

"A Very Old Master," "Organic Nature's Riddle," by St. George Mivart, and "Sir William Siemens," by William Lant Carpenter. The other articles, all of which are good, fill up a very readable number.

THE numbers of *The Living Age* for April 11th and 18th contain, "Organic Nature's Riddle," and "Tasso," *Fortnightly*; "Native Faiths in the Himalayeh," *Contemporary*; "The Lennox," *Scottish Review*; "The Hero of Lepanto and his Tunes," *Blackwood*; "Some Gossip about Dante," and "Land Moles and Water Moles," *Month*; "The Diamond Duke," *Temple Bar*; "In Lithuania," and R. L. Stevenson's "Verse for Children," *Spectator*; "Chantryes," and "A Female La Trappe," *Saturday Review*; "Herrings and their Haunts," *Field*; "Ice Palaces at Montreal," *Engineering*; "A Professional Visit in Persia," *St. James's Gazette*; "Hertfordshire," *All the Year Round*; with the conclusions of "Plain Frances Mowbray" and "The New Manager," and instalments of "A House Divided Against Itself" and poetry. A new volume begins with the number for April 4th.

BOOK NOTICES.

DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY. Edited by Leslie Stephen. Vol. II. New York: Macmillan and Company.

The actual value of this colossal work, as we before suggested, cannot be gauged until it shall have been in constant use for some time; but it is satisfactory to see that Vol. II. amply bears out the promise of excellence discerned in the first part. A is completed in this volume, and into B we are carried as far as "Baird," an almost innumerable number of "Bacons" being treated by the way. Sir Francis Bacon, whose biography is written by Professor Gardiner, has the place of honour, so far as space is concerned, no other name having yet been treated so fully. Roger Bacon receives a short, but crisp and comprehensive, handling by Professor Adamson; the Lord Keeper Bacon (Sir Nicholas) being written of by Mr. Lee. Babbage, Babington (both conspirator and his numerous namesakes), Back the voyageur, Backwell the banker, Badcock, Baffin the discoverer, Bagehot the journalist, Baggs, Bagot the bishop, Bagshaw, Bagster, Bailey the philosopher, Baillie (Joanna), her namesakes the divine and the patriot, the astronomer Baily, Bainbridge, and several illustrious Bairds are a few of the many well-known names included in this volume. D'Arblay (Madame), Arbuthnot, and Jane Austen, fall to the lot of the editor; Anslem, the archbishop, being dealt with by Canon Stephen at considerable length; and Mr. Lee writes an able memoir of Roger Ascham. Mr. Theodore Walrond and Sir Theodore Martin contribute papers on Dr. Arnold and Professor Aytoun respectively. The founder of Astley's Theatre, Philip Astley, finds a congenial biographer in the late Mr. Dutton Cook, and Eugene Aram's story is told by Mr. Richard Gamett.

OUR NORTH LAND. By Charles R. Tuttle. Illustrated with Maps and Engravings. Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson.

Mr. Tuttle, who is not unknown in Canada as a book-maker, lays no claim in this volume to entire originality. It is, in the words of the sub-title, "a full account of the Canadian North-West and Hudson's Bay Route, together with a narrative of the experience of the Hudson's Bay Expedition of 1884, including a description of the climate, resources and the characteristics of the native inhabitants between the 50th parallel and the arctic circle." The facts supplied have been obtained from the experiences of the Canadian Expedition to Hudson's Bay; from Mr. Klotz's and Dr. Bell's books on the same region, and from the works of Dr. Selwyn, Mr. Marcus Smith and others on the North-West, added to the personal experiences of the author. The latter portion will be of most interest to the general reader as not having been before published, but the whole book is interesting and opportune. The public knowledge of the vast region known as the North-West is exceedingly limited, and Mr. Tuttle's work will be found of great assistance in forming an idea of its almost unlimited capabilities. He has collated considerable evidence upon the Hudson's Bay route as a commercial highway, but does not express an opinion upon the practicability of the proposal, preferring that his readers should form their own judgment in the premises. If, as he ventures to hope, Mr. Tuttle succeeds, by means of this book, in bringing "Our North Land," with its vast resources and future possibilities, before the attention of the world, a great work will have been accomplished. As a typographical production the book reflects the highest credit upon the house from which it issues, being beautifully printed, upon good paper, and illustrated by many engravings as well as some excellent maps.

THE RUSSIANS AT THE GATES OF HERAT. By Charles Marvin. With Maps and Portraits. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Standard Publishing Company.

Arminius Vambery has called Mr. Marvin "the leading authority of the English press on the Central Asian Question." Whatever may be thought of his claims to that title, it is indisputable that he is thoroughly familiar with the Russian policy, being a Russ by birth, though English by adoption. Mr. Marvin tells us in the preface that the book was written, printed and published in London within eight days. Viewed in this connection it must be confessed a marvel of literary work. The author has been a vigilant observer of the Russian advance towards India, is a personal friend of General Skobelev, and is personally acquainted with the territory now in dispute between England and Russia. Herat, he maintains, despite all assurances of other specialists to the contrary, is the Key to India, and as such the Russians will assuredly seize it whenever opportunity occurs. For these reasons Afghanistan must, he thinks, at all hazards, be defended against the myrmidons of the Czar. The book is a welcome contribution to a matter which occupies a large share of the present attention of the world.

SERAPIS. A Romance, by Georg Ebers. From the German, by Clara Bell. New York: William S. Gottsberger. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

Mr. Georg Ebers long ago won his spurs as an historical romancer, and we have to thank the translator for putting still another of his stories within reach of the general public. "Serapis" treats of that stirring period during which the temple of Serapis at Alexandria was destroyed—when Theodosius the Great fulminated against paganism. The scene is laid in Alexandria, and the writer powerfully describes the conflicting elements present previous to the catastrophe—the despair of the pagans at what they considered the crowning disaster of the struggle, the contrasting graces of Christian conquerors. There is, of course, a love story, and that of an elevating nature—constancy in spite of religious obstacles. But Mr. Ebers' idea, as in his previous novels, is to describe the social and public life, the religion, the arts of people living about the dawn of Christianity, and as such his "Serapis" will prove of great assistance in obtaining a clear conception of the times to which it relates.

THE DIAMOND LENS, AND OTHER STORIES. By Fitz-James O'Brien. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

The erratic genius whose chequered life is graphically portrayed by Mr. William Winter in an introduction to this book, would appear to have combined in some degree a Dickensian power of word-portraiture with an imagination à la Verne. Nothing more fascinating in their way and showing better literary workmanship has of late come to the front, in the shape of short stories, than the "baker's dozen" which are collated by O'Brien's biographer in the volume under notice. "The Diamond Lens," in which a scientific enthusiast falls in love with a water animalcule, is well worthy to rank first; but there is not one that is not absorbing, nor will many who read "The Bohemian," "The Golden Ingot," or "What Was It?" readily forget either the originality of their plots or the powerful manner in which their stories are related.

THE POETICAL WORKS OF JOHN KEATS. Reprinted from the Original Editions, with Notes by Francis T. Palgrave. London and New York: Macmillan and Company. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

Mr. Palgrave holds the opinion that Keats is a poet to be read as the bee tastes the flower—a little at a time—that he is a companion for the fortunate moments of travel, or for the country. The mission of this handsome little edition, therefore, is to put the poet's writings in convenient shape for the pocket, no issue hitherto published being suitable for that purpose. Every line, we are assured by Mr. Palgrave, has been thrice collated with the primary issues, so as to ensure an exact copy of the original texts, which had been carefully revised by Keats himself. The accompanying notes are designed to elucidate the rapid yet gradual development of Keats' powers, and do not take the form of an essay. A drawing of the *Œdipus at Colonus* of Sophocles, by Flaxman, has been reproduced for the Vignette.

STORIES BY AMERICAN AUTHORS. Vol. X. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

With this volume the happily-conceived series is completed—an announcement which will be received with regret by the many admirers of the idea of collating half-a-dozen good short tales into one handy volume. The set includes fifty-seven stories written by fifty-two authors. The volume just to hand contains: "Pancha," by T. A. Janvier; "The Ablest Man in the World," by E. P. Mitchell; "Young Moll's Peevy," by C. A. Stevens; "Manmatha," by Charles de Kay; "A Daring Fiction," by H. H. Boyesen; and "The Story of Two Lives," by Julia Schayer.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

MESSRS. CASSELL AND Co. will shortly commence the issue in monthly parts, uniform with "Picturesque America," of "Picturesque Canada."

MR. J. G. BOURINOT, the Clerk of the Canadian House of Commons, contributes an article on the political development of Canada to the current number of the *Scottish Review*.

A VOLUME of short stories, by Mr. William Black, is nearly ready by Messrs. Macmillan and Co. It will take its name from the first story in the volume, "The Wise Women of Inverness."

A NEW paper has appeared in London called the *Bat*. It is not, as it would seem at the first glance, a cricketing paper, but a journal for night birds and such as love theatres and other amusements of the town.

SIGNOR SALVINI, the Italian tragedian, will deny, in the May number of the *Brooklyn Magazine*, the report which quotes him as unwilling to revisit this continent because he thinks the American public unfit to appreciate his acting.

NEWSPAPER enterprise in Japan is making marked progress, for no fewer than three of the vernacular journals published at Tokio and one at Kobe sent special correspondents to report the proceedings of the recent hostilities between France and China.

MR. GEORGE W. CABLE hopes to devote June and July exclusively to the preparation of his "Remarkable True Stories," and to have the work before the public early in the fall. He has just finished his season's platform appearances with Mark Twain.

THE commission entrusted with the publication of the correspondence of Frederick the Great up to this time has collected 8,000 letters and documents, some of them of very great importance. It is stated that these documents will be printed with as little delay as possible.

M. "MAX O'RELL," it is now an open secret, is not an Englishman in disguise, and his name is not MacSorrel, as the preternaturally wise have surmised. He is M. Paul Blouët, French master at Westminster School, and editor of the Clarendon Press volumes on "French Oratory."

ALEXANDER DUMAS has in his study a small painting by Eugene Delacroix. He refuses to sell it for \$10,000, yet he only paid the unfortunate artist \$100 for it; and even then poor Delacroix warned him that he was paying a daring price. "Ah!" replied Dumas, "you reckon with contemporary imbecility; I with future extravagance."

WE note a novel design in the announcements of Messrs. Ward and Downey, of London. That firm will publish shortly a volume entitled "Songs from the Novelists," compiled and edited by Mr. W. Davenport Adams. The songs range from Sir Philip Sidney to our own time, including many copyright pieces, reprinted by permission. There will be an introduction and notes.

ARRANGEMENTS have been perfected whereby the *Chicago Rambler* will be converted into a humorous, illustrated weekly. The paper will lose its local character, and be made of interest to those who appreciate a refined satirical journal. A number of the best artists and cartoonists, both of the east and west, and some of the brightest American humorists will be regular contributors to its columns.

LAST year the publishers of the *Pall Mall Gazette* issued an index to that journal for the previous six months. It was originally prepared for editorial use in that office, but its value to the public as a ready reference to dates and events was so obvious that its distribution to a much wider circle followed. The expressions of favour with which it was received by journalists and others have secured the issue of a second index, covering the period from July 1st to December 31st, 1884. This is not only a record of news and articles appearing in the *Pall Mall Gazette* for the period named, but it is a complete chronicle of events, being so arranged that dates and occurrences are easily traced. The care bestowed upon the compilation of the index has secured great accuracy, and it will be found invaluable in libraries, and also to politicians, journalists, and others in need of a handy and reliable reference.