

## OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

We have received the following books and publications :—

THE EVE OF ST. AGNES. By John Keats. Illustrated by Edmund H. Garrett, under the supervision of Geo. T. Andrew. Boston : Estes and Lauriat.

FOUR FEET, TWO FEET, AND NO FEET. Stories of Animals, Fishes, and Birds, for the Little Folks. Edited by Laura E. Richards. Fully illustrated. Boston : Estes and Lauriat.

LIBRARY MAGAZINE. December. New York : J. B. Alden.

THE GHOST OF A DOG : A Christmas Story. By J. A. Phillips. Ottawa : A. S. Woodburn.

MUSICAL HERALD. December. Boston : Franklin Square.

UNITED SERVICE MAGAZINE. December. New York : J. H. S. Hamersley.

WIDE AWAKE. December. Boston : D. Lothrop and Co.

STATE FUNERALS. By Charles F. Benjamin, Washington, D. C.

POEMS OF HENRY ABBEY. New, Revised, and Enlarged Edition. Kingston, New York : Henry Abbey.

MUSIC :—"Remember Me." Song. Words by Hugh Conway. Music by Jules de Sivrai. "Life's Romance." Song. Words by Frederick E. Weatherley. Music by Milton Wellings. "Do Not Forget." Song. Words by Cotsford Dick. Music by Milton Wellings. "Five o'Clock Tea." Song. Words by Knight Summers. Music by Henry Pontet. "Chelsea China Polka." By Otto Roeder. "Tabby Polka." By P. Bucalossi. Toronto : The Anglo-Canadian Music Publishers' Association.

## LITERARY GOSSIP.

JEBB'S Life of Bentley, in the "English Men of Letters" series, has been translated into German.

PROF. HUXLEY will contribute to the *Nineteenth Century* a reply to Mr. Gladstone's article in the last month's number.

THE concluding volume of the "Autobiography of Prince Metternich" is passing through the press. It is expected that the volume will be ready for issue early in the New Year.

KEGAN, PAUL, TRENCH AND CO. have published, on parchment paper, specimens of English prose style from Malory to Macaulay, with an introductory essay by George Shaftesbury.

SANSKRIT is made easy for beginners by the publication of a translated text of the Nala, with notes and a transliterated glossary. It is edited by Hermann Camillo Kellner, and published by Brockhaus, of Leipzig.

It is declared to be impossible to publish the posthumous novel of Colonel Frederick Burnaby, who was killed in the Sudan, because no one has been able to decipher the manuscript. It has been examined by handwriting experts, but nothing can be made of it.

M. MOULIN, an ex-Advocate-General of France, lately deceased, got together in the course of his life a complete collection of the autographs of the "Immortals" from the foundation of the Academy to the present day. The collection is unique, and is bequeathed to the Academy by M. Moulin's will.

WE understand that Prof. Charles Eliot Norton has edited and placed in the hand of Messrs. Macmillan and Co. for publication a collection of hitherto unpublished letters written by Carlyle to his family and friends. The collection will comprise a series of letters to Mr. Browning, and the very important series of letters to Goethe recently referred to in these columns.

A SET of twenty etchings by American artists is being issued by Messrs. Putnam's Sons. The selection consists chiefly of studies made direct from nature. Some of the specimens by such masters of their art as Moran, Parrish, Ferris, and Smillie are admirable, and show that the etcher's art is not neglected by the American artists. A description and biographical text accompanies the plates.

MR. HOWELLS, the novelist, tells a good story about his own writings. After he had published "The Lady of the Aroostook," he received a letter from an unknown friend, an old salt, who knew whereof he spoke ; and in this letter Mr. Howells was informed that if he allowed the *Aroostook* to go out to sea in the rig he had given her, she would be lost before she had fairly cleared the harbour. This frank nautical criticism was recognized by Mr. Howells, and in the next edition the vessel sailed forth under her proper rig.

THE remains of a remarkable "missing link" between birds and reptiles have been discovered by the scientists. A photograph of one of these strange creatures has recently been made especially for the *Century* from the slab preserved in the British Museum ; and a careful engraving therefrom, with other curious illustrations, will appear in an article in the *January Century*, entitled "Feathered Forms of Other Days." The author of the article has made a picture of "restoration" of the missing link, with its lizard's body, wings of a bird, and long reptilian tail. The same article will contain pictures of the dodo and other extinct birds.

THE publishers of the *Current* announce that, by a recent sale, this leading Western weekly becomes the property of George W. Wiggs, Esq., a Chicago capitalist, and that its entire management will be intrusted to Alva E. Davis, Esq., a publisher of experience and wide acquaintance and interests. The editorial direction will remain in the hands of Gustavus C. Matthews, formerly of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and the *Indianapolis News* (who has been an associate editor from the founding of the paper in 1883), and of John McGovern, late of the *Chicago Tribune*, who assumed the duties of an associate editor of the *Current* in July, 1884.

MR. W. D. HOWELLS will occupy the "Editor's Study" in *Harper's*—the new editorial department absorbing the *Literary Record*—for the first time in the January number. As Mr. Curtis has entertained *Harper's* readers for years from the "Easy Chair" with his chats about social matters, and Mr. Warner, for the past two years, has spread before them a pleasant *causerie* of humour, so Mr. Howells will talk chattily to them about books and matters of literature in general. Mr. Curtis himself, in his New Year's greeting, rises from the "Easy Chair" to open for the general reader "the door which admits him to the 'Editor's Study'"—a room which he has not seen before ; an apartment designed for his delight, as the "Easy Chair" is intended for his repose ; a retreat in which his wakefulness will be as refreshing as his slumbers in the "Chair." "The *genius loci* who welcomes him," he adds, pleasantly, "is not one whom the guest has ignorantly worshipped but whose fine and penetrating power has at once charmed his fancy and touched his character and refined his life."

## MUSIC.

## TORONTO MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

PUBLIC interest in the Monday Popular Concerts shows no signs of decrease. The fifth concert on Monday evening was attended by a large and appreciative audience of over twelve hundred people. The programme was of a lighter character than that of the previous concert, the vocal selections consisting of English ballads, and the instrumental numbers of short and tuneful excerpts from popular string quartettes and solos for the violin and violoncello. The artistic singing of Miss Henrietta Beebe was a rich musical treat. The lady has a full-toned voice of a very sympathetic quality, and sings with charming expression and taste. It is to be regretted that the same cannot be said of Mr. J. M. Sherlock, the tenor, whose singing did not reach the standard of the average Toronto amateur. His method is singularly raw, and it is evident that he has not the most elementary ideas of artistic singing, or of voice production. Herr Ludwig Corell won a second triumph this season by his excellent playing of Goltermann's "Concerto" and "Romance." He produces a good, sonorous tone, and excels in the *cantabile* style. The performances of the string quartette and of Herr Jacobsen were, as usual, very satisfactory. This concert is noteworthy for the fact that at it was taken for the first time in Canada a *plébiscite* of the audience as to the attractions of the instrumental concerted numbers given at the previous concerts, it being understood that the two selections getting the highest number of votes would be repeated at the next concert. The experiment was undertaken to obtain the genuine opinion of the audience of the works produced at these concerts. The highest number of votes was recorded for Mozart's clarinet quintette, Tschai-kowsky's *andante*, op. 11, and Cherubini's "Scherzo." These pieces will therefore be repeated at the next concert, January 11.—*Clef*.

OWING to the success of the Organ Recital and Sacred Concert given in the Bond Street Congregational Church some three weeks ago, it has been decided to give another entertainment of the same character, but with a different programme, on Monday evening next, December 21. The artistes are Dr. Davies, solo organist ; Laura McLaren, violinist ; George Thorpe, tenor ; J. F. Thomson, baritone ; Agnes Corlett-Thomson, soprano ; J. G. Lawson, accompanist. The programme contains twelve numbers, including the overtures, "Fra Diavolo" and "La Donna del Lago" ; vocal trio from "Attila," vocal solo, "La Serenata," Grand Fugue (St. Ann's), Grand March, "Charles et Olga," and others.

## HAMILTON NOTES.

R. THOMAS STERLE has been appointed choirmaster of All Saints' Church. Mrs. Wyllie fills his place at the Church of Ascension.

A string quartette has been formed here with these members : D. MacDuff, first violin ; C. J. Dixon, second violin ; J. Chittenden, viola ; L. H. Parker, cello.

Mr. Aldous has resumed rehearsals with his Hamilton Orchestral Club, and is preparing for another concert.

Mrs. Frank Mackelcan has been asked to sing the contralto solos in the "Rose of Sharon" at the performance at Toronto.

The Philharmonic Society is now on a sound financial basis for the season's work, and it is a credit to the executive of the Society that this is so. The officers and many of the ladies worked hard to secure subscriptions, and it is pleasant to be able to record their success.

The concert given in St. Paul's Church school-room on Tuesday, Dec. 8, was attended by a small audience, comprising, however, many of the real musicians of the city. So far as could be learned, it was given to bring out Miss Ella Ryckman, a Hamilton mezzo-soprano, who has returned from the Boston Conservatory, where she studied singing. The promoters of the concert prepared, perhaps, the finest programme of the season, and it is possible that Miss Ryckman suffered somewhat from inevitable comparisons. Her voice has gained in compass and strength in the higher register, but is more metallic than formerly. She has not yet acquired that repose of manner which gives full control of voice, and consequently her singing is often laboured and her phrasing spoiled by injudicious breathing. The lady is ambitious and intelligent, and is a very popular singer of whom much may be expected. The artistic success of the evening was the singing of Miss Clara Barnes, a Buffalo contralto, possessing a voice of delicious quality which she uses with a most artistic method, especially as regards enunciation. Mr. Wodell, a local baritone, pleased by his singing of Schubert's "Wanderer" ; Herr Jacobsen, of Toronto, played violin solos ; Mrs. Walkinshaw, of St. Catharines, played piano solos and some of the accompaniments ; and Mr. Pearce, of this city, played others of the accompaniments. It was a delightful concert to all ; but the promoters must have lost considerable money.—*C Major*.

[The following letter has been sent us in reference to the mention of Mr. J. E. P. Aldous's name in the music column of THE WEEK of the 26th ult. We publish it to remove any impression contrary to the purport of the letter that may possibly, but erroneously, be gathered from our notice.—Ed.]

DEAR MR. ALDOUS,—Allow me to say that on the occasions you have so kindly conducted for me, when I have been absent from my post in the Hamilton Philharmonic Society, your work was not only satisfactory to myself, but was spoken highly of by officers and members of the Society alike.

Toronto, Nov. 30, 1885.

F. H. TORRINGTON.