

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 compositions for review, must be addressed "Sharp Sixth," care GRIP Office.

A little paper called the *Citizen* has made its appearance as a temperance organ in this city. It is edited by Mr. Wm. Burgess.

Mr. F. H. Torrington, Organist of the Metropolitan Church and conductor of the Toronto Philharmonic Society is reported dangerously ill with brain fever.

The Bachelors of "Yo Merrie Bells" Club intend tendering the married members and their mutual friends a "Calico" Ball at the Rossin House, on Tuesday, April 19th next.

Master George Fox, the young Canadian musical prodigy, was in town last week, and gave an exhibition of his wonderful powers at the piano warehouse of Messrs. A. & S Nordheimer.

Rev. Dr. Vincent, who made such a deep impression here with his lecture on "That Boy," has been engaged to give its sequel, "That Boy's Sister," in the Metropolitan Church on the evening of Monday, April 11th.

Mr. Wm. D. Howells—who, by the way, is a son of the genial American Consul resident in Toronto—has resigned the editorship of the *Atlantic Monthly*, to assume a position in a prominent publishing house in Boston.

It is reported that Mark Twain is writing a "Handbook on Etiquette," and also intends getting up a "Cyclopaedia of Humor." The laughing world will await those unique productions with anxiety. They are to be published by Jas. R. Osgood & Co., Boston.

A paper by R. W. Emerson, on his personal impressions of Thomas Carlyle, made up from his unpublished letters written at the time of his first visit to England, will appear in *Scribner* for May. The publication is made by special arrangement with Mr. Emerson and the Massachusetts Historical Society, before which the paper was read, and in the minutes of which it is to be printed after its appearance in *Scribner*.

If any of our theatre-going readers are anxious to see a performance of *Rip Van Winkle*, which is superior to Jefferson's in some respects and equal to it in all others, we advise them to drop in to the Royal any night this week and see Mr. J. W. Carner in the character. This ever fresh and beautiful play is being presented with brilliant scenery and effects, while the parts, from the star downwards, are in the hands of thoroughly competent players.

Next week, Prof. John Reynolds, the English mesmerist, returns to the Royal for a brief engagement. We trust the citizens of Toronto will appreciate the favor of a second visit from this gifted gentleman sufficiently to give him crowded houses during his stay. From what was seen of his powers on a former visit, we have no hesitation in saying that he is capable of giving an evening's entertainment of the most interesting, instructive, and mirth-provoking kind it is possible to get anywhere.

We have to thank the publishers, Jas. R. Osgood & Co., Boston, for a copy of Mrs. Francis H. Burnett's latest novel, "A Fair Barbarian." Mrs. Burnett now occupies a foremost position in the ranks of modern fiction writers, and this work is generally admitted to be the most brilliant and interesting offspring of her genius. Those who have read "That Lass o' Lowries"—her first literary hit—will eagerly welcome this latest work. The book is printed and bound with the neatness which characterizes the volumes sent forth by the excellent house of Osgood.



Notice to Contractors.

**SEALED TENDERS**, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Fittings," will be received at this office until **WEDNESDAY**, 6th day of April next inclusively, for fittings required at Post Office a Hamilton, Ont.

Plans can be seen at the Post Office, Hamilton, on and after **WEDNESDAY** the 23rd instant.

Tenders must be made on the printed forms supplied. Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque, made payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, equal to five per cent. of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted, the cheque will be returned.

The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order, **F. H. ENNIS**, Secretary.

Department of Public Works, Ottawa, 19th day of March, 1881.

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Literature and Art.

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

Max Strakosch thinks that his partnership with C. D. Hess was a big mistake, and Hess joins in his partner's opinion.

Mr. Fuller's little satire *Flapdoodle* has made a decided hit. We shall be happy to supply our readers with copies of the work. Price 15cts.

A lawyer in St. Louis a few weeks ago sued Colonel Mapleson for refusing to sell him certain seats in the theatre on the morning of the opening of the sale.

The book reception of the Y. M. C. A. on Tuesday evening proved a very pleasant and successful affair. About three hundred valuable volumes were added to the Association library on the occasion.

Mrs. Dobbin, of Montreal, the author of "Thos," a very pleasing Canadian story, contemplates writing a sequel to that work. We trust the forthcoming book may meet with a generous reception at the hands of the public.

Concerts are announced for Good Friday evening in the Metropolitan and Elm St. Churches. At the latter, Miss Barr, the charming Hamilton soprano, and Dr. Sippi, the London tenor, are to appear, with several other vocalists of prominence.

Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin contributed to a late number of the *Canadian Illustrated News* a characteristically trenchant article on some phases of modern Canadian society, under the title "A Noble Woman"—his reference being primarily to Mrs. Carlyle. The article is well worth reading.

The critic of the London *Advertiser* thinks that the Strakosch-Hess Opera Company lacks finish, and suggests the vigorous use of a needle gun in the first act. In this he agrees with the New York musical journals—though he differs from our sapient local dailies, who fed the Company on the usual maudlin flattery.

The Lawson-Labouchere libel suit has afforded a good deal of amusement to the public of the two hemispheres during the past week. The general impression seems to be that the *Truth* man had the better of it from the first, an advantage which his great cleverness enabled him to make the most of. But what a rare advertisement both journals have secured!

Mr. J. B. Watson recently lectured at Pembroke, and a couple of prominent citizens of that town have written a letter to the *Ottawa Citizen* giving him a high commendation. This would seem to imply that Mr. W. conducted himself fairly, squarely, and honourably in Pembroke, and if so, Grip congratulates him on the marked improvement in his way of getting through the world.

Amongst the answers to the invitations for the theatrical entertainment given at Government House last Monday evening, issued by the Aide-de-Camp, was one addressed to Mrs. Robinson, A. D. C. This is on a par with the announcement of several entertainments during the past winter to the effect that they were "under the patronage of *Lady* Robinson." Where is Professor Fanning?

At the "Litta" concert on Saturday evening, after the performance started, the management informed the audience that owing to an ulcerated sore throat M<sup>lle</sup> Litta was hardly able to sing, and claimed their indulgence for her on that account. Judging by the gloom that instantly appeared on the expectant faces, considerable sympathy was felt for the *artiste*, though some one was uncharitable enough to say the vision of their wasted dollars dimmed the wonted lustre of their eyes. Litta sang well, however.