

OUR MEN OF LETTERS.

We begin to-day the publication of a series of portraits, with accompanying memoirs, of the principal literary men of the Dominion. As the News is primarily a literary paper this is for us a labour of love, but there is an act of justice in the same as well. Our men of letters, *celaris paribus*, deserve even more recognition than our politicians, for they really do more toward promoting the higher interests of the country. Hence they ought to be made known and properly appreciated. This we shall endeavour to compass in the ensuing papers. The field being rather a large one and somewhat indefinite, we have had to draw a line somewhere, and therefore will confine ourselves generally to those writers who have either published books or contributed to permanent publications. We open the series with Mr. George Stewart, jr., on the occasion of his election to membership in the Paris Society of Gens de Lettres.

ECHOES FROM LONDON.

TEMPLE BAR is to be re-erected in Victoria Park.

THE *Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily News* intend having the debates this session sent by telephone instead of by messenger.

M. ERNEST RENAN intends giving a series of lectures in London, and is said to be now engaged in refreshing his English, in order to be able to deliver his harangues in that tongue.

A STATUE of the late Earl Russell will shortly be placed in the House of Lords. It will be six feet six inches high, and will represent him in his usual attitude when addressing the House.

THE Metropolitan Board of Works has resolved to contribute half a million sterling towards street widenings and the formation of a new street in connection with the completion of the "inner circle" of the metropolitan and district railways.

IT has been decided to erect a memorial in the city to Sir Louis Cavagnari. A public meeting was held to promote the object in the Grammar School at Christ's Hospital, where he was a pupil for several years. It was decided that the memorial should take the form of a tablet.

OUR MEN OF LETTERS I.



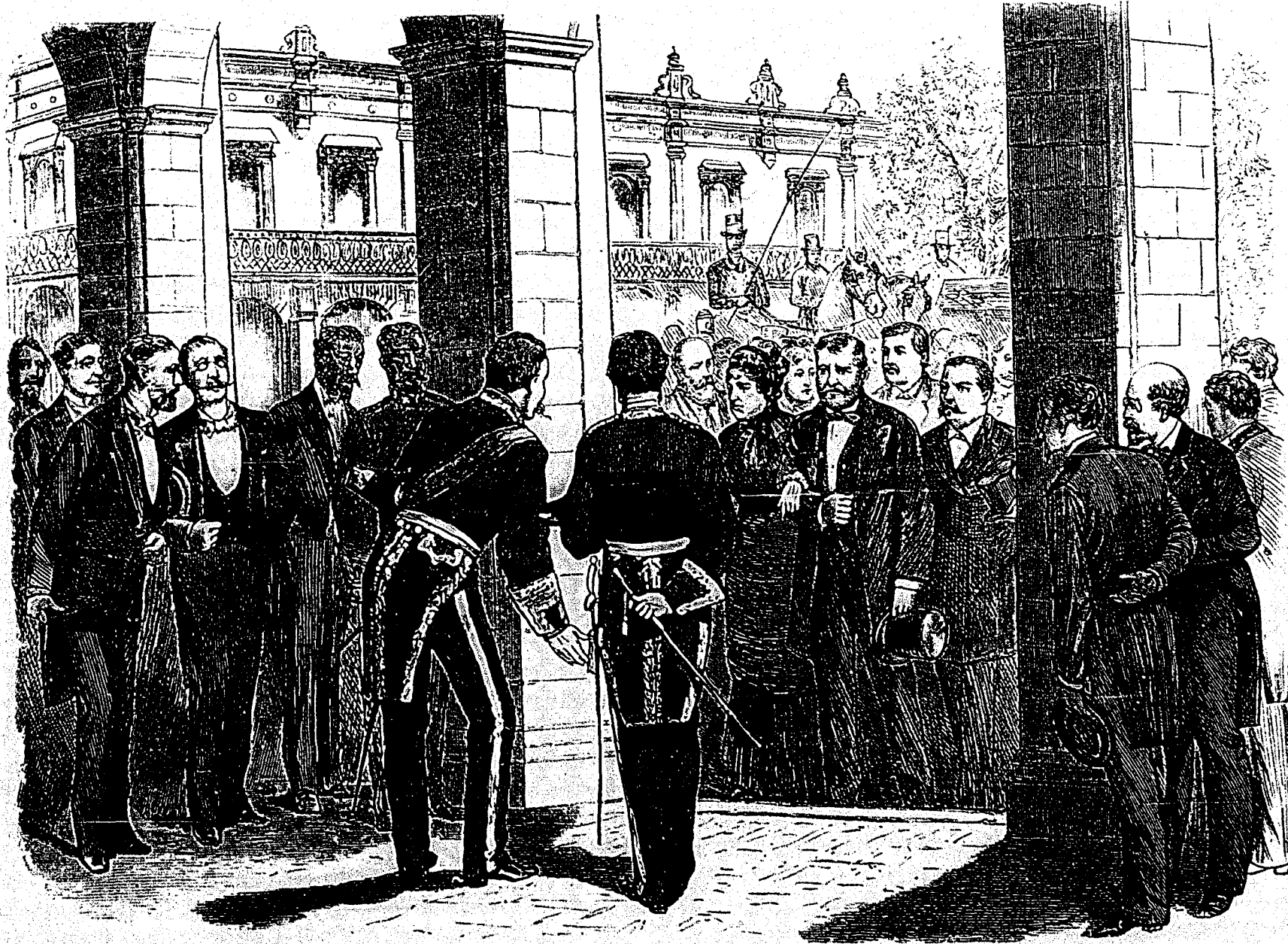
R&N houses are springing up everywhere in the West End. It is only in the last few days that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has transformed his mansion in Eaton place from glaring white to the new Pompeian colour, and when Cabinet Ministers break out in this way all the world may be expected to follow them.

THE following advertisement appears in a London newspaper: "A gentleman, a magnificent pianist and improvisator will for a short time accept evening invitations to any nobleman's or gentleman's house, where his music would be a delightful attraction. The highest references. Honorarium, two guineas. A few days' notice required. Address," &c.

VERY early in the approaching session the Government will be asked as to what is to be done with the extraordinary collection of State prisoners whom they have at present more or less on hand. What is to be the fate and future of Yakoub Khan and the Afghan chiefs, of Cetewayo, of the Boer leaders, and of the Irish State prisoners who are at present out on bail?

HERALDED by an elaborate puff the new penny postage-stamp proves a great failure. The promised improvement in colour is represented by a faded red, and the beauty of the new design has not been discovered even with the aid of a microscope. It is to be presumed that it was felt some excuse was necessary for removing and altering the contract, and hence the preliminary flourish that has ended in disappointment.

DR. DONALD FRASER, preaching recently at the opening of a new Presbyterian church, mentioned the following anecdote: After a sermon preached by him at the opening of a church, a lady of fashionable position in society came to him. "Why should I have two watches while the house of God remains unpaid for?" adding, "I will give the better of the two toward the cost of the church." She did so, and a jeweller gave £52 for it, which was a sensible addition to the fund. Dr. Fraser added that at another collection on the previous Sabbath a lady who had not a piece of gold, and did not care to give silver, took the chain off her neck and put it on the plate. They might say that these were impulsive women. "Well," added the Doctor, "impulsive women might rise up to condemn illiberal men in the day of the Lord."



RECEPTION OF GENERAL GRANT AT HAVANA.