

THE MAGAZINES.

News of the Week.

himself to fan religious animosity. In "The Marble Prophecy" he is loud in denouncing the Church of Rome, and thunders out against its ministers as "sacerdotal hucksters." As we are no admirers of this kind of tone on the "drum ecclesiastic," we turn with relief to the author's shorter poems. Here we find something more to our taste in the vigorous lines—"Wanted."

"God give us men! A time like this demands Strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands; Men whom the lost of office does not kill; Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy; Men who possess opinions and a will; Men who have honour—men who will not lie; Men who can stand before a demagogue, And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking! Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog In public duty, and in private thinking."

We can do no more than mention one or two other poems, which especially struck us with their beauty and pathos. These are "Gradatim," "The Mountain Christening," "The Heart of the War," "A Christmas Carol," "The Old Clock of Prague," and "Where shall the Baby's Dimple Be?"

THAT BOWL OF PUNCH! What It Did, and How It Did It.—By Bernard Bigsby. Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Co. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

Mr. Bernard Bigsby is well-known in England, and has recently won a reputation among Canadians as a humorist of no mean powers. "That Bowl of Punch" is his contribution to the festive literature of the season. A very fair bowl of punch it was, and—contrary to the ordinary rule—free from anything like unpleasant effects.

SERMONS.—By the Rev. T. D. Talmage, author of "Crumbs Swept Up," &c. Delivered in the Brooklyn Tabernacle. Phonographically Reported and Revised. Second series. New York: Harper & Bros. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

No American preacher, with the exception of Henry Ward Beecher, enjoys such a world-wide reputation as Mr. Talmage, the eloquent and earnest pastor of the Brooklyn Free Tabernacle. His sermons are printed both in America and in England. They are read wherever the English language is spoken. His clear, forcible logic has found its way to the human mind in every quarter of the globe, and his name has become as a household word in thousands of homes and ten thousands of hearts. The collection before us contains some of the most soul-stirring specimens of pulpit oratory it has ever been our fortune to come across. Mr. Talmage's sermons, delivered, as they are, on the spur of the moment, are unique in vigour, point, and beauty of imagery. He possesses the priceless gift of ability to say what he has to say in plain straightforward language that goes direct to his hearer's hearts. Yet his language is so grand, so impressive, that once heard it is never to be forgotten. Believing in his inmost soul the truths he expounds to his hearers, his preaching is as that of an inspired apostle. He seeks no embellishments of flowery expression, no graceful turn of language, and his oratory thus assumes a ruggedness that is majestic. Wonderful originality, and a freedom in dealing with his subjects that is often startling, combined with a cool, irresistible logic, characterize the preaching of the Evangelist of Brooklyn. We cannot resist the temptation of quoting a passage or two from the volume before us. But that the reader may have a better idea of the general effect of Mr. Talmage's preaching, as heard Sunday after Sunday in the Tabernacle, we prefix a brief description of his mode of delivery as described by the editor of this book.

After describing the qualities of the preacher's oratory, he goes on, "All of which makes him intensely dramatic. His manner mates with his nature. It is each sermon in action. He conscripts voice, eyes, hands, his entire body, into the service of the illustration of the truth. Gestures are the accompaniment of what he says. As the preacher stands out before the immense throng,—on a platform, not in a pulpit—without scrap of notes or even a table before him, the effect produced can not be understood by those who have never seen it. The solemnity, the tears, the awful hush, as though the audience would not breathe again, are oftentimes painful."

With this picture before him the reader can the better understand the tremendous effect of Mr. Talmage's oratory. Hear him on the efficacy of prayer:

"God does answer prayer. The text shows it. You say, 'I don't believe the Bible; I think that those things were merely coincidences; which are often brought as answers to prayer.' Do you say that? Was it more happen-so that Elijah prayed for rain just as the rain was going to come anyhow? Did Daniel pray in the wild beasts' den just at the time when all the lions happened to have the lockjaw? Did Jesus pray at the grave of Lazarus just at the time when Lazarus was going to dress himself and come out anyhow? Did Jesus see his place in his sermon, and make a mistake when he said, 'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.' And lest some one so stupid they could not understand it, he goes on. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

In his sermon entitled "Fishing too near Shore," speaking of the mercy of God, he says:

"It is said that when Charlemagne's host was overpowered by the three armies of the Saracens in the pass of Roncesvalles, his warrior Roland, in terrible earnestness, seized a trumpet and blew it with such terrific strength that the opposing army recoiled back with terror; but at the third blast of the trumpet it broke in two. I see your soul fiercely assailed by all the powers of earth and hell. I put the mighty trumpet of the Gospel to my lips, and I blow it three times. Blast the first—'Whosoever will, let him come.' Blast the second—'Seek ye the Lord while He may be found.' Blast the third—'Now is the accepted time; now is the day of Salvation.' Does not the host of your sins fall back? But the trumpet does not, like that of Roland, break in two. As it was handed down to us from the lips of our fathers, we hand it down to the lips of our children, and tell them to sound it when we are dead, that all the generations of men may know that our God is a pardoning God—a sympathetic God—a loving God; and that more to him than the anthems of Heaven, more to him than the throne on which he sits, more to him than are the temples of celestial worship, is the joy of seeing the wanderer putting his hand on the door-latch of his Father's house. Hear it, all ye nations! Breathe for the worst hunger, Medicine for the worst sickness, Light for the thickest darkness, Harbour for the worst storm."

Our space does not allow of further quotation, but we could reproduce from this volume hundreds of such extracts, breathing the highest sentiments couched in the most eloquent language. "The Grand Review" is an especially noble production, but no quotation from it could give an adequate idea of the grandeur of the whole—the grandeur of thought, imagination, and expression. We have derived infinite pleasure from the perusal of these sermons, and cordially recommend them to our readers, assured that they will find them singularly instructive and attractive reading.

The Atlantic Monthly.—The new volume of this excellent periodical, of which the January issue is the first number, promises to be exceptionally interesting. Several popular features are announced for the coming year, among which is a series of Reminiscences by Robert Dale Owen, known principally in connection with the rise of the manufacturing interests in England and the spread of the Socialistic movement in the States. The first of these opens the number before us, and contains much valuable information respecting the early history of machine cotton spinning. Mr. Parton supplies another paper on Jefferson, in which we are introduced to the members of the Cabinet of Washington. Mrs. Agassiz contributes a sketch of the cruise of the Hassler Expedition in the Straits of Magellan, especially interesting on account of the information it contains with reference to a region of which comparatively little is known. "The Kitchen Common Sense" is an amusing little narrative of domestic economy, which every housekeeper would enjoy. Space does not allow of our entering more fully into the contents of the January number, but we cannot refrain from bestowing a word of well-deserved praise on the taste with which this magazine is uniformly conducted, and the very high literary character of the papers and sketches which appear in its pages. We look forward with the anticipation of much pleasure to the papers on the Trial of Queen Caroline promised for future numbers.

Dr. Dio Lewis's lively little periodical *Today* reaches us every week filled with entertaining reading matter. The Christmas number presents a most attractive appearance both to eye and mind. It is twice the usual size and is beautifully and unsparingly illustrated with woodcuts. The contents embrace a variety of stories and poetry suitable to the season, with articles by the editor, and a couple of illustrated comic sketches by Max Adeler. From the time of its birth we prophesied success for *Today*, and we are glad to see that it is now giving substantial verification of our predictions. We have no hesitation in pronouncing it the brightest and best of American periodicals of its kind.

In *Lippincott's Magazine* we find a very interesting account of the mode of constructing iron bridges at the Phoenix Works in the Schuylkill Valley, to which are appended some remarks on the structure and strength of some of the best known iron bridges on this continent. The description of a Quinine Hunt in Peru is continued. Both these papers are accompanied by illustrations. Caroline Chesebrough commences in this number "Probationer Leonhard," a serial which promises well. "Monsieur Fournier's Experiment" is one of those weird, semi-sensational, semi-scientific stories which hold the reader spell-bound, until he reaches the conclusion with a feeling of almost relief. A visit to Dr. Keil, the so-called "King of Aurora," the Dutch communistic colony in Oregon, forms the subject of a most interesting sketch. In the next edition of "The Romance of American History," Mr. Schele de Vere will do well to remember King Keil in his chapter on American "Kaisers, Kings and Princes." We cannot let the number pass without a word of commendation for "The Maestro's Confession," the death-bed unburdening of Andrea Dal Castagno—a poem of great beauty, by Margaret J. Preston.

Three papers in the *Penn Monthly* are especially worthy of attention. Of these the first gives some account of the celebration, in 1837, of the centennial anniversary of the University of Gottingen, followed so quickly by the persecution of the Seven Professors—whose bold opposition to the unconstitutional acts of the King presents a case, in Hanoverian history, somewhat analogous to that of the Seven Bishops in the reign of James II. The second paper, on The Service of Song, contains some very excellent remarks on the hymnology of Germany, England, and America, and the sources from which English and American Hymnologists have drawn in the compilation of their hymnals. The third is on a subject now attracting universal attention—Household Taste. This is a matter on which Canadian householders and housekeepers are far too indifferent, and we seriously recommend to our readers a perusal of the paper in question. They would there find the questions of house-building, decorating, and furnishing put in a new light. Reform in these matters is most desirable, and the sooner we can prepare ourselves for effecting it the better.

The reader of *Scribner's*—provided always that he have not seen Stanley's book—will at once turn to the illustrated paper "How I Found Livingstone," giving a condensed account of the travels in Central Africa of the *Herald's* special commissioner. The newspaper reader will find something to his taste in Mr. Hamerton's letter "On the Reading of Newspapers," addressed to a friend who had entirely abandoned the habit of reading newspapers, in which some very thoughtful remarks are offered. In short stories this number is, as befits the season, unusually rich, Dr. Eggleston contributing a Christmas Ghost Story, and Saxe Holm a pleasant tale of American life, entitled "The One-Legged Dancers." George MacDonald has in this number an exquisite rendering of "A Spiritual Song," from the German of Novalis. Bret Harte, Christina G. Rossetti, and William Cullen Bryant are also contributors in this department.

The *Overland Monthly* for January opens the tenth volume of our trans-continental contemporary. It contains, in deference to the season, we presume, fiction in greater abundance than is usually to be found in its pages. "The Ghost of Rummelsburg," a Netherlandish legend; "Brave Mrs. Lyle," a story of the Civil War; "The Thrust in Tierce," and "Half and Half," a charming little Christmas story, are all of them excellent. The chief attraction of the number is a paper by Therese Yelverton, (Viscountess Avonmore) entitled "A Journey in a Junk," describing a trip made by the writer to the ruins of Angkor Wat, Ptolemy's Sinarum Metropolis, in Cambodia, two hundred and fifty miles from Saigon, through a wild, water-covered country—a trip which this venturesome lady made attended only by an opium-sodden mandarin, a ditto interpreter (native) and his wife, two Annamite boys, a couple of native soldiers, and eight Cambodian rowers. The remaining articles, with the exception of one on Chinese Proverbs, relate to matters of mere local interest.

THE DOMINION.—A recent Order in Council imposes a duty of 10 per cent. on all tea and coffee imported into the Dominion from the United States. The order goes into effect at once. Hon. Mr. Cauchon has been elected for the County of Montmorenci.—A new inspection district under the Inland Revenue Department is ordered to be called Windsor District, and to comprise the Inland Revenue Divisions of London, Guelph, Paris, St. Catharines, Hamilton; and the Inspection District of Toronto—the Inland Revenue Divisions of Algoma, Collingwood, Toronto, Cobourg, Peterboro' and Belleville.—The second session of the second Parliament of Quebec was prorogued on the 23rd ult. Among the Bills which received the Royal Assent were: An act to change the *chef-lieu* of the County of Ottawa, for municipal and registration purposes, from Aymer to Hull; an act to provide for the decision of controverted elections by the Judges, and to make better provision for the prevention of corrupt practices at elections; an act to amend the law respecting the jurisdiction of three Judges of the Superior Court in Review; and an act to confirm certain by-laws authorizing subscriptions of stock in the Montreal Northern Colonization Railway Company.

UNITED STATES.—The Stokes trial is progressing in New York. Barnum's menagerie has been destroyed by fire.—It is reported in San Francisco that extensive coal fields have been discovered in San Diego county.—The *New York Herald* reports favourable prospects of a revival of the maritime trade, the clouds overshadowing the shipyards for ten years being dispelled.—George Francis Train has been arrested and lodged in the Tombs on a charge of publishing obscene literature.—President Grant has expressed his determination to put an end to polygamy in the States. After the holidays the necessary laws will be presented in Congress.—Jay Gould has made a settlement with the Erie Railroad Company. He has transferred to the Company nine millions, two and a half millions being stocks and bonds and the balance in real estate. He estimates the nine millions transferred to represent seven millions par. Mr. Barlow corroborates the above, and said that the Company estimates the actual present value of the nine millions at six and a half to seven millions par; and the value to Erie Railway Company at fully nine millions.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The funeral of Viscountess Beaconsfield took place on the 20th ult.—The "Challenger" has sailed from Portsmouth on her cruise for the purpose of making scientific deep sea soundings.—An explosion is reported in a coal mine at Silverdale, by which eight miners suffered.—By the late heavy storms in the United Kingdom the streams throughout the country were swollen to a great height, causing much damage. Windsor and Eton are flooded. The river Trent and its affluents, the Soar and the Derwent, rose above their banks, submerging a large portion of the country in Leicestershire, Derby, and Nottingham. In some sections of these counties only the tops of the trees and heiges were visible. Heavy land slides occurred near Dover. The town of Peterborough, in Northamptonshire, was flooded, and many of the residents were compelled to take refuge from the water in the upper stories of their dwellings. The vicinity of Cambridge, for miles, was like a swamp, and the streets of the city were flooded. The recent rainfall is estimated at fifty millions of tons of water.—A despatch from Liverpool says 149 persons, including passengers and sailors, perished by marine disasters between the 10th and 20th ult.

FRANCE.—The Assembly has rejected M. Bonnet's motion against the duties on raw materials by a vote of 461 to 158. On the 21st ult. the Assembly adjourned for the Christmas holiday: one of its last acts previous to adjournment was to pass the bill restoring to the Orleans Princes their confiscated property.—The Allan steamship "Germany" went ashore on Saturday week on a sandbank at the mouth of the Gironde. Thirty persons were lost. The remainder, after passing the entire night in a perilous position, were rescued by a French steamship. The "Germany" was bound from Liverpool to Havana and New Orleans.

AUSTRIA.—Count Von Buost, the Austrian Ambassador to Great Britain, has gone to Vienna, probably to assume higher functions. RUSSIA.—The Government has resolved to undertake the Khiva expedition. A St. Petersburg newspaper states that the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg has notified Prince Gortschakoff that if the Russian troops penetrate the countries between Khiva and Afghanistan, England will be compelled to intervene in support of Afghan independence. In the meantime the Khan of Khiva has summoned the auxiliary tribes to his assistance. It is stated that ex-Minister Catacazy has not fallen into disgrace with the Czar. He has just been employed to adjust certain ecclesiastical difficulties between the Pope and the Russian Government concerning the appointment of Catholic bishops in Poland.

SPAIN.—There has been a crisis in the Spanish Cabinet. The Ministers of Finance, Public Works, and the Colonies retired, but their places were speedily filled. On the 20th ultimo Senor Zorilla announced in the Senate that a bill would soon be introduced by the Government providing for the abolition of slavery in the Island of Porto Rico. He took occasion at the same time to repeat the statements heretofore made that no reforms would be made in the Government of Cuba while a single insurgent remained in the island.—The Cortes adjourned on Christmas Eve until the 15th of January, previously passing a vote of confidence in the Government by a majority of 83 in a house of 335.

ITALY.—An army bill has been introduced in the Parliament. It provides that all Italians between 18 and 29 years of age shall be liable to military duty.—Naples has been visited by a gale of unprecedented violence, which caused much damage to property in the city and the shipping in the bay.—The Pope held a consistory on the 23rd ultimo at which twenty-two cardinals were present. His Holiness delivered an allocution in the course of which he said the Church was still sorely persecuted. The purpose to destroy her was shown in the acts of the Italian Government which compelled the clergy to serve in the army and imposed heavy taxes on church property. He solemnly protested against the bill now pending in the Italian Parliament for the suppression of religious corporations, and declared that the title to the property acquired by this means would be null and void. He repeated his censure of those who encroached on the rights of the Church, and denounced Germany, where the pit falls of open violence, calumny and ridicule were employed to destroy the Church by men who were ignorant of religion, yet sought to defile its dogmas. The allocution concluded with a protest against the Clergy Donation Bill recently passed by the Spanish Cortes and a general condemnation of the Armenian schism.

BELGIUM.—Despatches from Ghent report that the streams in that section of Belgium have risen above their embankments and inundated the country. The city of Ghent was flooded, and in some of the streets the water stood three feet deep.

EGYPT.—The Khedive has concluded a loan of 12,500,000*l.* with Constantinople.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The last mail from the Cape brings intelligence that the first Ministry under the system of Responsible Government has been formed in the colony.