

do. For on great emergencies or in the great affairs of one's conduct it is only natural that somewhat similar characters, being governed by the same general emotions, should act on the whole very much alike, while often, on the other hand, a particular difference will make the action of similar characters at a special crisis extremely divergent. Thus the two Newmans, essentially the same in fibre, both re-examining their creed at a certain epoch of life, follow out their own logical conclusions with rigorous precision, one to free thought, the other to the cardinalate, so that outsiders would be apt to say at first sight, "What a striking difference between two brothers!" But the exact identity of tastes and preferences shown in these minute touches of feeling—the choice of an introducer, the phrase about the ears, the selection of a particular flower (it wasn't even a violet, which might occur to anybody, but a spray of plum-bago, in itself quite without sentimental interest), and the unburdening of mind to a particular confidante—all these things abundantly testify to an underlying similarity of mental structure, down to the merest side tracks and by-ways of the brain, which could hardly happen under any other conceivable circumstances than those of actual family identity.—*The Cornhill Magazine.*

#### THE DRINK QUESTION IN IRELAND.

In the year 1881-2 there were thirty-two public houses for every 10,000 of the population of Ireland; in 1884-5 there were 34.3 for the same number. In 1881-2 the arrests for drunkenness for every 10,000 of the population were 153; in 1884-5 there were 188. In 1881-2 the money value of the intoxicating liquors per head consumed by the population was £2 1s. 3d. In 1884-5 it had risen to £2 4s. 4d. If we take the gross sum of the increase of the money value of the intoxicating liquors consumed in Ireland, when these same two years, 1881-2 and 1884-5, are compared, the full significance of these figures can be seen. The total amount spent in 1884-5 on drink is larger by £750,000 than that spent in 1881-2. In three years the drink bill in Ireland rose by £750,000. It is a most singular fact that this sum is almost exactly the total amount of the reductions made under the Land Act of 1881 in those years. Instead of the saving in rent going to raise the moral or material condition of the peasantry, it apparently went into the publicans' pockets. If it is only to be a choice between whiskey and rack-renting, it seems doubtful whether the drink tyrant is not as bad as the most rapacious of landlords. What makes the increase in the consumption of stimulants in Ireland particularly disheartening is the fact that the people in England and Scotland have been spending less and less on intoxicating liquors. For instance, this year's returns show that while England, compared last year, with has reduced her "consumption of spirits as a beverage" by 626,357 gallons, and Scotland has decreased hers by 175,781 gallons, Ireland has increased hers by 210,516 gallons. We learn also from this year's returns that "where an Englishman drinks one bottle of spirits, an Irishman drinks two." In the case of spirits, these figures show nothing as to the consumption of whiskey illicitly distilled. This is in Ireland, however, a very important matter, since last year there were 1,186 cases of illicit distilling against nine in England.—*The Spectator.*

#### EDUCATED RUSSIANS.

In many countries—notably in Germany—lamentations are frequent as to the overcrowding of all the learned professions. The universities are said to produce more highly-trained men than the country can employ, so that many aspirants are yearly doomed to failure, and these are said generally to drift into the ranks of the most extreme political parties. Yet in Germany and elsewhere those who fail have other possibilities of life open before them. In Russia their position is far worse. Almost every man of liberal education who does not possess a private fortune is an official. Many of the large commercial houses receive subventions from the Government, or did so at the time of which we are speaking; all are anxious not to incur unpleasantness by employing any one who is distasteful to the authorities. The men who are unable to complete their education, and those who were viewed with suspicion, were therefore cast helpless into a world which for them, to use a German saying, was nailed down with boards on every side. It was only natural that they should join the extreme party, but their influx into the brotherhood of land and liberty rapidly changed its character. We cannot at present follow the story further. The only idea of the original founders which seems still to have a vital force is the hope that by the offer of large material advantages to the peasants and workmen, the latter may be induced to lend their support to political movements which have now become entirely revolutionary. Many of the Nihilist leaders, however, are already rather Socialists than Liberals, Radicals or Republicans.—*The Saturday Review.*

#### THE OLD FRENCH FORMS OF VERSE.

The new volume of the Canterbury Poets, "Ballads and Rondeaux," bids fair to be as popular on your side of the Atlantic as ours, writes the London correspondent of the November *Book Buyer*. A large number of writers of the old French forms of verse, both American and English, have generously assisted in the construction of the volume. The selection has been made with great taste and rare discretion by Gresson White, who also contributes a preface and an exhaustive introduction. Among the principal contributors may be named Algernon Swinburne, Austin Dobson, Clinton Scollard, W. E. Henley, Mrs. Moulton, John Payne, F. D. Howman, Andrew Lang, H. C. Bunner, Edmund Gosse, C. H. Lusers, Miss Robinson, Brander Matthews, John Moran, Oscar Wilde and Arlo Bates. The perusal of this little book will show to what extent the cultivation of the old French forms of verse has been carried. The adoption of this species of verse dates from about fifteen years ago, and the present volume shows a

great result in the harvest here garnered. We learn from the introduction that the first ballade was written by Austin Dobson, the first villanelle and chant royale by Edmund Gosse, and the first double ballade by W. E. Henley. We are also told that the first triole was published by Mr. Bridges. I am inclined to think that many, many years ago some verses in triole form, or something very much like it, were printed in a little volume by Mortimer Collins. There is a danger, I fancy, of form in verse getting overdone. The master, the true poet, can "carol in letters" most successfully, but when the mere poetaster attempts it, it becomes a somewhat wearisome and mechanical operation.

#### TRUE ART.

[In this graceful little poem, which appeared in a recent number, a misprint in one line impaired its meaning. To correct the mistake the verses are reproduced.]

To paint the picture of a life  
Sincere in word, in deed sublime,  
Noble to reach the after-time,  
And find a rest beyond the strife:—

This is the highest goal of art,  
To mould a form of rare device,  
The fruit of early sacrifice—  
The true devotion of the heart.

We work in shadow and in doubt,  
But view our Model, and with trust  
Toil on, till He, the Good, the Just,  
Shall bring the perfect fulness out.

—W. T. Herridge, in the *Presbyterian College Journal*.

#### A LESSON TO THE CLERK.

A clothing dealer in an interior town, says the *Dry Goods Chronicle*, had occasion to visit the city to purchase goods. While he was gone a young man entered his store to buy a coat. A salesman waited upon the customer and showed him a coat plainly marked \$7. The customer tried it on and said in a pleasant, confiding way: "I want a good article, and I can afford to pay a little more." The salesman showed him many coats, and, finally, having removed the tag, again offered him the \$7 coat which had fitted him at first, and said: "Here is a coat, a fine article, just your fit, which I can sell you for \$12." The coat was again tried on, the young man seemed pleased, paid his money and went away. On the merchant's return the salesman, with a smile of triumph all over his countenance, rushed up to him and boasted of what he had done. The merchant looked grave. He only asked: "Does any one know who the customer was?" A little boy had recognized him as a workman in a neighbouring factory and remembered his name. The merchant sent for the young man, told him of his mortification, gave him back \$5 and the privilege of returning the coat if he chose, and then said to the salesman: "Now, sir, I will pay you your week's salary, and I wish you to go. If you cheat my customers you have not principle enough not to cheat me. If I can't have my people sell goods honestly I will go out of business. Good day, sir."

#### PREHISTORIC REMAINS IN MERCA.

In the upper soils of Mercia, which the river has deposited in later times, there are flints carefully wrought and implements finely polished, showing that a superior race had become occupants of the land. From their habit of choosing caverns for their dwellings, when these could be found, they have been distinguished as cave-men. Their haunts were not confined to the river valleys, but, though they spread themselves further over the hills, they still made no attempt to construct habitations, contenting themselves with those which nature offered. The same field at Hicham, where the relics of the river-drift man lay in the lower gravel, has yielded also three flint celts of this latter race. One of these measures nine inches in length, with a breadth of three inches. A flint javelin head and many other relics of the same character have been found in the fields and woods at Taplow. Polished axe-heads, seven inches in depth and three in width, have been taken from the river bed, one of greenstone at Taplow Mills, and another of quartzite just below at Maidenhead. Here, also, among leaves and sticks in the peaty soil a few yards from the river, there was lately found, some four feet below the surface, the small skull of a primitive woman, whose antiquity is sufficiently proved by the thigh bone and broken antlers of a reindeer that lay beside it. The Irish elk was in these days the last survival of the older extinct animals, and men had learned to fashion pieces of his vast antlers for their instruments. A hammer of this character has lately been taken from the river bed at Monkey Island.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

THE cottage at Nether Stavey, in which Coleridge spent the most peaceful years of his life, and where he wrote "Christabel" and "The Ancient Mariner," is now the village tavern.

THE Khonds in Orissa used formerly to kidnap children and offer them in sacrifices to the earth goddess. This was stopped by our Government about thirty years ago, and one rescued victim is now a Christian pastor.

A GENERAL conference, of an ecumenical character, on Foreign Missions, will be held next year, in London, from 10th to 20th June. The topics to be discussed will have reference not only to the work abroad but also to its relation to the churches at home.

MR. WALLACE, on being nominated in Glasgow Presbytery to the Moderatorship of Partick Gaelic Church, remarked that he had no knowledge of Gaelic; but Dr. Adam having assured him that this ignorance was rather an advantage than otherwise, he accepted the appointment.

## British and Foreign.

THE jubilee of Dr. Ritchie, of Longforgan, will be celebrated in February next.

A MONTHLY magazine devoted to the interests of women has been established in Rome.

PROFESSOR BRUCE opened the new Free Church in Portpatrick. The congregation enters almost free of debt.

THE Rev. A. W. Williamson, of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, preached before the Queen at Balmoral on a recent Sunday.

DR. BLACK, of Inverness, and Sheriff Cowan, of Paisley, opened a week of evangelistic meetings in Dr. J. J. Bonar's Church at Greenock.

PROFESSOR CHRISTIE has nearly completed the exhaustive work on the history of preaching, on which he has been engaged for several years.

THE Scottish Liberal Association have resolved to press the question of Disestablishment on the notice of Mr. Gladstone as being ripe for settlement.

PRINCIPAL CAIRNS was one of several eminent speakers at the annual Fife-shire Christian Conference held in Dunfermline, at which 800 were present.

THE Rev. Dr. Edgar, of Mauchline, the retiring Moderator, preached before the Glasgow Synod from 2 Tim. iv. 13. Mr. McLaren, of Houston, is the new Moderator.

THE average duration of life in England has been raised from thirty to forty-nine years during the Queen's reign, a result due chiefly to better drainage and cleaner personal habits.

A Bust of Hugh Miller is to be placed in the hall of heroes in the Wallace monument on the Abbey Craig by Dr. Gunning, of Brazil, who erected the tablet to Jenny Geddes in St. Giles.

BISHOP WORDSWORTH, of Salisbury, and MacLagan, of Lichfield, have been holding a conference at Bonn with Bishop Reinkens on the relations between the Anglican Church and the Old Catholics of Germany.

THE Government of New Zealand have determined that dipsomaniacs shall be sent to an asylum by order of a judge of the supreme court. An asylum is to be erected at Porirua, where they may be employed in regular farm labour.

THE Rev. Gordon Webster, M.A., minister at Girvan for fifteen years, was presented with an illuminated address at a congregational meeting on the eve of his departure to become pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Christchurch, New Zealand.

IN order to insure that the next generation of ministers will have some elocutionary power, Mr. J. M. Douglass has again taken upon himself the cost of providing the students at the English Presbyterian College with high-class teaching in this department.

THE most brilliant woman of letters in Italy at present is Caterina Pigorini Reri, who, after publishing many studies on the folk-lore and the songs and traditions of the peasantry of the Marche and Calabria, now occupies her pen chiefly in literary criticism.

THE architect of the building in which the Free Church General Assembly will hold its meetings at Inverness is now receiving offers from contractors, and building operations will be commenced presently. It is to be a wooden structure accommodating over 2,000.

THE Queen has accepted the dedication of the work on old Scottish communion plate which Rev. Thomas Burns, of Lady Glenorchy's Church Edinburgh, will publish presently. The frontispiece will represent the communion service presented to Craibie Church by her Majesty in 1863.

MR. JOHN SINCLAIR, of Grangemouth, author of "Heather Belles," which recently appeared in these pages, is likely to receive an invitation to become the Gladstonian candidate for the Ayr Burghs. A speech he made lately at Ayr on the Irish Question made a profound impression.

THE FIVE Free Church Synod unanimously agreed to transmit an overture to the Assembly suggesting that there should be associated with the ministerial Convener of the Sustentation Fund Committee an office-bearer or undivided member of the Church acquainted with practical business to take a general oversight of the working of the fund.

A HALL seated for 300 has been built at a cost of \$4,000 for the mission at Georgie connected with Barclay Church, Edinburgh. Dr. J. H. Wilson raised \$3,000 in a fortnight and the remaining \$1,000 was got from the Home Mission Committee. Application will be made to have the congregation sanctioned as a mission charge, and it is intended to erect a church.

FOR some time the zenana home at Calcutta has been inadequate for the growing requirements of the work, and it has been decided to build a new home on an unoccupied site near Dr. Duff's house, in which the senior missionary usually resides. It will accommodate the zenana missionaries and their Bengali assistants, with a spare room or two for other contingencies that may arise.

THE question of divinity students preaching in parish churches was again raised by the ministers of the East and West Churches, Aberdeen, in the Synod, to which they had appealed against the finding of the Presbytery sustaining the examination of a student who had broken the law in this matter. By eight to seven the Synod dismissed the complaint, and an appeal was taken to the General Assembly.

ABERDEEN Free Church Synod had a lively discussion on the subject of the agricultural depression arising out of an overture expressing sympathy with the farmers. Rev. Mr. McQueen said their condition was utterly hopeless, and declared his conviction that the whole system of landlordism would have to be swept away entirely. Principal Brown held that it was not the business of the court to suggest anything for relief. The overture was ultimately adopted.