

the most gratifying development, the Editor's illustrative notes, as well as his introductory preface, will give substantial aid in making this interesting retrospect. How far what is yet a dream in Mr. Morris's picture of national progress the coming years may realize, it will be for the country's rulers and the people themselves to say. The future, if left to the play of circumstance, or imperilled by the sinister work of faction, may render it difficult to determine whether Canada is to hold its place as a distinct power in the New World, or holding it, will be able to do so for good. We can only hope that the roseate hues of Mr. Morris's imagination may set upon a maturity as full as promise as gilded the earlier days of the country, and that the nation as she gathers unto herself years, may also gather wisdom and strength. In the latter half of Mr. Morris's work the interest is more or less personal to Mr. Morris himself, if we except the speeches on Confederation and on the Resolutions for the Acquisition of the North-West territory. In these addresses, besides their patriotism and healthy national tone, there is much interesting reading matter, and the evidence of a wide and practical acquaintance with public affairs.

**MEN OF THE TIME: A Dictionary of Contemporaries**, 11th edition, edited by Thompson Cooper, F.S.A. London: Geo. Routledge & Sons; Toronto: Williamson & Co., 1884.

Like its predecessors, the present issue is full of ripeness of age, with honours, and of the budding promise of Spring. More than its previous volumes, we have in the new issue, a larger proportion of younger men, men who are coming to the front as writers, journalists, newspaper correspondents, artists, travellers, actors, singers, scientists, and the representative names in law and medicine, politics, the army and the church. Names familiar and engrossing, as Butler and Barnum, Cetewayo and Chelmsford, Cesnola and Belthere, unfold their secrets and apprise us of what we have either forgotten or have never known. The United States have in the volume a large mustering of representative names, and Canada has extensive additions to her Walhalla of fame. Besides the new Governor-General, two or three Lieut.-Governors, the older statesmen of Canada, and the Bishops of the Anglican Church, among whom we find some of the later Right Reverends, we meet for the first time in this "Dictionary of Contemporaries," the following names: Blake, Mackenzie, Mowat, Howland, Huntington, Fleming, Frechette, Gzowski, Grant, Lindsey, and Hagarty. Dawson, Sterry Hunt, McCaul, Goldwin Smith, and Wilson, of those outside politics who have had place in an earlier as well as in the present edition. We note some obvious omissions, the result, we presume, of accident rather than of design. As a whole, however, the work is satisfactorily representative, and the facts and information furnished, though condensed, seem accurate.

**A SHORT HISTORY OF OUR OWN TIMES.** By Justin H. McCarthy. New York: Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square.

The art of epitomizing is an exceedingly difficult one. The tendency is to condense the life and usefulness out of the work abbreviated. So, when it was announced that Mr. McCarthy intended to issue "A Short History of Our Own Times," though the news was hailed with popular satisfaction, there was a fear amongst readers of his larger work that it would suffer in the process—the more so that it had not appeared at all prolix. The shorter history, however, though necessarily less interesting from the fact that much of the literary work upon which the facts were strung has unavoidably been eliminated, is still an exceedingly valuable and readable history of the period covered—from the accession of Queen Victoria to the general election of 1880. As reduced, Mr. McCarthy's history holds an unassailable position as a concise, reliable, unprejudiced, and eminently readable book. The edition under notice is also carefully indexed, and is well printed, on good paper—by no means a small consideration in the enjoyable perusal of a book in these days of omnivorous reading.

### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

D'OYLY CARTE has six companies travelling in England—two "Patience," two "Iolanthe," and two "Princess Ida."

MR. FRANK D. NELSON, well and favourably known in Toronto as a vocalist and comedian, has just recovered from a serious illness.

MR. BOUCICAULT is remoured to have been offered the management of a projected New York theatre which is to compete with Wallack's.

MARY ANDERSON re-opens at the London Lyceum in September with "Romeo and Juliet," with Terriss as *Romeo*, who played *Nemours* here with Irving.

THE re-appearance of Salvini in England after an absence of nine years has an interest not only for those with an intelligent knowledge of Italian, but of all playgoers who love the really good things appertaining to the drama.

MRS. LANGTRY returned to the Chestnut Street Opera House last week, says the Philadelphia *Progress*, handsomer than ever in appearance, and improved in her acting in that she is more natural, more evidently at her ease upon the stage.

SARA BERNHARDT was twice forced to suspend her performance during the past week. Wednesday night at the end of the first act of "La Dame aux Camellias" she fainted on leaving the stage and vomited blood. She was unable to re-appear that night.

"THE POWER OF MONEY" was unknown to Toronto audiences—that is, so far as a dramatic portrayal of that all-pervading passion is concerned—until given in the Grand Opera House this week. It has been most favourably received "across the line."

No better testimony to the continued popularity of the "Silver King" and the ability of Mr. Haverly's company could be desired than the Toronto Opera House presented on Saturday afternoon. On that occasion so crowded was the theatre that the band was placed up in the flies, and scores of eager listeners lined the passages. Mr. Sheppard thinks it was the biggest house ever known in this city. Considering that this dramatic romance is now an old friend, and has been played fourteen times during the past season, this speaks volumes for its merits and attractions. Messrs. Jones and Herman's play is so well known that criticism is superfluous. It may be interesting to record that Mr. Charles A. Haswin, whose powerful delineation of the leading part—*Wilfred Denver*, the Silver King—worthily rivals that of Mr. Wilson Barrett, the creator of the character, is a stage enthusiast, and did not don the sock and buskin for vulgar dollars and cents. He is a lawyer by profession, but threw up a possible successful career in law for the more congenial and fascinating pursuit of histrionic fame.

### LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE late Blanchard Jerrold is succeeded by his son Evelyn as editor of *Lloyd's News*, one of the most popular weeklies in Great Britain.

FORTY-ONE of Du Maurier's "Pictures of English Society," reduced from the well-known illustrations from *Punch*, have been brought out in the 18-mo. parchment-paper library at the modest price of thirty-five cents.

THE John W. Lovell Company announce for publication a new American Novel by Charles W. Balestier, called "A Fair Device." The scene is among the Berkshire hills and at one of the Virginia springs. The idea of the story is said to be strikingly original.

MATTHEW ARNOLD told a reporter that the further west he went during his tour here the more discontented he became. He only went as far as St. Louis. Boston he found too cold and artificial. Philadelphia, in his opinion, the handsomest of the big cities, and Chesnut street is the only "business-looking street in America." It reminded him of Bond street, London.

A TRANSLATION is about to appear of the "History of the Coup d'Etat," from the pen of M. de Maupas, one of its first instigators and hottest and boldest actors. De Maupas was a prefect of police at the time of the *coup d'etat*, and his record of the event has just been published in Paris. The work is to appear in English, from the press of Messrs. Appleton & Co., of New York.

THE publication of Max O'Rell's "John Bull and His Island" has provoked the issue, by an English publishing house, of a brochure entitled as follows: "John Bull's Neighbour in Her True Light: an Answer to some Recent French Criticisms, by a Brutal Saxon." The author, who has lived for many years in France, it is understood, draws some startling pictures of French life, which will be rather disturbing to the Gallic mind.

A WRITER in a Port Hope journal, attacking Colonel Denison's paper on "Grant as a General," objects to the Colonel that he has never seen active service. But Tomini himself, when he published his *Traité des Grandes Opérations Militaires*, had acquired his knowledge almost entirely in the closet or in the war office. Colonel Denison's work on cavalry won the prize offered by the Russian Government to the whole world for the best treatise on that subject.

HENRY JAMES' new novelette, which is to begin in the May *Century*, belongs to the "International" series, the scene shifting from London to New York and back to London. The novelette will run through three numbers of the magazine. *The Story*, which has never yet been told in print, of how Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln, crossed the Potomac, and where he spent his time from the night of the 14th of April until he was shot on the morning of the 26th, will be contributed to the April *Century* by George Alfred Townsend.

Few editors have been more happy in the results of their work than has Mr. Austin Dobson, in his charming edition, in the Parchment Series, of Goldsmith's famous tale, "The Vicar of Wakefield." In the preface and in the notes Mr. Dobson has given evidence of a genuine sympathy with the author, while the spirit of Goldsmith breathes throughout the book in the editor's charming style and in the terms and cadences in which he has given loving expression to the ever-increasing interest of nineteenth century students in the writings of "poor Poll." Free alike from pedantry and from the stilted criticisms so much in vogue of late, Mr. Dobson's notes seem as much a part of the book as if they had been prepared by Goldsmith himself.

It has been recently remarked that "Materialism is now in full retreat," that the aggressive position taken up by it of late years, and the strength it has given to the opponents of Christianity in formulating assaults upon the beliefs and faiths of the past, are weakening, and correspondingly, that theistic literature is taking heart of grace and coming more boldly to the front. No more encouraging evidence of this fact is to be seen than in the publication of such books as Paul Janet's "Final Causes," Prof. Flint's treatises on "Theism," and Mr. Henry Drummond's "Natural Law in the Spiritual World." The latter work has met with remarkable favour, seven editions being successively called for by those who desire to see the tables turned on agnostic science.