

ROMANTIC LITERATURE.

A Scholarly Address Delivered by Professor R. M. Johnstone of Baltimore.

A Spirited Criticism of the School of Idealism.

The Free Library Lecture, inaugurated in the early part of the winter, seem to lose nothing of their interest, but become more popular with each succeeding lecture.

The proceedings of the evening were opened with a beautifully executed pianoforte solo, by Miss Clare Wheeler, one of the ladies of the Montreal Free Library.

Sir William Hingston presided, and in a few words introduced the lecturer of the evening, who said:—

THE ROMANTIC IN ART, in comparison with the Classical, is older than has generally been allowed. In life it is older than its rival. It is co-eval with humanity.

The professor then referred to the great master, "Milton." He said: In the romance of Eden it seemed as if he would make amends for the mistake of his younger time.

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to be persuadable to consent, demanding risk, high pay, so that the pursuit, of which, if easy, a bold lover would weary, acquired the eagerness which must not be allowed to abate.

It is a sad commentary on the powerlessness and hopelessness of a poor young woman, without other gift than mere virtue, to obtain success which appears to attend upon insidiousness and fraud. It would have been a good sight to see the lifting of such a one, even though slowly and through difficulties, where so many thousands of poor girls do rise through toil and patient waiting.

Continuing, the learned speaker said:— Among modern novelists who have trod in these strange paths, said he, who is more to be compassionated than blamed, is "George Eliot." If we study her orphaned, unhappy childhood, her unfriended exertion to obtain a livelihood, and then the last actions of her life, we cannot but sympathize with a woman who, during all of her career, would have shuddered at the thought of inflicting harm or injury upon any being capable of suffering.

Dr. Johnstone closed an admirable address with a pathetic description of the results of true Christian marriage, eloquently portraying the nobleness of the celebration of the golden jubilee which, he said, were celebrated in many peaceful and happy homes.

Sir William Hingston thanked Dr. Johnstone for his interesting lecture, and pointed out that the conditions of married life, which he so much admired, existed in this Province of Quebec on a very large scale indeed. We had hundreds of "John Andersons and Joes" in this province.

Dr. Johnstone then delighted his audience by reading one of his own sketches of Georgia life, in which a bachelor figured prominently and unsuccessfully in regard to the great ambition of his life.

Sixty thousand dollars a year, the salary drawn by the French ambassador in London, is the largest sum paid to any diplomat in the world.

The estate of the late Eugene Kelly, banker, New York, has been officially valued at \$4,813,321.

By his last will he bequeathed \$115,000 to charitable objects.

Krupp, the German gunmaker, it is said, is the largest employer of labor in the world.

In his latest novel, "The Christian," the well-known writer, Hall Caine, criticizes the whole community of the Church of England rather severely. In fact, the purpose of this book appears to be an attack on the clergymen of the "Established Church."

A recent report made to Congress states that the number of men in the United States physically able to perform military duty is 10,024,854. The United States now leads the world. The first place was held previously by Russia.

Miss Clara Brett Martin, of Toronto, enjoys the distinction of being the first lady admitted to the Canadian bar. It was only last session that the Ontario Legislature passed an act enabling women to qualify as barristers.

Some 6,000 clergymen of the Church of England are engaged in the delightful Pickwickian occupation of waiting for something to turn up. Speaking of this an English paper complains that:—"It certainly seems harsh that with the great revenues of the English Church, which are administered by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, there should be so much poverty and distress in the lower ranks of the clergy, while dignitaries

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and fortunate incumbents receive extravagant incomes, and vast sums of money are expended in founding new bishoprics and adorning churches.

The Toronto Globe, in the course of a lengthy article, disapproves of any interference in regard to the free transmission of newspapers through the mails. It gives its reason for such an attitude that the supplies used in publishing the papers are already taxed to an abnormal extent under the existing system of protection.

A well-known New York lawyer, in his address to a jury during a trial, spoke of liquor in this way: "I believe that from the time it issues from the coiled and poisonous worm in the distillery until it empties into the hell of death, dishonor and crime it demoralizes everybody that touches it, from its source to where it ends."

"Trimnings" is a word familiar to ladies in connection with dress, but a female member of the Salvation Army claims to have discovered that it has a hidden meaning. She states that a lady while shopping in a large drapery establishment in London, to which a refreshment department is attached, became rather taint, and one of the assistants brought her a little brandy. She drank it and recovered.

Arrangements are being made for the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the consecration as Bishop of the Most Reverend P. J. Ryan, D. D., of Philadelphia. The event will take place during the week following Easter Sunday.

Cardinal Mertel, who, in point of age, is the dean of the Sacred College, is now dying at Rome of extreme old age, being in his ninety-third year. He was a lawyer by profession and a lay member of the Synod of Cardinals. Minister of Finance and of the Interior during the temporal

A Living Doll. The following true story is told in the "Journal" of Emily Shore: A little girl near us was one day playing before the house, when a woman appeared and begged a few pence. She had a baby in her arms, and the child was so delighted with the little thing that she asked the woman if she would sell it to her.

A Living Record. A white man sued a black man in Natal the other day, and while the trial was proceeding the litigants came to an amicable settlement. The counsel for the plaintiff announced this circumstance to the Court.

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Religious News Items.

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The Months.

Each month of the year has a special sanctification for Catholics, and a special devotion, as follows:— January, the Month of the Holy Childhood of Jesus.

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