

double vibrations for C, third space in the treble"; (3rd) "That steps be at once taken for securing the adoption of the standard pitch in the principal orchestras; and also, if practicable, by the regimental and other bands of the British army." Opponents of these resolutions objected on the score of expense in providing new instruments for bands, difficulties in the way of changing the pitch of organs, and various objections to the French diapason normal, which it is proposed to substitute. It is very doubtful if the movement will result in lowering the present inordinately high English pitch. Most people, except contralto and bass singers, agree that the pitch should be lowered; but when it comes to deciding on a standard hardly any two authorities seem to agree, and the expense throughout England of making any change at all will be so great that no one is inclined to act hastily in the matter.

THE arrangements for German opera in New York are completed, and promise a successful season. Mr. Stanton, secretary of the Metropolitan Opera House, and Mr. Walter Damrosch, have returned from Germany, where they have engaged the performers. The principal soprano will be Fraulein Lili Lehman, of the Berlin Opera House. This lady has a life engagement there, and has obtained leave of absence for the American engagement. She is very highly spoken of, as being possessed of a magnificent voice and great versatility. Frau Krauss is re-engaged, her husband, Herr Leidl, being director, assisted by Mr. Walter Damrosch. The principal tenor is Herr Stritt, first tenor at Frankfort, a fine singer and good actor. Many other new engagements have been made. The chorus, numbering about ninety, will be trained by Mr. Frank Damrosch. The first performance will take place November 26, when Goldmark's "Königin von Saba" will be given. The repertoire will also comprise: "Rienzi," "Die Meistersinger," "Götterdämmerung," "Aida," "Faust" and "Carmen."

PERIODICALS.

THE Leonard Scott Reprints of the *Nineteenth Century*, the *Contemporary Review*, and the *Fortnightly Review* come to hand close upon the heels of their great originals. The first-named is a very bright number. Among the more solid articles is one entitled "The True Scientific Frontier of India," the trend of the writer, Mr. Slagg, M.P., being that Afghanistan cannot be made a buffer state, and that India must be defended on her own frontier. Dr. Jessop contributes a delightful study of "Bohemian Life," and an equally attractive paper is that entitled "Parliamentary Manners," though we cannot agree with the conclusions. A pyrotechnic essay on "The Work of Victor Hugo" bears Mr. Swinburne's signature.—Occupying the place of honour in the *Contemporary* is an article by Mr. Goldwin Smith on "The Administration of Ireland." Professor Fairbairn has an essay on "Catholicism and Historical Criticism," which contains some brilliant fencing with that worthy literary foe Cardinal Newman. Victor Hugo is written of by Mrs. Oliphant, but hardly in such a manner as to increase her reputation. There is hardly enough of "Cricket" in Lord Harris's paper, and one also comes all too early to the conclusion of the papers on "Mind and Motion" and the "Primitive Ghost and his Revelations."—It is not easy to conceive that Mr. Morley would have admitted so "thin" a contribution to the *Fortnightly* as now appears on "Mr. J. R. Lowell," and bearing the sign manual of Mr. Traill. Of course Victor Hugo comes in for mention, but not in attractive form. Dr. Donkin's paper goes to show that one story is good only until another is told—being a crushing reply to one having previously appeared, entitled "Medical Specialism."

THE *Scottish Review* for July contains an article on "Imperial Federation" by Mr. W. Leggo, of Winnipeg, in which the writer unequivocally maintains that not only is Federation practicable, but that "the voice of the Dominion" demands such a tightening of the bonds. It is difficult to account for Mr. Leggo's conclusions except upon the hypothesis that he does not read Canadian journals and has not mingled amongst the people for whom they are printed. How Canadians, or any one else, could endorse a project confessedly in *nubibus* passes understanding, and Mr. Leggo's assertions cannot go unchallenged. Outside a small coterie of theoretical visionaries Imperial Federation is jeered at. The *Scottish* also contains a number of other able contributions.

By far the most valuable department of the July *Macmillan's Magazine* is Mr. John Morley's "Review of the Month." With his assistance those who have to study English politics from afar are enabled to estimate the forces which are at work in the great, silent political revolution now in course. Mr. Bernard Wise appeals to the English Democracy *apropos* of the Colonial Question, and, as an Australian, writes hopefully of a closer union, though he shows scant courtesy to the Imperial federation talk. So far as regards mutual defence, he would have each colony provide for its harbour and coast defences, but thinks ocean defences should be the sole concern of the Imperial Navy. There are also the following in this number: "Marlborough," "International Co-operation in Scandinavia," "From Monte Video to Paraguay," "A Walking Tour in the Linds," and three chapters of "Mrs. Dymond."

AUGUST is the great out-of-doors month, and *St. Nicholas* for August is a great out-of-door number. "Little Dame Fortune" tells how a little girl who wandered away out-of-doors once made an artist's fortune. Mrs. Frank M. Gregory up among the Catskills explains how some children there reversed the seasons and went "Coasting in August"; Mary Hallock Foote gives us a whiff of salt air in "A 'Constitutional' on the Beach." The instalments of the serials, too, all take us into the open air. After that we can rink in imagination by looking at Jessie Curtis Shepherd's roller-skating pictures, cool off with Lieut. Schwatka and "The Children of the Cold," and hear about "Beethoven" from Agatha Tunis.

THE *Art Interchange* of July 16 contains a very beautiful study of pink and white chrysanthemums. A mass of these charming and decorative flowers is shown in a pottery jar, against a well-composed background. Other attractions of this number are sketches in black of patterns for embroidered dress front; a vigorous design of corn flower for tile decoration; two exquisite designs to be painted or embroidered on handkerchief sachets; a study of the full length figure of a girl for panel decoration; a landscape and floral design for souvenir card; a sketch, showing a jolly couple in a jaunting-car, and several illustrations of watch verges, the latest fashionable ornament.

The contents of the August *Magazine of American History* are so varied and engaging that a brief summary gives no adequate notion of their importance and substantial worth.

It has four essays on the Civil War, of sterling merit, and an equal number on other historical topics of living interest. The frontispiece of this superb issue is an exquisite portrait in steel of Major-General John A. Dix. The pictures are by Theo. R. Davis, Harper and Brothers' famous War Artist, and the portraits of Jefferson Davis and his first Cabinet are given with much effect.

THE most valuable contributions in the current *Lippincott's* are those by Edmund Raike and David Bennett King—the former being a second instalment of the very readable papers on "The Pioneers of the South-West," and the latter treating ably of "The Scottish Crofters." The other principal contents are "Fishing in Elk River," "Our Monthly Gossip," and a number of complete and serial stories and several poems.

THE opening paper of the August number of the *Eclectic* is a fitting introduction to an excellent number; being a very suggestive discussion of "Genius and Insanity," by James Sully. The literary character of this long-established magazine is kept up to the high standard which it has always occupied. To those who wish to keep *au courant* with the best foreign periodical literature such a monthly visitor is of the greatest value.

THE numbers of *The Living Age* for July 18th and 25th contain extracts from the *London Quarterly*, the *Fortnightly*, the *Nineteenth Century*, the *Scottish Review*, *Temple Bar*, *Good Words*, *Longman's*, *Chambers's Journal*, *All the Year Round*, the *Saturday Review*, the *St. James's Gazette*, the *Economist* and the *Field*.

BOOK NOTICES.

TWO SIDES OF THE SHIELD. By Charlotte M. Yonge. London and New York: Macmillan and Company; Toronto: Williamson and Company.

A novel with a purpose—to show that the latter-day manner of bringing up children is all wrong. Under the old system "people thought it their own business to bring up their children themselves, and let the actual technical teaching depend upon opportunities; whereas now they get them taught, but let the bringing up take its chance." The story goes to show how a motherless girl with a very unamiable disposition was, after much tribulation, exorcised by her aunt of the devils which threatened to make miserable her own life and that of all with whom she came in contact. The heroine's character is a very unlovable one, and the whole tone of the book is rather lugubrious. It is intended to be a sequel to "Scenes and Characters" written by the same author some years ago.

THE RELIGIONS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD. By George Rawlinson, M.A. New York: John B. Alden.

In his preface Mr. Rawlinson confesses to have touched only the fringe of a great subject, and promises to enlarge upon the present work at some future date. The work originated in a series of papers written for *Sunday at Home*, based upon lectures at Oxford. As is pointed out, the real history of nations is bound up with the history of their religions: hence the value of the work under notice. Mr. Rawlinson's name is known all over the world as author of "The Seven Great Monarchies of the Ancient World," and in this later unpretentious volume he has also done yeoman service to literature.

ALDEN'S CYCLOPEDIA OF UNIVERSAL LITERATURE. Part I. New York: John B. Alden.

In this ambitious work it is intended to present biographical and critical notices, and specimens from the writings of eminent authors of all ages and all nations. It will be published in convenient form, in parts of 160 pp. and in volumes of 480 pp., at a low figure. Part I. reaches A.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

MR. ARCHIBALD FORBES is busy preparing his work on "The Campaigns of Emperor William."

THE new Lord Chancellor of England is a son of that Dr. Giffard who was editor of the *London Standard* and who figures in "Pendennis" as "Dr. Boyne" of the *Dawn*.

A MOVEMENT has been started to organise Burns Clubs throughout the world for the purpose of having a centennial celebration in honour of the Scotch bard at Kilmarnock next year.

THE future of the Indian Territory and the probable result of the efforts made to secure its lands for white settlers are discussed by Henry King in the forthcoming number of the *Century*.

EMILE ZOLA, the novelist of realism, denies that his works are meant to be simply accurate sketches. He says his work is not a series of tableaux for the artistic world, but a psychologic study of passion.

"SUCCESS" is the captivating title of a book intended to furnish useful hints to young people as to the best ways of getting on in the world. Its author, who is to be congratulated on having made a book at once so interesting and instructive, is O. A. Kingsbury, and the publishers, D. Lothrop and Co.

THE mystery which has hitherto surrounded the personality of the author of "Underground Russia" is at last removed by the statement, recently made upon good authority, that the prominent Nihilist who writes under the pseudonym of "Stepniak" is Michael Dragomanoff, a prolific writer on historical and political subjects.

AUGUSTE VITU, the dramatic critic of the *Figaro*, who knew Victor Hugo intimately, quotes him as saying: "Those who flatter themselves that they see God under a certain definite figure, and who confine him with a dogma, are rash; those who deny his existence are fools. That is my profession of faith; and this God, whom I do not know, I adore with all the force of my intelligence and reason."

ROSWELL SMITH, founder of the *Century Magazine* and president of the Century Company, is sick, and has left his work and has gone to the sea-side for several weeks' rest. The report was all around New York, and got into some of the evening papers, that he had suffered a stroke of paralysis, but this is denied by his associates. It would be a great misfortune if Mr. Smith should be permanently disabled for the active control of his great magazine.

THE appearance of Mr. Mercer Adam's "History of the North-West and its Troubles" is most happily timed, and the book, which is now before the public in attractive form, will doubtless be eagerly canvassed, not only by those who have been to the front, but by their friends. For the moment it is sufficient to say that the work is written in Mr. Adam's characteristic, flowing style, and contains evidences of considerable research. We hope to refer to it more fully at an early date.