

Notes and Comments.

VICTOR HUGO's posthumous poem *Satan*, is six thousand lines in length. It will soon be published.

AFTER having made a very lively stir in Norwegian politics, Björnsterne Björnson has determined to devote himself entirely to literature in the future.

A GERMAN inventor is building, at a cost of \$125,000, a balloon five hundred feet in length to be operated by steam. He is very sanguine of success and has been offered \$150,000 for his patent.

FEW great men have died in recent years whose obsequies were attended with the manifestations of such high honours and genuine public sorrow as marked those of Von Ranke the historian.

LIEUTENANT GREELY believes that Arctic expeditions will be continued despite past disasters and predicts that the beginning of the twenty-first century will witness a revival in the world's interest in polar expeditions.

THE Rev. Hugh Johnson, B.D., of Toronto, is to deliver the Baccalaureate Sermon which is included in the annual closing exercises of Alma College, St. Thomas, on the 27th inst. He is also to deliver a lecture on "Books and how to Read Them."

MR. WM. LOCHHEAD, B.A., of McGill University, and second man in first rank honours in Natural Science, has been appointed to the vacant fellowship in Chemistry and Mineralogy, in Cornell University. Mr. Lochhead is Science Master in Perth Collegiate Institute.

WE call attention to the article from *The Week* which we re-publish in this issue, under "Educational Opinion." The subject of University Confederation is again coming up for discussion, and the views expressed by "C" are well worth a hearing. It is a most involved problem, and too much light cannot be thrown upon it.

AMONG the Fellows in the University of Johns Hopkins for the ensuing year are Mr. John R. Waitman, B.A., of the University of Toronto, in the department of Modern Languages; M. Milton Haight, B.A., of the University of Toronto, in the department of Mathematics; and Mr. Andrew C. Lawson, B.A., of the University of Toronto, in the department of Mineralogy.

It seems to have been foolishly said by the old poets that Shakespeare wrote not for a day, but for all time. The corrected statement should be that Shakespeare could not write, and wrote not for a day, but until Ignatius Donnelly and Appleton Morgan should be born. Ages elapsed ere Donnelly's lamp appeared, and tedious years of Shakespearean darkness passed.—*The Current*.

THE death of John R. Bartlett, the compiler of "Familiar Quotations," and the "Dictionary of Americanisms," removes from among the scholars of America one of the most respected of their number. He issued other books, but his fame rests particularly upon the two named. They represent a vast amount of the most labourious research and the keenest scholarly acumen.

THE unanimity of sentiment which resulted in the call of Professor Timothy Dwight to the presidency of Yale College argues well for the future of the institution. President Dwight's educational policy will be noted with great interest to see if he abandons any of the old lines for which Yale has been committed. He is fifty-eight years old and the grandson of a Professor who was president of Yale from 1795 to 1817.

THERE is much that is and must be done for pay, and it is right that it should be so; but there is also much that can be best accomplished without any thought of pay—even the pay of love—but simply from the desire of doing good. If each one will devote some regular portion of his leisure to such of this work as is most congenial to his taste and nearest to his heart, striving to understand its principles, and to employ wise methods with system and order, success will crown his efforts, his own character will develop harmoniously, and the welfare of the community will be furthered in the most speedy and effective manner.—*The Teacher's Aid*.

THE demand of English women for higher education, and the opening of "annex" universities by them, has led to the establishment of women's colleges at both the great universities of England. The oldest of them is "Girton College," about two miles from Cambridge. The experiment was begun in 1869, by six earnest students, and, in spite of all the difficulties, the cause has prospered. The college is now recognized by the Cambridge authorities, and the latter, at present provides the teaching and examiners in the honour examinations. College certificates may be obtained by those passing the same examinations as prescribed for men students. (See article in *Westminster Review*.)

It will be, perhaps, as well to refer once again to the communication inserted on page 355 of our last issue, stating that separate school children were admitted to the public school, but no taxes were obtainable from their parents for the benefit of the public school. As separate school supporters are exempt for the year from public school rates, they lose their right to send their children to the public school. The public school trustees can admit them as an act of grace, but may very properly impose the condition that they shall pay a fee, as if they were non-

residents. This seems to be all the trustees in this case want, and it is quite within their power. If there is a possibility, in any such case, that the tax will be found payable to the public school, the fee for the period for which the tax is so recovered can be refunded, and may be exacted with this understanding.

E. R. SILL, in *The Century* for June, discusses the question, Shall women go to college? He answers in the affirmative. As to the further question, Shall the two sexes get this college training together? he says:—"It certainly would seem natural and reasonable—unless some very serious objection to it is discovered—that the two sexes, growing up together in the family, studying together in the school, associated together all the rest of their lives in the work and play of society, should also receive their liberal culture together. It would seem an obviously unwholesome contrivance that should, for this single period of four years out of a lifetime, compel an artificial separation into two flocks: a scholastic monastery on the one hand, a scholastic nunnery on the other. As if history had not plainly enough declared the results of such unnatural contrivances! And the question forces itself on the mind, Is not this whole superstition of a separate sex education a relic of the dark ages? Is it not a part of the medieval plan of shutting women up in towers; a modified form of the Mohammedan custom of forcing them to muffle up their heads, peer out upon the world with one eye?"

THE following are the rules of spelling English words recommended by the English Philological Society and by the American Philological Association:—1. Drop the final e when it is phonetically useless, for example *giv*, *hav*, etc. 2. Drop the phonetically useless letter from the digraph *ea*; as in *hed*, *hart*, for *head* and *heart*. 3. Drop the *a* from *beauty*. 4. Drop *o* from *eo* when the digraph has the sound of *e*, as *lepard*, *peple*. 5. Omit *i* from *parliament*. 6. Write *u* for *o* in *above*, *some*, etc. 7. Drop *o* from the digraph *ou* when it has the sound of *u* as in *nourish*. 8. Drop silent *u* after *g* in native English words, such as *guard*, *guest*, etc. 9. Drop final *ue* in *catalogue*, etc. 10. Substitute *rime* for *rhyme*. 11. Drop the final consonant in such words as *egg*, *odd*, etc., when it is phonetically useless. 12. Drop silent *b* in *bomb*, *dumb*, *lumb*, *debt*, *doubt*. 13. Change *c* back to *s* in *cinder*, *pence*, etc. 14. Drop *h* in *cholera*, *school*, etc. 15. Change *d* and *ed* final to *t* when so pronounced; as *crost*, *past*, *wisht*, etc. 16. Drop *g* in *feign*. 17. Drop *h* in *ghost*, *aghast*. 18. Drop *l* in *could*. 19. Drop *p* in *receipt*. 20. Drop *s* in *island* and *aisle*. 21. Drop *c* in *scent*. 22. Drop *t* in *catch*. 23. Drop *w* in *whole*. 24. Write *f* for *ph* when the digraph has the sound of *f*.