

tieth birthday, speaks of the contemporaneous persons and events.

When, she says, the royal salute of Berlin artillery, ninety years ago, announced the birth of a royal prince, a rapid "recall of the years shows us Washington then living on his estate at Mount Vernon; Lafayette a young man of forty; Clay a stripling of twenty; Webster a boy of fifteen. The Directory in France had not yet made way for the First Republic; the younger Pitt and Canning held England; Metternick and O'Connell were in their youth, and Robert Peel was a child of nine. Napoleon Bonaparte was in the flood of youthful success, soon to become the idol of France and the terror of Europe, before whom the boy, now Kaiser Wilhelm, and his royal family, fled to Königsberg by the Baltic, while the conqueror held Berlin and reduced Prussia to a second-rate province. To this boy the flames of burning Moscow were a transient aurora borealis under the pole star; and Nelson and Wellington were unknown to the stories of his childhood, for as yet their fame was not. Goethe and Schiller were in the prime of early manhood; Kant and Klopstock elderly, but with years yet to live; Scott was just laying down his poet's pen and preparing to take up the immortal quill with which he wrote his first 'Waverley'; Moore was singing his sweet melodies; Wordsworth had yet to lay the foundations of the 'Lake Poetry'; and the fair boy, Byron, was chanting his early songs, not yet, for many a year, to die at Missolonghi."

More touching, if not more striking, is the passage in which the writer, speaking of the tomb of the Emperor's mother, the charming and idolized Queen of Prussia, who had been treated with such brutality by the Emperor Napoleon, remarks: "It was here that King William came to pray, beside the tomb of the mother who had suffered so much at the hands of the first Napoleon, on the eve of going out to the war with Napoleon III.; and here, when returning in the flush of victory as Emperor of united Germany, with Louis Napoleon a prisoner in the German castle of Wilhelmshöhe, the old man came again to kneel in silent prayer beside the form of that mother whom the fortunes of war had so signally avenged more than sixty years after her death." We repeat that this is a very beautiful book.

#### RUSSIA.†

There is certainly a deepening interest, among ourselves and throughout the civilized world, in the great empire of Russia; and, in spite of all that has been done by various well-informed writers since the time of the Crimean war, there is still a good deal of ignorance and much uncertainty with respect to the internal condition of the country and the nature of its government. The author of the volume before us is a Spaniard, and she tells us frankly that she has never visited Russia and does not understand its language, so that there is a preliminary difficulty about her being accepted as a safe guide in regard to Russian life and literature. We may venture to say, however, that there is not another volume of the same size in our language—and it is excellently translated—which will give the same amount of information on the subject to which it is devoted. And we doubt whether there is one so thoroughly impartial and accurate.

The Senora (or Senorita) Bazan is a lady of well-known literary attainments, distinguished as a writer and a speaker; and was led, during a sojourn in Paris, to take an interest in Russian literature from remarking the popularity achieved in France by Russian authors, and especially by novelists. At first she thought of "doing" Russia; "but," she remarks, or her translator for her, "Russia is not just around the corner!" and she gave up that notion. We are not sure that we have lost much. At any rate, the authoress has made herself thoroughly acquainted with all the literature within her reach which bore upon the subject. We may observe, in passing, that readers who wish to extend their studies may have recourse to the classical work on Russia by Mackenzie Wallace, and to the excellent History of Russia, by Rambaud, now published in a very cheap form by Alden.

†Russia: Its People and its Literature. By E. P. Bazan. \$1.25. McClurg & Co., Chicago. 1890.

The writer observes with perfect truth that "Russia is at this moment the only young nation in Europe—the last to arrive at the banquet. The rest live upon their past; this one sets out now impetuously to conquer the future." And then there is its size, which, says Humboldt, "is greater than the disk of the full moon;" so that "fancy refuses to believe or to conceive that so large an extent of territory can form but one nation and obey but one man." Then there is composition of the people, half Aryan and half Mongolian—"Scratch a Russian, and you will find a Tartar."

"Russia with her double nature of European and Asiatic, seems like a princess in a fairy tale turned to stone by a malignant sorcerer's art, but restored to her natural and living form by the magic word of some valiant knight. Her face, her hands, and her beautiful figure are already warm and lifelike, but her feet are still immovable as stone, though the damsel struggles for the fullness of reanimation; even so Imperial Russia strives to become entirely European, to free herself from Asiatic inertia to-day."

The subject is treated in this volume with great comprehensiveness and completeness. The first book has a sketch of the history, the institutions, and the customs of the country, under the title of the Evolution of Russia. The second book deals with the much controverted subject of "Russian Nihilism and its Literature;" and although it will probably satisfy neither the obstructive nor the progressive party in Russia, we believe it will give foreigners a very good idea of that strange notion or movement—it is not a party—which is known by the name of Nihilism. The third and fourth books are devoted to the important literature of Russia, dealing first with the Russian novel, and then with "Modern Russian Realism." Of course we have criticisms of Gogol the founder, of Turgenieff, "Poet and Artist," and last, not least, of Tolstoi, "Nihilist and Mystic." There is an admirable contrast indicated between Russia and France at p. 281. We may safely recommend this volume as giving everything about contemporary Russia which most readers will care to know.

MAGAZINES.—*The Century* for July begins with a charming "Provençal Pilgrimage," beautifully illustrated, it is hardly necessary to add. Cathedral, chateau, street, river, mill, farm, all meet us and greet us out of the old land, and make us long to embrace them. Still we feel the charm of another state of things when we pass to the second article on "Kentucky Blue Grass," although it is a little queer to come upon a picture of a "Pike between Versailles and Frankfurt," whilst we admit the fitness of another title, the "Entrance to Arcadia." Amid a number of complete articles we have continuations of the "Women of the French Salons," the "Autobiography of Joseph Jefferson," the "Anglomaniacs" (very funny), and "Friend Olivia." *The Arena* (July) maintains its character. It presents a field for all comers, although we are bound to add that the comers are seldom Churchmen. But this may not be the fault of the *Arena* or its editor. On the other hand, there are some admirable articles, like the one, "Why I Oppose Woman Suffrage"; and although there is a good deal of offense in the article "Churchianity versus Christianity," there is something to be learnt from it. We shall hope to give fuller consideration to this paper. But the most important part of the contents consists of notes, by different writers, on "Liberty of Citizenship Imperilled," which show a very serious condition of things in the Great Republic. *Littell's Living Age* (July 5) has many good things; but it has one brilliant article, by Lord Coleridge, which is worth the price of the number. It is "The Law in 1847 and the Law in 1889." This is not a dry detail of changes in the law, but a brilliant sketch of eminent judges and lawyers, with some excellent remarks on the methods of the law. It may be interesting to us to know that Lord Coleridge prefers our way of uniting solicitor or attorney and barrister, to the English method of separating them. "Brought from Elysium" is a very clever dialogue which we earnestly recommend to the attention of those superior persons who think that Walter Scott could not write a novel, and that Mr. Howells can. *The Methodist*

*Magazine* (July) begins with a graphic account of Damascus, the "Eye of the East," with some good illustrations; but still better are those which adorn the paper "On the Youghiogony"—a fairy valley among the Alleghanies, the name of which, we are bound to confess, we had never heard of. It is hardly possible to imagine anything more lovely than the scenes here depicted by pen and pencil. Among other papers we have the continuation of Lady Brassey's "Last Voyage," and an excellent article on the distinguished lecturer, the Rev. Joseph Cook. The number of the *Expository Times* for July quite sustains the high character of this most useful publication. Every page contains information and suggestions of the greatest value to the clergy. The Notes of Recent Exposition are admirable. The first half is given of a lecture by Sir G. G. Stokes, Bart., on "Personal Immortality in Christ," of which we shall have more to say when the second part is published. Other papers are by Principal Moule, Dr. Grosart, Dr. Dickson, Rev. G. A. Smith, and others. *The Church Eclectic* (July) has a good many papers of interest, some original and others selected. First comes a very excellent memoir of "Thomas Bradbury Chandler, Doctor and Confessor," written by one of his descendants. A notice of *Lux Mundi*, from the *London Church Review*, has some good remarks. For example: "It appears to us that it is just here that the main mistake of the book lies—it has come out too soon. The zeal of some of the writers against the ignorant bigotry of the past seems to have blinded them to the fact that it is quite premature to be putting forth an Eirenicon in the present condition of the controversy with the representatives of science." Dr. Hoffman's Report on the General Theological Seminary is most satisfactory and gratifying. Next comes a sound and helpful paper on oratory, sacred and secular. *The Canada Educational Monthly* (July) begins with an excellent paper by Mr. Hagarty, of Mount Forest, entitled a "Plea for Homer," which we recommend to those who propose the disuse of the Iliad and Odyssey in our ordinary teaching. Another good article is that on the "Moral of the Poetic Instinct in Man," by Mr. Morrison, of Brantford. Mr. Ainger's paper on the Teaching of English Literature, and Dr. Abbott's on Civic and Moral Training in Schools, are continued from the April and May numbers of the magazine respectively. *The Churchman* (July) has some very useful papers, such as the Country Clergyman's Week, which will give useful information to clergymen both of town and country. Prebendary Bassett gives a first part of a paper on the Old Testament and the critics; and Dr. Cust has a very interesting article on Latin Translations of the Bible. Dr. Plummer's review of Lichtenberger is generally fair; but the reviewer certainly underrates the importance of Schleiermacher. We ought, before now, to have directed attention to a new Canadian venture in Church literature, *The Church Review*. The place of publication is not mentioned; but it clearly originates in the diocese of Nova Scotia, and it is printed at the "Argus Office," Lunenburg. It is a review eminently creditable to editor, contributors, and printers. It would make an excellent basis for a Parish Magazine; and if any of our parishes are meditating the establishment of such a publication, we recommend them to examine the *Church Review* before making up their minds. The last two numbers of the *Literary Digest* fully maintain the character of that publication in regard to the value and utility of its contents. The extracts from reviews, magazines, and newspapers are of the most comprehensive character, being representative of almost every nation and of every phase of opinion. We have brief extracts, well made, respecting English actors, Texan types and contrasts, the migration of Russian peasants and the African pigmies, on the two pages which at this moment lie open before us, so that the reader can form some guess as to the contents of a whole number of 32 pages.

—If we could only live as well as we wish, what happy and prosperous lives we would have. But doing is very much more difficult than desiring and resolving.