

Literature and Art.

SPECIAL NOTICE—Our Music Editor, "Sharp Sixth," will furnish critiques of music publications sent in for review, and also critically notice public performances of high class music. Tickets for concerts, or concert positions for review, must be addressed "Sharp Sixth," care GRIP Office.

Sara Bernhard fainted on the stage in Chicago. It is supposed that she saw a mouse.

There was some talk at Mantua, this year, of celebrating with pomp and circumstance the nineteen-hundredth birthday of Virgil. But the affair fell through, the day passing unnoted.

Mr. Will Landon, the phenomenal young graduate of Toronto University—who won his degree before passing his teens, has received a good appointment in connection with the Normal School, Ottawa.

The appointment of Mr. Baker to the Registrarship of the University is gratifying to the friends of the institution, as a recognition of the scholarly attainments and personal popularity of that gentleman.

It is said that a certain firm which bought up the negatives of all the photographs of the late Senator Brown in the interest of a chromo they intended publishing, will apply for an injunction to restrain the Globe Printing Company from issuing their steel engraved portrait of the deceased gentleman.

On the 18th of January, 1858, Dickens sent a note of thanks to the then unknown writer of "Scenes of Clerical Life," writing to the intermediary through whom he forwarded it, "If those two volumes, or a part of them, were not written by a woman, then I should begin to believe that I am a woman myself."

Mr. V. Hugo Dusebury, the professional poet, whose struggles against the hard hearted publishers of *Pack* have deeply moved all readers of that philo-sophic publication, announces that he has in preparation an exhaustive treatise on "Poetry; its Theory and its Practice." The whole world will await it with impatience.

Another of the omniscient London critics has come to signal grief—the reviewer of the *Daily News*, who, after insinuating that no poem by Tennyson was included in the new volume, "English Sonnets by Living Writers," because the poet-laureat and his publishers were to mean to part with the copyright, discovered that Tennyson's fine sonnet "Montenegro," was one of the first in the book.

Mr. Chas. Davis is playing at the Grand in his famous character of *Alvin Joslin*. This is a companion part to that of *Joshua Whitcombe*, and the multitude who enjoyed the irresistible, genial and altogether wholesome fun of Den. Thompson's piece, cannot fail to be delighted with the equally refreshing humor of this other representative New England farmer. Matinee on Saturday.

Says the London *Free Press*: "One good effect of the thaw has been a thorough purging of the sewers. The streams passing through the gratings from every gutter during the past couple of days were a wholesome antidote to their pestiferous emanations." True, true; but what is the Ambassador of the *Free Press* going to do now for "sensations" for the columns of that enterprising journal?

"Endymion" still furnishes the gossip with a theme for discourse. The hero says his peculiar name was a family name borne by Endymion Cary in the time of Charles I. Faithful to his system of mystifications, Lord Beaconsfield blends in Lucius Cary (Lord Falkland), and Endymion Porter, Charles I's faithful friend. Endymion Porter was the ancestor of Lord Beaconsfield's old friend, George Smythe afterwards Seventh Viscount Strangford—he figures in the novel, also—and the name of the third Viscount was Endymion.



Lighthouse Service.

TENDERS will be received by this Department at Ottawa, up to the 5th MARCH next, for the supply of 100,000 Gallons, Imperial Measure, per annum, more or less, for one or three years, at the option of the Department, of the best quality of Double-Distilled Standard White Extra-Refined PETROLEUM OIL, deliverable at Goderich, Montreal, Hamilton, Quebec, St. John, N. B., Halifax, N. S., in such quantities and at such times as the Department may desire.

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A sample of five gallons, of which the cost and freight will be paid by the Department, is to accompany each tender.

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TENDERS will also be received, up to the same date, for the Charter of a STEAM VESSEL to deliver Supplies and Lighthouse Materials to Lighthouses above Montreal, including those on Lake Superior. Charter to commence at Montreal on the 5th July next. Steamer to be ready at the Lachine Canal Basin to take in cargo on the morning of the 2nd July. Full particulars as to description of vessel required and nature of services will be supplied on application.

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WM. SMITH,
Deputy Minister of Marine, &c.
Department of Marine, &c.,
Ottawa, 31st January, 1881.

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Sent post-paid to any address on receipt of price. Next Post Office, Toronto. **BENGOUGH BROS.**

Literature and Art.

The Editor will be pleased to receive Canadian Notes of interest for this column.

Messrs. Rolph, Smith & Co., of this city, have offered valuable prizes for original designs for Christmas cards. The competition is confined to Canadian artists, and the drawings are to be distinctively characteristic of our own country. We want a few more such public spirited firms to make Canada what she ought to be.

It was recently rumored that the private letters of Alfred de Musset to George Sand were about to be published. This is a mistake. The letters have not been burned, however, as was supposed, but they are in the hands of a friend of George Sand, who has had copies made in duplicate, and confided them to two faithful friends. These precautions have been taken, not out of any ill-feeling toward the brother and too zealous friends of Musset, but only for the purpose of protecting the memory of George Sand from the accusation which might be directed against it. For in this case her friends would have proofs in hand to oppose the malevolence and calumny of enemies. So runs the story.

It is a curious, and one might say disgraceful, literary fact, and one worthy of being chronicled, that no public library of Boston or Philadelphia or Cambridge contains a complete set of Walt Whitman's works. In the Boston and Cambridge libraries the odd copies they have are kept under lock and key! It is doubtful if there is a single great library in the country that contains the complete edition of Whitman's books. Everybody can put his own interpretation on this fact. It is something which is hard to reconcile with the statement of Mr. Stedman (in his recent article on Whitman in *Scraper's Monthly*) that nobody is more talked about and read. One is inclined to suspect that there is more talk about him than there is reading of his books.

A contributor to the February number of the *Canadian Monthly* has dared, with sacerdotal hand, to attack the time-honored privilege of parents to "spank" their offspring. Filled, no doubt, with a keen sense of the danger he would incur were his act openly avowed, the essay which contains this social dynamite has been labelled "The Criminal of Creation," in hope to escape detection. But he will not escape. And yet probably he will not present a more saddening spectacle, or a more miserable picture of guilt and shame, than does the parent who has just completed the aforesaid "spanking" function and is caught *red-handed* in the act. It is more than doubtful if many parents will defend this during winter. It is equally certain all children will. He will have a grip on their affection which Grip would be slow to loosen. It is probably all the reward he will obtain.

If the professional authors do not look out they will be crowded from the field by writers who are merely amateurs in literature, though in some other art professionals. When the painters took to writing about art no outcry was raised, but now they rush into the editorial offices of the chief magazines with their MS., as well as the sketches of an important article. Messrs. Howard Pyle, W. H. Gibson, Blum, and Langren are now authors as well as illustrators. And the professional writer has to suffer the competition of actors as well as artists. Twice has an English Christmas annual been put forth filled with "copy" contributed by frequenters of the greenroom. Now, too, not content with making books, they must needs turn critic too—and review them. In a recent issue of the *New York Times* was a three column article by Mr. Lawrence Barrett, eulogizing the little book on the Historion art recently published by the great French comedian, Coquelin.