sailed from Quebec for England last Saturday. Dean Boomer is appointed Commissary to administer the affairs of the diocese during his absence. It is stated that the Rev. W. B. Curran, of St. Stephen's Church (Anglican), Montreal, has received a most pressing call to Galt, Ont., which he will probably accept. The Rev. Mr. Carson is leaving Kingston, and the Rev. Mr. Lewis, (Primitive Methodist) of the same place removes to Toronto. The Rev. Mr. Stephenson of the Elgin St. W. M. Church, Ottawa, preached his farewell sermon last Sunday. The Rev. Alexander Sutherland, of Toronto, is about to remove to Montreal.

Art and Literature.

The following prominent English *littérati* are announced as about to visit the United States and Canada during the coming season: Wilkie Collins, R. H. Proctor, F. R. S.; Gerald Massey, Edward Jenkins, author of *Ginx's Baby*; Hepworth Dixon, Hon. W. Parsons, Prof. Pepper, J. M. Bellet, Mrs. Scott Siddons, and Charles Bradlaugh. It is also expected that Tom Hood, Justin McCarthy, Tom Taylor, and possibly John Bright will be induced to visit us.

The Lord Clerk Register of Scotland has selected and directed the publication of facsimiles of the national manuscripts of Scotland. The work is making as rapid progress as could be expected under so novel a process as duplicating; translations and notes assist the student.

Disraeli, if not made Premier, will visit the United States in autumn, and make the tour of the globe by way of San Francisco.

A halfpenny morning journal of advanced Radical opinions is to appear shortly in London.

There are halfpennies in the world worth £14 5s. That was the price which a specimen of King Alfred the Great's coinage fetched at the sale of the late Mr. Bergne's collection, and collectors may be of opinion that such a halfpenny was cheap at the figure. A double sovereign of Edward VI. changed hands for £165, and a silver sixpence of Queen Elizabeth for £41. A Queen Anne's guinea went for the very respectable sum of £42 10s., and two of her farthings for £5 and £7.

Baron Triquet's statue of his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort, which is to surmount the handsome sarcophagus recently placed in the Albert Memorial Chapel at Windsor Castle, has just arrived from the baron's Paris atelier. The figure, which is recumbent, is executed in white statuary marble, and represents the Prince in full armour, with shirt of mail. The effigy is bareheaded, and round the neck is the chain and badge of the Garter. The right hand grasps a half-drawn sword, and at the feet is the Prince's familiar greyhound. Two angels partly support the head, which is lying upon a tasselled pillow. In gilt old English letters round the sides of the label there is an inscription as follows: "Albert, the Prince Consort, born August XXVI., MDCCCXIX.; died December XIV., MDCCCLXI.; buried in the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore. I have fought the good fight; I have finished my course.—2 Tim. iv. 7." The length of the sculpture is 8 ft., and the breadth 3 ft. 6 in.

Another agitation is being made on the subject of transporting to England the famous Pharaoh's Needle, the property of the British nation, which now lies neglected and half buried in sand near Alexandria. Mr. J. L. Haddon, of the Ottoman Engineers, writes from Constantinople: "It is a thousand pities that this magnificent monolith, which was given to the British nation so many years since, should lie unheeded in its sandy bed, situated in a stonecutter's yard in the environs of Alexandria. Up to the present day it has marvellously escaped injury; but surely it is hardly wise to count for eternity on such good luck. Therefore, seeing that it can be transported easily enough to England, and at but a moderate expense, surely some philanthropical antiquarian will come forward with the £3,000 necessary for its salvation. The obelisk, which is about 60 feet long, and square in section, is buried about eight feet deep in the sand. Its weight, I believe, is about 250 tons."

The next development of woman's rights will be that they take off their hats and bonnets at church, at lecture, at concert and opera, just as men do. This is recommended also upon the ground of convenience to the rest of the audience. Some one who has been suffering from the prevailing style of ladies' hat at church, explains his sentiments thus:

"We go to church. We sit in a back seat. Between us and the preacher are twelve seats. On these seats sit twelve ladies. On each lady's head is a hat. The one crowning the lady immediately before us is high, and obscures our view of the minister; the view of number one is obstructed by number two's hat, and so on. Number twelve has a clear view of the preacher, but nervously moves her head from side to side; this inconvenience number eleven, who moves her brain-box also; number ten follows suit, and so do all of us in turn—but have immediately to shift again. We desire to see all hats, bonnets, and head-dresses left in the hat-room at our church, or put in the pocket, or in the muff, or under the seat, or on each lady's thumb, during all future services."

No better illustration could be given of what may be accomplished by a single earnest woman than is furnished in the history of the labours of Miss Rankin in Northern Mexico. In the year 1846, while living in the State of Mississippi, she learned from our returning soldiers, facts which interested her in the moral condition of the Mexican people. In consequence of the prohibition of Protestant teaching she was unable to enter Mexican territory, and therefore established a school for Mexican children at Brownsville, on the American side. Before long Bibles were passing over the line and circulating freely among the Mexican people. In 1854 Miss Rankin built a Protestant seminary for Mexican girls in Brownsville. In 1860 religious freedom was established in Mexico, and a mission organized in Monterey. With funds raised in the United States by herself, Miss Rankin built a mission-house in that city at the cost of \$15,000. Some of her Protestant converts offering to go out as Bible readers, she came again to the United States, and obtained chiefly from ladies of New England, subscriptions for their support. Churches are now scattered over an area of four or five hundred miles, with from twelve to sixty members each, and the way is prepared for the spread of Protestant Christianity throughout Northern Mexico. The missions have recently been transferred by Miss Rankin to the care of the American Board.

We copy the following from the *Globe*, which among other good qualities deserves special praise for the concern it manifests in questions affecting ladies. Its criticism is almost as much called for in Canada as at home. As for the other side of the line the less said the better:—"This is about the time when the most cunning and abstruse invention of *Le Follet* become realised by the art of the milliners. The illustrated papers already show signs of the spring changes in pictures of women fearfully and wonderfully dressed. To our uninitiated eyes it is evident that economy in amount of materials is not combined with artistic elegance. But we regard with dismay a movement on the increase for the excessive decoration of little boys and girls. Costumes of a certain kind are, it may be admitted, pretty and picturesque upon children, but it is almost a sad sight to notice how this pardonable affectation is abused. Lilliput sailors are very well, Highlanders from seven to the age of the perambulator contribute an interest to a stroll in Hyde Park, but a line should be drawn somewhere. In former days, when the *Spectator* furnished light reading for a limited circle, ladies who desired to be accompanied by live walking or carriage ornaments usually purchased a small black page for this purpose, and gave him charge of a dog in the Mall and a monkey in the house. Now many fashionable persons turn their nurseries to account with the same end. The young victims are stuck into stiff clothes of so elaborate a design and pattern that spoiling them—one of the chief natural pleasures of tender years—is quite out of the question. As for the small folk of the other sex, they are getting to be as intricately attired as the famous dolls in the Burlington arcade, and are encouraged in a love for finery and frippery which ought to console any one who fears that the coming woman will be too intellectual for the companionship of the average member of Parliament."

A Cincinnati antiquarian is about to erect in that city a grand art hall, which he will fill with antiquities, rare gems, books, pictures, etc., etc. He is now in Europe collecting materials.

Prof. Tyndall's American lectures have been published in London in one volume, crown 8vo.

The *Athenaeum* understands that Joaquin Miller is correcting for the press a prose work, the character of which is autobiographical. In it he gives an account of his experience of the Modoc Indians, of which he entertains a favourable opinion.

An antique ring, bearing the inscription "Ethelswitha," has been found by a labourer in a field near Sherburn, Tadcaster, and it is supposed to have belonged to the wife of Alfred the Great.

M. Michelet, the historical writer, now completely recovered, is preparing to go and finish in Switzerland his "*Histoire du Dix-neuvième Siècle*."

Mr. Wilkie Collins will leave England in August for his projected lecturing tour in America.

Honorary degrees will be conferred shortly at Oxford upon Mr. Lowell (the author of the "*Biglow Papers*") and Professor Tyndall.

"Autumn in the Sierra" is the name of Bierstadt's new painting, which is now on exhibition in San Francisco. It is a large canvas, six feet by ten, and is an actual view on the head waters of the south fork of King River, with Mount Brewer in the distance. The point of view is 8,000 feet above the sea, overlooking the narrow valley of the river, seen winding and foaming far below, while the peak rises 5,000 or 6,000 feet above. The special characteristics of the scenery peculiar to great elevations in the Sierra are clearly and finely drawn, and the whole painting impresses one by its unity, simplicity, and grandeur.

The *Daily News* understands that the autobiography which Mr. Mill has left behind him, with instructions for its immediate publication, is comprised within very narrow limits, and will make a volume not much larger than his essay "On Liberty."

Mr. W. F. Myers, Chinese secretary to the British legation at Peking, has finished, in manuscript, a dictionary of biographical, historical, and mythological references, embracing the whole of Chinese literature from the earliest period to the present century.

It is stated that Edmund Yates will take up his residence in the United States.

M. Kenan has published his new work, "*The Antichrist*." It embraces the period between the accession of Nero and the completion of the Apocalypse.

M. Faure, the singer, has just parted with his collection of modern French pictures, which sold for over £20,000. A Delacroix brought more than £3,000.

Major Knollys has in the press a handy dictionary of military terms. This work, which is to be of pocket size, and to cost only one shilling, is intended chiefly for the information of newspaper writers and readers, who, in dealing with military subjects, and in reading accounts of military operations, sometimes come across terms the meaning of which they do not understand.

It is announced that Mr. Hepworth Dixon will leave shortly for America to deliver a course of lectures upon the Spanish Republic and the new German Empire.

Mr. Guizot, who is now eighty-six years of age, is the oldest member of the French Academy.

Music and the Drama.

"The New Magdalen" has made an immense hit at the London Olympic. It is an entirely one-act piece, the interest wholly centering in Miss Ada Cavendish in the title rôle. A play from the pen of the Earl of Desart will shortly be put upon the boards at this theatre.

There has been unusual excitement in London theatrical circles recently respecting the *début* of a lady named Clive, who was to have made her first appearance on any stage as Constance, in "*King John*," at the Queen's Theatre, on the 21st ult. Miss Clive, though she has no rich or professional connections, and has never acted on the stage in her life, has impressed some of the leading *littérati*, critics, and artists with the idea that she is a dramatic genius. She even did more than this. Half-an-hour's recitation on the stage of the Court Theatre induced the shrewd managers of that establishment to take a theatre and organise a company especially for Miss Clive, whom she has engaged for three years at handsome and rising salaries. We shall be anxious to hear how the new star acquits herself.

In a new French opera on the subject of the career of Jeanne d'Arc, the composer, regardless of history, does not burn his heroine at the stake, but gives her a long and happy life.

A very small actor in a Parisian theatre lately achieved a great success by very simple means. In a piece entitled *Aristophanes*, at the Château d'Eu, a little boy, almost a baby, appeared on the stage for a short time. This performer had his admirers among the public, one of whom expressed her approval of the tiny actor by throwing, not a bouquet, but a packet of bonbons at his feet. The little creature, oblivious of the necessity for making responsive bows or of obeying stage directions, instantly sat down by the footlights and began to devour these delicacies, while the curtain falling behind him left him alone with the audience, who warmly appreciated the incident.

On the night of the opera in honour of the Shah's visit to London, there was to have been a grand procession through the Floral Hall. The price of stalls was quoted a week previous at six guineas each.

Mr. Mapleson, of Her Majesty's Opera, who, like all managers, is pestered to death by aspirants for theatrical honours, has hit upon the "happy thought" of allowing unknown Marias, Grisias, Tamburinis, Lablaches, and Albonis to try their powers on the stage of Drury Lane Theatre every Tuesday afternoon, in presence of himself and his *maestro al piano*. This capital movement may some day lead to the discovery of a vocal Koh-i-noor.

"L'Oncle Sam" has again been licensed for performance in France.

Mdme. Alboni has decided upon settling in Italy.

It is proposed to erect in London a Jewish college for the instruction of the theory and instruction of music, and the training of choristers for the synagogues.

A Paris contemporary gives us an amusing account of theatricals at Cairo. One evening, *par ordre très supérieur*, the manager incorporated a *can-can* into Sardou's comedy of *Fernande*. Another time the *Grande Duchesse* was played in evening dress, owing to the non-arrival of the costumes, while one night the Khedive arriving at the close of the last act of *Orphée aux Enfers*, ordered it to be played over again. The company refused, but were ultimately mollified by a *dérouleur* of 840l. The Khedive, thus obtaining his own way, went to sleep during the first act.

The Paris *Événement* states that the goods of the actor Frederick Lemaitre have been seized for debt, and are about to be sold. The journal adds that to permit such an act would be more disgraceful to the theatres and more painful to the public than to the comedian himself.

One of the humorous papers of Paris relates the following:—"Monsieur X—was comfortably sleeping and snoring in an orchestra stall at a theatre, which it is needless to name. The occupant of the adjoining seat, losing all patience, proceeded to awaken him. 'Since when,' asked X—, rubbing his eyes, 'is it forbidden to sleep at M—'s places?' 'But you make too much noise.' 'I prevent you, perhaps, from hearing the play?' 'On the contrary, you hinder me from sleeping, and force me to hear it; that is what I complain of.'"

Several new oratorios by national composers are to be produced in England during the autumn. Among them are Mr. Arthur Sullivan's "*Light of the World*," Mr. G. A. Macfarren's "*St. John the Baptist*," Sir F. G. Osseley's "*Hagar*," and "*The Raising of Lazarus*," by Mr. J. F. Barnett.

Messrs. Strakosch and Muzio are in Italy engaged in completing their engagements of artistes for an operatic season in New York in the fall, and also to purchase new scenery and costumes for "*Aida*," which is to be brought out in splendid style.

On the 22nd ult. the celebrated composer, Richard Wagner, completed his 60th year. The day was observed in Munich, as elsewhere, by concerts of Wagner music. Some enthusiastic admirers of the maestro on the same day had a slab affixed to the house at Leipzig in which Wagner was born, recording the event of his birth.

Verdi is engaged on an opera, the subject of which is drawn from Victor Sardou's "*Patrie*."

There are forty-seven licensed play-houses in London, of which twenty-one have sprung into existence during the last ten years.

A rumour that Mr. Boucicault is about to produce an original play induces an English writer to ask, "Whose is it?"

Anna Dickinson will certainly appear on the stage next fall upon the opening of the new Boston Globe Theatre.

The *Globe* is the name of a new musical journal, to be published monthly, in New York. The first number makes a fine