

May 15th, 1891.]

THE *Rural Canadian* for May says that Professor Goldwin Smith's reference to the diet of Canadian farmers in his "Canada and the Canadian Question" is very excellent nonsense. It also has a translation of an able article by Dr. George Scheidemuhl on Professor Koch's Discovery and Tuberculosis in cattle.

Belford's May number opens with an article on "The Thirteen" Superstition among the Fair Sex," by J. R. Abarbanell, archivist of the Thirteen Club, in which is embodied a concise symposium on the subject contributed by Mrs. Henry Stanley and many other fair and sapient authorities on the subject. "Told by The Housekeeper" is a tale of pathetic interest from the pen of Grace Ellery Channing. A number of other articles and the complete novel, "Captain Poison," translated from the Spanish by Rollo Ogden, make up an excellent number.

"PROUD MASSIE," by Frederick Sandys, is the striking frontispiece of the *English Illustrated Magazine* for May. "The Voice of Spring" is the title of a delightful poem by Lewis Morris. This is followed by an illustrated descriptive article on "Ham House," belonging to the Earl of Dysart, written by Lady Sudeley. "The Marseillaise" is a stirring and pathetic story by Henry Herman. "Church Patronage" is dealt with by the Hon. Edward P. Thesiger, C.B., who writes that "under this system has grown up a body of clergy distinguished for their earnestness, for the purity of their lives, for devotion to their duties."

COPYRIGHT LAWS of the United States, including the Act of 1891, occupy space in the *Writer* for May. It was a happy thought of the editor to insert them, as he says in the introduction, "for the information of publishers and authors in general." This number also contains some short, pithy articles, such as "Skeletons of Novels," "Plagiarism," "Honour among Publishers," etc. M. Bouchier Sanford has an appreciative sketch of "A Poet of Canada: S. Frances Harrison ('Seranus')," which ends thus: "A lover of her country, she has chanted to the people of the glory of their own northern skies; the beauty, the romance, and the interest of their own northern land, until even the indifferent have learned to listen with appreciative ears and to see for themselves with clearer vision."

THE *Scottish Review* for April opens with a thoughtful article on "Socialism," by John Grant. Mr. Grant says that "Modern Socialists in their methods indicate that they have perceived the historical significance of their movement, a stage of progress in advance of but naturally evolving from the present, and in the scope of their proposals show that whilst considering social well-being, they have not quite overlooked the necessity of protecting individual freedom." Major C. R. Condor contributes an article of unusual interest to archaeologists on "The Tell Armana Tablets," which he says "constitute a political correspondence between the Pharaohs and the rulers of Syria and Chaldea, of the highest historical value, and belonging to a time of which next to nothing was previously known from monumental sources." He further says that "all this story of an ancient civilization also agrees with the Old Testament account of the times." There are other able articles in this excellent number.

CANADIAN readers of the *New England Magazine* for May will at once turn to Mr. James Hannay's exceedingly interesting narrative on "The Loyalists." St. John, New Brunswick, is the main scene which is presented in this bright and graphic description of a portion of our early history. The events which led to the escape or banishment of the loyalists from the United States are glanced at, and the cruel laws and treatment with which they were persecuted are instanced. Many an old loyalist name is cited, and some of the chief actors on the scene in those days of trial and hardship are described. The article is accompanied by illustrations of places associated with loyalist memories, and of articles which they owned, now in the possession of their descendants in New Brunswick. Would it not be well, by public or private effort, to gather and preserve these precious historic relics? Their value increases yearly, as does the possibility of their loss or destruction. The mementos of the trying days of our good and gallant forefathers should be dear to all true Canadians. An article interesting from the subject treated is "Walt Whitman at date," by H. L. Traubel. It is, however, but indifferently and in part clumsily written.

In this working, worrying age, when the mind and body are often wearied with the strain and struggle of life, one of the most charming and refreshing sources of rest and recreation is the ever-welcome short story. The short story has become one of the important factors in the literary life of the day. That our country has made her mark in this branch of literary activity is evident. The stories of such gifted Canadian writers as E. W. Thomson—whose bright, graphic and often thrilling tales are so true to those phases of Canadian life, scenery and adventure with which they deal—are welcomed and eagerly read by hosts of readers across the ocean and on this Continent. One of the best mediums for purveying the short story to the public is *Romance*, which presents to its readers the tales of the New York Story Club. The May number is very attractive. It begins with a spirited translation of Prosper Merimée's "How the Redoubt was Taken," and ends with "A Mystery of Old Gray's Inn," by Andrée Hope. There are sixteen stories in all in this number, and they are of sufficient interest and variety to lighten many an otherwise weary moment, and to refresh and cheer their readers.

LIKE some other institutions of our young though progressive country, the Canadian Military Institute is doing good work for Canada. There may be some Canadians who forget or ignore the fact that their country has a history; that there were men, Canadian men, who wrote its thrilling pages with their hearts' best blood; that the early chapters of this history is the stern yet brilliant record of high and noble endeavour, of unselfish and patriotic sacrifice, and of heroic endurance and fortitude. Though we love peace and shun war, let us never forget that in all countries and climes the price that is paid for freedom is the life-blood of many a noble man. Canada has paid this price, may we express the hope, once and for all. The able and interesting papers of Lieut.-Col. R. Z. Rogers on "Incidents in the Early Military History of Canada," and of Captain E. A. Cruickshank on "Battlefields of the Niagara Peninsula," published by the Institute, are well worth publishing and preserving. May we not truthfully say that the soldier is the pioneer as well as the conservator of civilized peace. These valuable papers, compiled largely from the journals and records of other days, impress the Canadian reader of to-day with serious convictions. Surely the heritage of British law, liberty and institutions, which was maintained at such a cost, and handed unimpaired to him by his own forefathers, must indeed be far more precious than some people would lead him to suppose. Though these papers were prepared for a military audience, they are of unusual interest to the general Canadian reader as well.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

"THE THREE FATES," a new novel by F. Marion Crawford, opens attractively in the May number of the *Home-Maker*.

"THERE AND BACK," George MacDonald's new story, it is said to be a remarkably strong and striking story of English life.

LORD HOUGHTON is following in his father's footsteps, and is on the point of bringing out a volume of "Stray Verses," Mr. Murray being the publisher.

A NUMBER of publishers have presented Mr. R. U. Johnson with a loving-cup of solid silver, in token of their appreciation of his work for International Copyright.

GEO. ROUTLEDGE AND SONS have now ready the thirteenth edition of "Men and Women of the Time," brought down to date by Mr. George Washington Moon.

THE sale of Herbert D. Ward's American school story, "The New Senior at Andover," is very large and is establishing its claim as the story of American school life.

A NEAT and most attractive little book is the edition of the "Poems of Wordsworth," chosen and edited by Matthew Arnold, which Harper and Brothers have ready for publication.

MARGARET SIDNEY's new story "Rob" is the latest of her delightful juvenile tales and is especially designed to show how a poor but plucky boy makes his way to appreciation and success.

LADY DUFFERIN will follow up her recent volume on her life with Lord Dufferin in London with one on their life in Canada, when Lord Dufferin was Governor-General. It will be entitled "My Canadian Journey, 1872 and 1873."

M. PAUL BLOUET ("Max O'Rell") will leave Europe in October next for a third lecture tour of six months in the United States, to be immediately followed by a twelve months' tour in the Australian colonies. This will be his farewell tour.

"THE PHILADELPHIAN," a novel by Louis J. Jennings, M.P., is the latest edition to "Harper's Franklin Square Library." Mr. Jennings was a resident of New York from 1863 to 1876, and during part of that time was editor of the *New York Times*.

PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH delivered an address to the Young Liberal Club of Toronto on Monday evening, the 11th inst. The subject of the address was "Aristocracy." Professor Smith's remarks were by no means complimentary to the unsubmerged "upper ten."

HENRY GEORGE is now engaged in writing the great work of his life, which is designed to cover the whole field of political economy and to formulate a system of economics that will harmonize with his theory of land ownership. Whether it will be an epochal book remains to be seen; it will surely be a readable one.

O. C. AURINGER, whose poem "Scythe and Sword" received high praise from the leading critics, has just published a long poem of action and endeavour, "The Heart of the Golden Roan." The poem first appeared in the *Springfield Republican*. Mr. Auringer is a member of the Authors' Club and is a resident clergyman of Northwood, N. Y. D. Lothrop Company are the publishers of these works.

READERS of the *New York Critic* have wondered who the new Boston correspondent is, whose bright letters in the April numbers of that paper have appeared over the initial "W." The writer of those letters, who has become the successor of the lamented Mr. Alexander Young, is now declared to be Mr. Charles Edgar Lewis Wingate, of the Boston *Journal*, author of "An Impossible Possibility" and "Can Such Things Be?"

THE most successful book of the year so far on the Continent is Casati's "Ten Years in Equatoria." No less

than 18,000 copies were sold in Germany within a fortnight of its appearance, and a second edition is now in the press. French and Spanish editions have also been rapidly disposed of, and translations of the book are being prepared in Scandinavian, Hungarian, and Russian. 10,000 volumes of the Italian edition have also been taken up. Altogether, the success of the work is simply phenomenal.

PROFESSOR BERTRAND has made a great discovery. In the public library at Geneva he has come upon a manuscript, eighty pages in length, containing an original draft of Rousseau's "Contrat Social," written about eight years before the great book which we know. It is strange that such a treasure—which gives the key, so it is said, to many of the contradictions apparent in Rousseau's works—should have lain so long unnoticed, and that it should at length have been brought to light by a Frenchman, and not by a native of the city on the Rhone.

THOSE who intend going into the army may be glad to know that Colonel Younghusband, the author of "Frays and Forays," has written a guide for their use, stuffed full of valuable information. Its title is, "The Queen's Commission; how to obtain it, and how to use it." The book is published by Mr. Murray, and describes the different means of getting a commission, the cost of life at Woolwich and Sandhurst, and the merits and demerits of public schools and crammers. It also contains a quantity of excellent advice of various kinds, especially on social and financial matters connected with military life.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, who has played many a role—sometimes with success, always with notoriety, whether cheap or the reverse—is now going to astound creation as an author, and is already fully assured of making a good thing of the trade in a pecuniary sense. He intends to write a book giving a minute description of his forthcoming wanderings in Mashonaland. The work will appear first of all in the *Daily Graphic*, in the form of twenty letters, and the noble writer will receive, or has received, for these, the sum of £2,000 sterling. This will make the mouth of many a successful author water with envy.

At another recent London sale, the following sums were paid: Beverley's "History of Virginia," 1705, £81; first edition of Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield," Salisbury, 1766, £35 10s.; first edition of Charles Lamb's "Rosamund Gray" and "Old Blind Margaret," £20 10s.; Walton's "Compleat Angler," plates, fine and large copy (five and five-eighths inches by three and a-half inches), in the original binding, 1653, and Cotton's "Compleat Angler," plates, 1676, the rare first edition of each work, £310—the highest price ever bid for these works; *Vanity Fair* in monthly parts, as issued, with the woodcut of the Marquis of Steyne, which was suppressed after the issue of a few copies, £21 5s., and first edition of John Bunyan's "Holy War," with rare portrait of the author (1682), £32.

MR. WALTER BESANT desires to have in London an Authors' Club and an Academy of Letters, and the only wonder is that his wish has not become an accomplished fact long ago. At the same time, the Savile and the Athenaeum have both some pretensions to being authors' clubs, although, of course, there are members of both who cannot lay claim to the title of author. The Americans, however, go farther than the author of "All Sorts and Conditions of Men," and clamour for the endowment of literature. Budding genius should be cherished, they think—carefully fostered, and not allowed to sink under privation, or be blotted out in tears wrung from the eyes by the tyranny of want. There is, of course, something in all this; but who is going to accurately discern where genius lies hid. Are there any literary diviners of the rod to guide the undiscerning who dwell across the Atlantic? Budding genius does not always blossom, but, on the other hand, dry twigs like Aaron's rod sometimes astonish everybody by flowering unexpectedly.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

IN THE FIELDS.

IT is doubtful if the pleasure one experiences in a ramble of a few hours in the suburbs of the city at this season is more acute than that which is felt in those which succeed one's return. In the first the eye is gratified by the green-growing fields, the pink and brown buds that swell on birch and maple and the grey and white catkins of the willows, and there is rejuvenation in the air that comes from woods of pine and cedar. The ear is charmed by the notes of a dozen different species of birds, those feathered aristocrats and millionaires, who journey to their estates in the south every autumn and return every spring, just as is the practice of some monied mortals who own orange groves or have a welcome awaiting them at the Hotel of Ponce de Leon. Such a ramble is good for the eyes, ears and lungs; for its pleasant memories, for its pictures which one has only to shut one's eyes to have brought before him with all the vividness of reality. Like all workers nature works in silence. She does not whistle when she spreads her green carpet over the fields, nor shout when she plants a tree. She is persistent, never exultant and never depressed. And quietly as her operations proceed, there is never a moment of any day of our lives when she is not producing scene after scene, picture after picture, glory after glory, and "working still upon such exquisite