

these city folks is rich, an' is youn's frien's, they ain't agoin' to stomp on noner us, ner change nothin' in this town, they ain't, if Mr. Henley as knows 'em do say it; an' you hed better tell 'em so, Jerry Wilkerson, or Durden's will. Paul Henley, thet were borned rich, he don't take on like he were too good, he don't; he jes' goes roun' alonger orl the boys, jest for orl the worl' like he were a pore boy too, he does."

National character and points of philological interest are disclosed in faithful reproduction of Paddy's brogue, Sandy's doric, the delightful darkey lingo of Uncle Remus, Yankee idioms, or the broken English of Gaels or French Canadians; but is aught added to any sort of knowledge by elaborately setting forth mere imbecilities of pronunciation in persons without characteristics of any other sort whatever? It is high time for American publishers to cease from augmenting the nuisance heap that has been poured from their presses since the fashion of reporting inanities in many scarcely differentiated varieties of gibberish sprang from the notion that "dialect" is interesting when neither lively, quaint, amusing nor instructive.

DEBRET'S PEERAGE 1891. DEBRET'S BARONETAGE AND KNIGHTAGE. 1891. London: Dean and Son.

When we undertook to review these volumes we looked upon it as a task, but confess to being fascinated by the subjects. They are full of out-of-the-way information for intelligent readers. There is also an historical charm in reading about many of those who figure in the works, either in the present or past generations. To the thoughtful, historical student they are of great value. An intelligent and fair-minded man will often be able to appreciate at its real worth some of the mud-throwing which is the bane of politics and history. We have only space for a few references to the subject matter of the works. Among the peerages in abeyance is that of Baron Audley. This peerage was created in 1313. Occasionally British titles are suffered to rest in abeyance because the rightful holders have insufficient means to sustain them. Public opinion in Great Britain runs counter to the system prevailing in some parts of Europe, of great titles and little means. In THE WEEK of May 8th we reviewed the two volumes of Irish Tales (Williamson and Company, Toronto), and stated that "Castle Rackrent" gave an admirable description of the easy-going, reckless Irish landlords of ninety years ago. The Audley peerage is a case in point. Sixty years ago the then Baron Audley—an Irish peer—was the personification of the easy-going and reckless landlords of the beginning of the century. But although he thoughtlessly heaped up debts, in all other respects he was an Irish gentleman, which, to all persons of wide experience and knowledge, means much. The first peerage of Argyll dates from 1445. The readers of Scott's novels and of Macaulay's England know how much the Campbells have influenced Scottish history. The present Duke is great as an author, orator and statesman; and is a man of whom Scotland may well be proud. The first title of the family of the Earl of Derby dates from 1456. The second baron, on the blood-stained field of battle at Bosworth-heath, placed Richard's crown (which had been hidden in a whitethorn bush) on the head of Henry Tudor, hailing him as King Henry the Seventh. By this act he transferred the crown of England from the Plantagenets to the Tudors. Since then the family has always figured in English history. The present Earl is a very able man, and, more than any other British statesman, is entitled to be called the great common-sense statesman. The Baron De Longueuil is the sole Canadian hereditary peer. He is descended from an old Norman family which settled in Canada in 1641. Three of his predecessors have been governors of Montreal. He now resides in Scotland. There is an interesting account of our Premier, Sir John A. Macdonald. His father was settled at Kingston, but although the date of Sir John's birth is given, it does not give the place of his nativity, which was in Glasgow, Scotland; the date being the 11th of January, 1815. A perusal of the list of his various degrees, positions past and present, and titles, will fire the hearts of enthusiastic young Canadians. Sir Richard Cartwright is young enough to achieve further distinction. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin. We may be sure from his abilities that ten years hence he will occupy more space than at present in the Baronetage and Knightage. Some years ago an American paper recounted in terms of warm praise the achievements of many of the British peers in literature, science and healthy public movements. As long as that state of things prevails, in the words of the poet, Britain "will stand four square to all the winds that blow." These companion volumes contain a large amount of information on the subjects treated. The clear, concise and appropriate form in which it is presented makes them convenient for reference. All who are interested in or want information about the aristocracy of the British Empire will be greatly aided by them. The old can refresh their memories from their pages, and the young can find in them a storehouse of biographical and historical matter. Canadian fathers who wish to make presents to their intelligent sons which will inform and clear their minds from prejudice, and intellectually and morally stimulate them, would act wisely in presenting them with these important volumes. They are the condensed and attractive records of the families of some of the most distinguished men of our race. Men who by their force of character and intellectual ability have largely contributed

to the glory and renown of the British Empire in the past, as well as the present, on the field of battle, as well as in the no less honourable fields of art, science, literature, commerce or politics, and the other ennobling callings of life. We commend the sound judgment and gentle spirit of the American journalist who can publicly express his admiration for the true nobility of British rank and the great and signal achievements of British aristocracy as above indicated. It is wise and just not only to reprobate the bad, but also to commend the good in the classes, as well as in the masses.

A SKETCH of "The Labour Commission" and a striking picture of the late Count Von Moltke appear in the *Illustrated News* of 16th inst. The contribution, "The Genius of George Meredith," by Richard Garnett, LL.D., is appreciative and readable. This sketch is accompanied by a photographic reproduction of the distinguished novelist.

THE *Dominion Illustrated* of the 16th inst. has a contribution by Mr. J. Castell Hopkins as a study of "Fiscal Conditions in Britain, Canada and the States," in which Mr. Hopkins holds that "our best policy is to remain fiscally free of the United States, while drawing tighter the bonds of commercial relationship with the Empire." Mr. Tait McKenzie's article on "The Growth of Gymnastics in Montreal" is suggestive reading for Toronto athletes.

*Wide Awake* for May is full of the reading children like best—good stories in good variety. Miss Plympton, author of "Dear Daughter Dorothy," has a unique story, "The Black Dog," which she has illustrated herself; Susan Coolidge contributes a story quite out of her usual line, entitled "A Good Bad Horse"; Katharine B. Foote's "Uncle Sam's Two Stories" has a bright, historical interest—Garrett's pictures are particularly taking; "Old Sandy's Launch," illustrated by Brennan, is artistic and pathetic; "Daddles" is amusing. Each installment of Margaret Sidney's Peppers serial seems to be so complete in its interest as to be as readable as a short story. "Cab and Caboose," Kirk Munroe's railroad serial, is finished in this number. "Marietta's Good Times" continues the delicious idyl of Italian child-life, written by an Italian woman.

*Blackwood's Magazine* for May is full of interesting matter. The bright "Chronicles of Westerly" are continued. Lieut.-Col. H. Knollys, R.A., gives a graphic sketch of "Some Very Noble Savages"; "An Indian Ring" tells the bad luck which befell Captain Wilmot, the unfortunate purchaser of an unlucky ring—how he lost his race and love, and his bet of nearly 5,000 rupees; and how he was thrown in a steeplechase and had a dislocated shoulder. And then how, the moment he parted with the ill-omened ring, both his love and rupees returned and all his wounds were healed. The review articles on "Talleyrand" and "John Murray and His Friends" are excellent. "Labour versus Capital in Great Britain," a forecast by a working man, is good, sensible and timely reading. And there is but too much truth in the concluding article, "Despotism, Anarchy and Corruption in the United States of America."

*St. Nicholas* for May begins with an imaginative poem, "Morning," by the late Emily Dickinson. Nora Perry's "Siege of Calais," a ballad with striking illustrations by Birch, will delight little students of history, who will also read the second paper on "The Land of Pluck," by Mrs. Dodge, with keen delight. J. O. Davidson, the marine artist, has written and fully illustrated a short serial of adventure, entitled "Chan Ok," which describes the capture of a noted Chinese pirate of the present day; it is based on fact. The excellent serials by Trowbridge and Noah Brooks are continued. Among other attractions we find a clever bit of verse with pictures by Margaret Johnson; a verse by John Albee called "The Manners of Sheep"; an allegory, "A Lesson in Happiness," by W. J. Henderson; "My Microscope," by M. V. Worstell; an amusing dialogue by Oliver Herford, "The Professor and the White Violet," and "A Turning-Point" and "A Diet of Candy."

#### LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

QUEEN MARGHERITA, of Italy, is a devoted student of the Hebrew language and literature.

It is said that Mark Twain will go abroad next month to be absent from home several years. His family will accompany him.

MRS. HUMPHREY WARD has now ready her promised new novel called "David," the hero of which is said to be a workingman with aspirations.

"TO PLEASE HIS WIFE" is the name of the new novel shortly to appear from the pen of Thomas Hardy, the author of "Far from the Madding Crowd," etc.

WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS has a charming house on Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, which he leaves next autumn to reside in New York. He has a soft blue eye and a coy manner.

THE authorized "Life of Robert Browning," by Mrs. Sutherland Orr, will be published shortly by Houghton, Mifflin and Company. It will be in two volumes, which will contain a new portrait and a picture of Browning's study.

CAPTAIN STAIRS has left England for Zanzibar, whence he will start in command of the Belgian expedition to Katanga. The expedition will include five other Europeans and about 300 natives.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, in declining an invitation to attend the celebration of Browning's birthday in Boston, wrote: "I am at present compelled to forego all, even pleasurable excitements."

THE June *Atlantic* will have a long article by Hon. Carl Schurz on Abraham Lincoln, suggested by Hay and Nicolay's Biography, and entirely distinct from Mr. Schurz's lecture on Lincoln.

A facsimile of a copy of Charles Lamb's "Poetry for Children," for which Mr. Tuer, of the Leadenhall Press, gave £34 recently at a sale, will shortly be issued by him. The British Museum has no copy of this interesting work.

DR. BIRKBECK HILL, to whom we are indebted for an authoritative edition of Boswell's "Life of Samuel Johnson," is preparing for publication a collection of Dr. Johnson's letters. About seven hundred will be included in the volume.

THE MONTESQUIEU manuscripts, soon to be published by his descendants, are eagerly awaited in France. Two of the papers, an essay on "Universal Monarchy" and one on "Reputation," were recently read before the French Academy of Moral and Political Science.

FREDERICK MASSON will edit and publish the "Memoirs of Prince Napoleon," who left more than five trunks full of important papers. The editor's plan is to make the work more a history than a book of memoirs, bringing out specially the true character, plan and hopes of the Prince.

MRS. SUSAN T. MOORE, a sister of F. Hopkinson Smith, has written a breezy summer story which she calls "Ryle's Open Gate," and which will soon appear with Houghton, Mifflin and Company's imprint. It is located at a Long Island village, and is likely to find a host of summer readers.

THE *Frankfurter Zeitung* reports the discovery of a hitherto unknown essay of Goethe's on "The Comparative Anatomy of the Skulls of Mammals." Goethe was an ardent scientist, and much interest attaches to the paper, which is supposed to be of the date 1794. Professor Bardleben is preparing it for publication.

MR. OSCAR WILDE's first novel, entitled "The Picture of Dorian Grey," which, when it appeared serially in *Lippincott's Magazine* last year, created much discussion in literary circles, has just been published in volume form by Messrs. Ward Lock and Company. Mr. Wilde has designed the cover for this reproduction.

THE fifth paper in the *Popular Science Monthly's* illustrated series on the development of American Industries since Columbus will describe "The Manufacture of Wool." It will appear in the June number, and the writer is S. N. Dexter North, Secretary of the National Association of wool manufacturers, and special agent of the eleventh census.

A GENUINE literary find is announced by the *Pall Mall Gazette* in the shape of two unpublished MSS. by Thomas Carlyle. The one gives an account of a trip to Paris in 1851; the other is an unfinished novel entitled, "Wotton Reinfred." The style, we are told, is wonderfully pure, and marked by none of the later Carlyle characteristics.

THERE were touching circumstances attending the last days of the late French Protestant writer, Edmond de Pressensac. He had undergone the operation of tracheotomy and had lost the power of speech. Writing was then his only means of communication with his family. But his wife had become blind from a cataract, and their intercourse was sadly restricted.

MR. WALTER BESANT has written a story for the new magazine, which has been given the ugly title the *Ludgate Monthly*. It is really quite extraordinary to note the rapidity with which new papers and new theatres are multiplying in London. Every week we hear of a new magazine; every month of a new playhouse. Where are the new readers and audiences to come from? Are they really multiplying with equal rapidity?

PROFESSOR VILLARI—the illustrious author of the "Life of Savonarola" and many other admirable writings, who combines the critical faculty of a reflecting scholar with the fire and imagination of a poet—has accepted office in the new Italian Government as Minister of Public Instruction. It is an admirable appointment as far as the public schools are concerned, which need some reforms, if we are to judge by De Amici's recent novel, "Il Romanzo di un Maestro."

SIR SAMUEL BAKER, the well-known sporting author, and Lady Baker, appear to have had a good time of it during their recent sporting tour through the wilds of Central India. Sir Samuel's bag was a good one, including seven tigers to his own gun. Sir Samuel complains that deer are scarce, because native shikarris have been slaying them. It seems that they shoot birds all through the breeding season, and kill does and fawns, and often poison a whole tank to get a few fish.

THE announcement of a new novel by the author of "The Silence of Dean Maitland" will arrest the attention of the reading public. Messrs. D. Appleton and Company will publish the new work immediately, and it will be found that "Maxwell Grey" continues to show the remarkable force which made "The Silence of Dean Maitland."