

Literature and Art.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:**—Our Music Editor, "Sharp Sixth," will furnish critiques of music publications sent in for review, and also critically notice public performances of high class music. Tickets for concerts, or commissions for reviews, must be addressed "Sharp Sixth," care *Grip* Office.

Mr. Peck, of the Milwaukee *Sun*, says he is going to make his paper every bit as funny this year as it was last year—and the most exacting reader could ask no more.

*Grip's* Almanac for 1881, issued by the publishers of *Grip*, Toronto, Canada, contains 74 pages of pure humor and original cuts, besides several chunks of weather warranted to keep in any climate. Price 25 cents.—*Norristown, Pa., Herald*.

The midwinter (February) number of *Scribner* is a gem. With the snow a foot deep out of doors, a snug fire at your hearth, a cosy chair in front thereof, no syndicate excitement in your head, and a copy of this gorgeous *Scribner* in your hand, you are prepared to enjoy something as nearly approaching perfect happiness as this life affords.

*Grip's* almanac of Toronto, by the Bough Bros., is out, and is a glittering glory, and takes front rank among publications of its kind. There is much in it to instruct, and more to amuse. Its title page is very unique. A feature is a collection of articles on New Year resolutions by American paragraphers. The Boughs are successful in all they undertake.—*Stuebenville Herald*.

The Toronto *Grip* man should lay hold on Mr. Edward Jenkins, M. P., who has been saying that "he would rather go to Botany Bay than edit a Canadian newspaper."—*N. O. Picayune*. We decline to hit the hon. member. Botany Bay is a better place for an independent editor than Canada. The people there don't raise a squeal of "partyism" whenever the editor expresses an independent opinion on a mere question of business, that doesn't happen to agree with the opinions of partizans.

The first number of *Gage's School Examiner and Monthly Review* has appeared, and will commend itself to every intelligent and tasteful teacher. The literary editor, Rev. C. P. Mulvany, M.A., has done his work exceedingly well. Mr. Gage is to be congratulated on having secured the services of this admirable scholar, who is known to be enthusiastic in his devotion to educational matters. An original story of teacher's life (illustrated) is begun in this number, and the prelude to a forthcoming philosophical poem is given. Had this prelude been written by Tennyson it would have been the talk of the literary world; it is quite as good as anything the laureate has done in recent years. The writer's name is not given as yet; but whoever he is, Canadian literature may well be proud of his gifts. The poem itself will be looked forward to with eagerness by all who read the prelude.

Mr. J. Comyns Carr, in an article on Wood Engraving in America in *L'Art*, of Paris, says: "Everyone who has seen the illustrated magazines of the United States must know that wood engraving in the United States has made a progress which it would be an injustice not to recognize. The drawings, usually of small dimensions, have allowed the engraver to devote himself to giving the greatest possible perfection to refined delicacy of execution. In that country they have attempted, with remarkable success, to reproduce also oil and water-colour paintings, as well as the grain and touch of crayon drawings. The feeling of absolute fidelity inspired by these experiments gives to the reproduction of line drawings all the charm of the most exquisite delicacy and the most irreprouchable truth." Mr. Carr's article is illustrated with thirteen wood cuts from *Scribner*, and one from *St. Nicholas*.

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Literature and Art.

The Editor will be pleased to receive Canadian items of interest for this column.

Frederick Opper, one of the cleverest caricaturists of New York, whose work is familiar to the readers of *Puck*, is said to be only 19 years of age. Mr. Wales is 27 and Mr. Keppler not quite 30. They are a rather bright trio of boys.

Sol Smith Russell, the greatest character actor America has yet produced, is to appear in his drama of "Edgewood Folks," at the Grand Opera House, on Friday and Saturday of this week. The Toronto public, whom Mr. Russell has often delighted on the concert stage, will no doubt be glad of this opportunity of witnessing his ability in the regular drama.

Mr. Dewitt G. Ray undertook lately to give the public a description of the process by which *Puck's* lithographed pictures are produced. He says, after the drawings are made, the stone is eaten away with acid, "giving virtually the engraver's plate." Everybody who knows anything of the lithographic art can see the absurdity of this. Mr. Ray ought not to write about anything he doesn't understand.

Mr. Gus Pitou has retired from the management of the Grand Opera House to become manager for Mr. Joe Murphy's combination. He will hereafter reside in New York, where he will represent the Grand. Mr. O. B. Sheppard, the popular treasurer, succeeds Mr. Pitou in the managerial chair, and the house is not likely to lose any popularity by the change. Mr. Sheppard is well known and well liked by the citizens of Toronto, and they will all wish him much success in his new and responsible position.

In reply to "Amateur" we would say that we must always express our opinion on a music composition as we find it, but we deferred our remarks as to the merits of the composition in question, until we had given the composer a chance of putting it in correct form. Your simile is not quite to the point. What pleasure would one have in looking at a picture, the perspective, perpendiculars &c., of which were strikingly defective, however grand the design? Music to be pleasing to the connoisseur (who is the one to be gratified) must be correct. To comply with your request, however, we think the 1st and 2nd waltzes rather pleasing, the 3rd not so much so. The *fiale* being made up of the 1st waltz, requires no further comment.

SHARP SIXTH.

The *Canada School Journal* announces its intention to urge upon the Education Department the duty of making "distinct and uncompromising temperance teaching, with clear information as to the physical and moral evils of strong drink," part of the programme in every public school. And now the axe is about to be laid to the root of the tree. Therefore Mr. *Canada S. Journal*, please to consider yourself patted on the head by Mr. *Grip*. Just as the twig is bent, you know. Have the youngsters copy-books headed, "Look not upon the wine when it is red," "Vote for the Scott Act," "Wine is a mocker," and so on. And have diagrams of a drunkard's interior, in all stages of decomposition, hung round the walls of the public schools as a warning to embryo civil-doers. (The etchings and illustrations to be furnished by "*Grip*.") Finally, as in the days of ancient Sparta, have a few bummers primed with fortyrod, turned loose say twice a year in the playgrounds, as a practical example of "the physical and moral evils of strong drink." But mind you introduce this new wrinkle under the title of *Secular Education*, otherwise the L. V. Ass. will not only be all ears, but he'll be after you hot foot, to have it kicked out along with certain translations of Greek and Hebrew M.S.S. to which some take objection.