

The third and fourth volumes, completing the work, of Mr. Justin McCarthy's 'History of our Own Times' have just appeared in England. They cover the period from the accession of Queen Victoria to the General Election of 1880. The fourth and concluding volume of Mr. John Richard Green's 'History of the English People' has just been issued by Messrs. Macmillan, of London, and Harper Brothers, of New York.

Mr. W. Fraser Rae, the translator of Taine's 'Notes on England,' and the author of 'Westward by Rail,' 'Columbia and Canada,' &c., has just commenced a series of biographical sketches of the founders of New England, to be published in *Good Words*. The first of the series, on John Winthrop, the father of Massachusetts, appears in the September issue. Mr. Rae is at present on a visit to Manitoba and the North-West.

The October number of *The Bystander* reaches us as we are about to go to press, and we cannot refrain, before closing our pages, from calling attention to the high excellence of the new issue. Its appearance lays the reader under further and weighty obligation to the distinguished writer from whose pen it proceeds. The notable subject dealt with in the new number, as was to be expected, is 'the Pacific Railway Agreement,' and this and

a disquisition on 'Freedom of Discussion,' which follows it, are handled with a freshness, originality, and vigour which makes a powerful impression upon the reader. Detractors may make light of the work to which the writer of *The Bystander* has addressed himself, in issuing this serial, but no sane reader of the publication can fail to appreciate the profound thoughtfulness of its articles, or doubt the influence which such fearless and independent criticism can have upon the thought and opinion of the country. We can but note here two other articles in the present number which are especially worthy of perusal—one on 'the Presidential Election,' and the other a reply to Mr. Pringle's 'Defence of Ingersoll.' The first of these is marked by keenness and accuracy of observation, and an intimate knowledge of the history of Parties in the United States; the other by a broad catholicity and a remarkable effectiveness in dealing with the phantoms of Modern Doubt. The service which this periodical is rendering to the literature of Canada which, like the nation itself, is only in process of formation, is simply incalculable. To the journalist it is a mine of thought and a life-long education in criticism and the art of saying things. To the politician and the people generally, it is at once a guide and an inspiration.

BRIC-À-BRAC.

ODE IN MEMORY OF ADELAIDE NEILSON.

'Ave et Vale.'

AH! lost star of the stage, into the night,
sunk where no eye shall see!
Past that gate of the grave, darkness of death
husheth and hideth thee;
Thou whom all of the gods graced with their
gifts, bidding each charm be thine,
Aphrodite in form, voiced like a muse, filled
as with fire divine,
Shall we see not again, hear thee no more,
never beholding now
Those fair tresses of gold, never again, crown-
ing the queen-like brow;
Shall no Juliet now speak with her lips,
win with the charm she wore?
Shall not Rosalind's voice wake into life, pas-
sion and pathos more?

Farewell, thou whom we loved, true is the
word, that which the Seers have sung,
Be not envious at death, they whom the gods
grace with their love die young;
So pass, star of the stage, into the night,
there, where for all who dwell
It is well, we are sure, therefore, for thee,
sure it is also well.

—CHARLES PELHAM MULVANY.

TORONTO.

An old coachman meets his master at a Scotch railway-station, having had several 'halves' during his wait. Master, sniffing: 'What's this, John? I get the smell of whiskey off you again!' John: 'Weel, weel, my lord, I've felt the smell o' whuskey aff you mony a time, and I ne'er said ocht about it!'