

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THE FRUITS OF CULTURE: A Comedy in Four Acts. By Count Leo Tolstoi. Translated by George Schumm. Boston: Benj. R. Tucker. 1891.

The Tolstoi of "War and Peace" and of "Anna Karenina" (the accent, we believe, is on the antepenult), and the Tolstoi of "My Religion" and of "The Kreutzer Sonata," are two very different persons; the Tolstoi of "The Fruits of Culture" is a third variety of this variously-valued author.

"The Fruits of Culture" contains four acts, thirty-three persons of the drama, and a hundred and thirty-two scenes. And all what for? To depict the follies of a fashionable family, and to throw ridicule on the hobby of its chief member, who is absorbed in telepathy. And how? The first by interminable conversations between lackeys, cooks and peasants; the second by the clumsy tricks of a chambermaid. As may be surmised it is dull reading. The plot is meagre, there is little or no action, the story drags, witty or sprightly dialogue is conspicuous by its absence—we think Count Tolstoi's most ardent admirers' enthusiasm will be cooled by this so-called "Comedy."

CHAMPLAIN. Written for the Montreal Pen and Pencil Club. By S. E. Dawson.

A few Torontonians of Montreal affiliations have had the pleasure of reading Mr. S. E. Dawson's eloquent and dignified poem "Champlain," which, having been read first before the Montreal Pen and Pencil Club, has been printed for private circulation only. We could not, in the circumstances, venture to quote at such length as we should like to, but may take the liberty of treating our readers to the noble lines with which the poem concludes:—

So passed his busy life: unselfish toil
His chief enjoyment.

And so his work grew strong. He ever loved
The Ocean, and upon her rocking breast
She bore him always safely; never harm
Befel him there. He loved our country most,
And when God called him, there he laid his head
In peace upon her bosom. And his work
Still prospered—till there came an evil time
When bigot counsels sapped the strength of France,
And drove to exile many a faithful heart
And stalwart arm; and faith grew faint, and fraud
And peculation smirched the lily flag,
And avarice and greed stalked through the land.
Then died the love of duty. In its place
Arose the point of honour. Poor exchange!
For honour is self-centred—duty lives
From man to God. So all the West was lost
To France. But Champlain's work survives; for still,
Though from Cape Diamond's lofty peak no more
Floats the White Flag, his dear-loved mother tongue
Still flourishes, pervading all the land
He travelled; and his faith still lives—devout,
Yet tolerant here, as in the happy days
Before the fatal revocation knelled
The waning power of France; and still survive
The laws and customs of the France he knew.

Sans peur et sans reproche—thou, blest of God!
Thy name still dwells unsullied. Never spot
Of greed, or cowardice, or lust, or hate
Stained thy white scutcheon. Swiftly sped thy soul
Up the dread circles, where the healing flames
Purge out the lingering dross and make men pure
To bear the garments of the searching light
In courts of heavenly glory. Worthy, thou,
To be a nation's founder! and may we
Be not unworthy of thee! May thy faith
In our Dominion's fortunes, and thy truth
And love of duty guide us on our course.
So shall our country flourish—thine as ours—
So long—no longer.

HANDBOOK OF ATHLETIC SPORTS. Volume III. Edited by Ernest Bell, M.A., Trin. Coll., Cambridge. London: George Bell and Sons, York Street, Covent Garden.

This volume (the third of a series on athletic sports) comprises sections on boxing, wrestling, fencing, broadsword and single stick, with chapters on quarterstaff, bayonet, cudgel, shillalah, walking stick, umbrella, and other means of self-defence.

Mr. Bell has secured writers on these various subjects, whose eminence in their respective branches enables them to speak with authority; the object being "to give in concise form a clear description of each game, with practical instruction and hints, such as will be helpful both to the beginner and the more advanced player."

The section on boxing by R. G. Allanson-Winn, winner of the middle weights, Cambridge, 1876-7, and heavy weights, 1877-8, commences with a prefatory note by "Bat Mullins," the late light weight champion of the world, who considers it "a plain, outspoken work," and recommends it to amateurs, with the assistance of a good teacher.

The chapters on wrestling (which includes all the known styles) by Walter Armstrong, late Hon. Sec. Cumberland and Westmoreland Wrestling Society in London; and on fencing, by H. A. Colmore Dunn, winner of the medal at the German gymnasium, are dealt with in a masterly manner, clearly and concisely, and will be appreciated both by the amateur and veteran athlete.

Sections on the broadsword, single stick, bayonet and quarterstaff, by R. G. Allanson-Winn, and C. Phillips-Wolley, of the Inns of Court School of Arms, will be found very useful to the beginner, and is most instructive.

The volume concludes with a few chapters on self-defence with the cudgel, shillalah, walking stick, and the homely but necessary "gamp," which should be interesting

to all dwellers in cities. The illustrations are numerous, and are taken from photographs from life, drawings and wood cuts, those accompanying the sections on boxing and wrestling being especially good.

SLAVERY in Canada is a short monograph by Mr. J. C. Hamilton consisting mainly of extracts from old journals and statutes and other sources of information on the subject.

The great geologist and geographer, Sir Roderick Impey Murchison, appears in the frontispiece of the February number of the *Magazine of American History*, accompanied by a sketch of his life. The able contribution of Hon. John Jay, LL.D., "The Demand for Education in American History," occupies the leading place. The Rev. D. F. Lamson presents a short paper on the "Emigration from New England to New Brunswick in 1763." The story of Sir Walter Raleigh's settlements on Roanoke Island is by Dr. Stephen B. Weeks. "The French Army in the Revolution," translated from the French by Miss Georgine Holmes, is concluded.

THE *Queries Magazine* for February contains a readable personal sketch of Tennyson, by Eugene L. Didier. In "English Premiers," Marion V. Dudley, after rebuking what she properly calls "a vulgar habit in America of sneering at the 'nobility' of Europe," writes very sensibly that there is "no class of people so fine and so well worth knowing in a self-respecting way, of course, as the true nobility of Europe, and especially of England." "They are gentle, graceful, self-assured, intelligent, refined, and eager to do honour to those who deserve it," and ends with a clever comparison of Lord Salisbury and Gladstone. Other contributions form an interesting number.

ONE of the illustrated articles of the *Methodist Magazine* for February is "Footprints of Wesley." Dr. Douglas writes on the development of "Methodism"; the Hon. J. W. F. White, LL.D., on "Lay Preachers," and Dr. Stafford compares at length the characters of "Wesley and Voltaire." Mr. Blackwood gives a valuable sketch of the Moravians and their influence on early Methodism. A series of papers on Eastern Europe begins with a graphic illustrated account of Hungary and some of its cities. In the science department are papers on "How the Prairies were Formed" and "Is there Life among the Stars?" "All He Knew," by John Habberton, author of "Helen's Babies," is begun. A story of "London Life in a Garret" is given.

IN *Harper's Magazine* for February the frontispiece is a portrait of Edwin Booth. The collection of twelve original drawings by W. M. Thackeray, illustrating the "Heroic Adventures of M. Boudin," with comment by Anne Thackeray Ritchie, is interesting. There are two important papers on Finland, illustrated. Charles Dudley Warner contributes an article entitled "The Heart of the Desert," which describes the great desert of New Mexico, and the Grand Canon of the Colorado. "Smyth's Channel and the Strait of Magellan," by Theodore Child. The Rev. J. F. Hurst contributes a paper on "English Writers in India," with four illustrations. L. E. Chittenden writes on "The Faith of President Lincoln," and Ellen Mackay Hutchinson on "Personal Intelligence Fifty Years Ago." Fiction includes C. E. Craddock's "In the 'Stranger People's' Country," and stories by E. E. Hale and Geraldine Bonner. Poems are by W. D. Howells, C. P. Cranch, T. B. Aldrich and L. I. Guiney. The Editorial Departments maintain their usual standard.

SOME curious, interesting, and hitherto unpublished letters of Charles and Mary Lamb cover the first sixteen pages of the *Atlantic* for February, and these letters are edited by Mr. William Carew Hazlitt. They are most carefully printed, nothing is suppressed in them, and they are quite fully annotated. One most characteristic note of condolence, written by Lamb to Thomas Hood on the death of his child, after many expressions of grief, ends with the extraordinary sentence: "I have won sexpence of Moxom by the sex of the dear gone one"; Lamb being unable to forego his wager and his pun even at such a moment. Professor Royce's second "Philosopher of the Paradoxical" is Schopenhauer. Theodore Roosevelt, in "An Object Lesson in Civil Service Reform," tells about the work of the National Civil Service Commission for the last year, and its success in gaining a large number of applicants from the Southern States to enter the civil service examinations. Mr. Stockton's serial, "The House of Martha," is as amusing as ever.

IN the opening article of the *Popular Science Monthly* for February, "From Babel to Comparative Philology," Dr. Andrew D. White tells how science has compelled the gradual abandonment of the belief that Hebrew was the first language of man. Mr. William F. Durfee's "Iron-smelting by Modern Methods" follows. "Greeting by Gesture" is the subject of an interesting article by Colonel Garrick Mallery. Prof. Huxley's paper on "The Aryan Question and Prehistoric Man," giving the testimony of geology and archaeology as to the origin of the Caucasian race, is concluded in this number. There is a translation of an article by M. Georges Demy on "Precision in Physical Training," telling how the best results can be obtained from muscular exercise. An illustrated account of recent "Progress in Agricultural Science" is contributed by Dr. Manly Miles. Mr. Warren G. Benton tells the nature of "Chinese Buddhism." The subject of the portrait and biographical sketch is "Jean-Charles Houzeau."

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

THE Canadian Press Association will hold its annual meeting on the 13th and 14th inst. in the City Council Chamber, Toronto.

MR. THEODORE ROOSEVELT has written for the *Historic Towns* series—which Prof. Freeman edits, and which the Longmans publish—the volume on "New York."

"TOLD After Supper," a series of brief burlesque ghost-stories by Jerome K. Jerome, is published by Henry Holt and Company. The book is decidedly humorous.

GEORGE MEREDITH's daughter is said to copy all her father's manuscript for the printer. The novelist does his writing in the morning in a study cottage built in his garden.

THE novel on which Thomas A. Edison and George Parsons Lathrop have been working conjointly will contain a number of sketches made by the inventor to illustrate his predictions.

THE last number of *Greater Britain* received contains a statesmanlike article on "The Commercial and Political Confederation of the Empire," by Sir Julius Vogel, ex-Premier of New Zealand.

As the inner history of a good and charming woman's heart, overtaken by one of those infatuations that will sometimes besiege them, "Was it Love," by Paul Bourget, is a novel of unusual interest.

MR. J. G. CARTER TROOP, editor of the *Trinity Review*, is to deliver his lecture on "The Earl of Beaconsfield," at St. George's school house, on Tuesday evening next. The lecture is well spoken of by the press.

THE "Unknown" Library is the title of a new series just begun by the Cassell Publishing Company, which promises to be one of the successes of the year. The stories are written by well-known writers who prefer for the once to write over a pseudonym.

"SUPPOSED Tendencies to Socialism" is the title of the article that will open the March *Popular Science Monthly*. It is by Prof. William Graham, of Belfast, who gives his reasons for expecting a progressive improvement in the state of society, but no sudden social transformation.

MR. QUARITCH proposes to issue a dictionary of English book collectors from the earliest times to the present. It will give the chief dates and facts of each collector's life, some particulars of the more important works which he collected, and a brief account of the fate that overtook his library after his death.

THE name of Helen Campbell is famous the world over for its championship of honest labour and the rights of the woman toiler. Her new book just issued by the D. Lothrop Company is in a different field, but shows the same vigour and painstaking fidelity. It is a life sketch of Anne Bradstreet, America's earliest woman writer and reformer.

THE Report of the North American Life Assurance Company presented at the annual meeting, held on the 27th ult., and presented to our readers on another page, must be very gratifying to its policy holders and all interested in the Company. Since its inception ten years ago, it has extended its operations and accumulated its business with such energy, sagacity and prudence, that it now holds an honourable place with the foremost kindred companies of Canada. Such a result was guaranteed by anticipation when the well-known Canadian statesman, the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, was appointed President, and that capable and energetic actuary, Mr. Wm. McCabe, Managing Director, and a directorate was formed containing some of the most prominent and successful public, professional and business men of our country. The report shows that "during the past year 1,687 applications for \$2,470,450 were received, upon which were issued 1,585 policies for \$2,362,100." This is a splendid showing for last year's work, and the total insurance now in force has attained the large dimensions of over \$10,000,000. The gratifying announcement is made that the amount of overdue interest on securities held is less than a fourth of one per cent.—a striking result of careful and judicious investment of the funds by the management. The surplus shows an increase of eighty per cent. over last year, and the cash interest income an increase of forty-three per cent. within the same time, being more than sufficient to pay the death losses of the year. The success of its "Investment Policies" is also pleasing, Mr. W. T. Standen, A.S.A., the Consulting Actuary, reporting that the amount payable under those maturing this year, was in excess of the Company's present estimates on similar investment policies. The record of this prosperous and influential Company is one of the many indications of the great and solid results which are being achieved to-day in Canada by Canadian energy, enterprise and skill, and it is big with hopeful promise for the future of our country.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Bourget, Paul. Was it Love. 50c. New York: Worthington & Co.
Harris, Wm., LL.D. Hegel's Logic. \$1.50. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.
Thwaites, Reuben Gold. Epochs of American History. \$1.25. New York: Longmans, Green & Co.
Memorabilia of Geo. B. Cheever, D.D., and His Wife. \$2.00. New York: Jno. Wiley & Sons.