

Mr. VENDOR is out again with his weather prognostications, and we regret to say that, like CALCHAS of old, he is "a prophet of ill." According to him we are to have, during the present autumn, that most delightful of all weathers, a veritable Indian summer, preceded by an early and rather cold spell, and followed by a season of rain, wet and mud. The winter, it is predicted, will be short and warm, wet and open, with one or two spells of severe weather, but of short duration; and it is almost unnecessary to say that it will, altogether be both gloomy and unhealthy. And as for the coming spring we are told that it will be a wet time until about the beginning of June; and the following summer will be hot and oppressive. Mr. VENDOR also adds that the winter will be favourable to the increase of throat diseases and fevers, and also cattle diseases. As if this outlook was not sufficiently dismal and alarming, Mr. VENDOR says that he agrees with Professor MANSILL in the prediction that the Asiatic cholera will approach the northern latitudes.

The loss of a dozen lives and fifty persons wounded on a Pennsylvania Railroad from a storm and floods having broken up the track, will affirm one of two plain rules. Either the railway companies should have a sufficient force of trackmen to warn the trains of such weather dangers, or the presence of a violent storm should of itself form an injunction against the passage of trains until all could be reported clear and fit for traffic; and the directing boards might be expected to possess sufficient experience and intelligence to be guided by principles so evident.

The subject of the following telegram dated Queenstown, October 11th, will doubtless have been carefully noted by our contemporary, the *London Daily Telegraph*—

The steamer *Cassell*, from Antwerp for New York, has arrived with her forward compartment filled with water—the result of a collision with the ship *Jessore*, from Liverpool, with passengers for Melbourne, recently, a hundred miles west of Fastnet. The *Jessore* sank, and the *Cassell* rescued all hands.

DOMINION ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

COMPETITION FOR THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MEDALS.

Improvements in artillery material are thought by many to be worse than useless, unless accompanied by a corresponding increase of intelligence and training amongst officers, N. C. officers and gunners. Imparting and encouraging this professional knowledge among the rank and file or applying it, where it exists, by selecting the best qualified non-commissioned officers, or men for pointing our guns in action, is one of the most important duties for an artillery officer. Our expensive modern projectiles will be worse than wasted in war or peace, if fired away by men who may be short sighted, unable to adjust a target scale, or incapable of setting a fuze to a given range.

SELECTION.

The most intelligent men and best drills are first chosen. Then the best shots with small arms are likely to be the best natural gunners, a further selection is then made by the inexpensive plan of trials by pointing guns at objects against time, but without ammunition, and lastly by firing at the target. Unless accustomed to time being made an element of competition, men, who may be called upon to fire at an advancing enemy or a steamer running the gauntlet of a battery, are likely to lose that phlegmatic coolness, the quickness without hurry, which is essential to gunners and which, though inherent in the Anglo-Norse races requires to be cultivated especially in citizen soldiers.

His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin was the first to patronize the Dominion Artillery Association. Our talented Governor General with his usual generosity and readiness to promote whatever his keen perception leads him to believe tends to the development of Canadian self reliance and the security of the Empire, last year presented five medals: The first, for competition between the Kingston and Quebec Gunnery Schools. The second, for all Militia Field Batteries armed with nine pounder muzzle loading rifled guns of which Canada boasts a force of fifty-six rifled field guns, fairly equipped, manned and horsed; no mean contribution for a colony. The third medal is for competition between Field Batteries armed with

smooth bore guns of which there are three batteries of twelve guns and howitzers. The fourth medal is for heavy guns for Garrison Artillery. This force, though numerous, is notoriously backward in efficiency, probably owing to the batteries being classed with the infantry and selected by lot for training which may leave some batteries for two or three years without training: a serious drawback to an arm that cannot be extemporized, which when not trained is worse than useless, but when efficient is a most economical and useful force at no greater cost than infantry available either as gunners or infantry companies.

The Government of Canada has purchased 10 rifle guns $\frac{5}{8}$ pounders on the Palliser principle, which are now mounted on our rockfortress guarding the gate of Canada and our waterway, the mighty St. Lawrence. Ten more rifled guns are intended for Kingston, the key of Ontario, and five rifled guns were purchased from the proceeds of the sale of ordinance property at St. Johns N. B., to guard our important and solitary unfrozen seaport. Had the Major General commanding, Sir Selby Smyth, succeeded in applying as he desired, the sums arising from all such sales throughout the Dominion to similar purposes, the militia of Canada would be in some measure independent of the ever lessening vote for militia purposes which these hard times necessitate. The richer colony of Australia has voted a sum of no less than \$25,000,000 for armament and defence, and appointed a Royal Artillery Officer to the command of the local forces in South Australia. If the old Gaspé guns with which our militia garrison artillery are armed were converted into rifled guns on Major Palliser's principle, which could be done in this country, and shell cast for them in existing workshops at a trifling cost, probably less than that of importation, it would give a slight fillip to the iron manufacturing interest and render us to some little extent independent of a base of supply 2,000 miles away which is closed against us for six months in the year. Nor would there be any difficulty in the economical manufacture of Snider ammunition which will probably soon cease in the imperial arsenals as the troops are armed with the Martini. The fifth medal was a specially generous gift for competition to a single battery armed with 9 pounder B.L.R. Guns, the Halifax Field Battery which is the only corps so armed. They have this year however declined His Excellency's Medal and are the only Field Battery in our broad Dominion who have not joined the Artillery Association.

The various batteries of the Dominion compete at their own ranges, the umpires and range officers being appointed by the inspectors of artillery, Lieut. Col. Strange, Royal Artillery, and Lieut. Col. Irwin; the conditions being as nearly as possible similar. The weather and the time fuses are the only elements that cannot be put in orders or depended upon to behave properly. Last year the Quebec Gunnery School "B" Battery, carried off the Governor's medal for the two schools: the Quebec, Shefford and Gaspé batteries, the others. This year it is natural to expect a change of rounds and it is not unlikely that the Kingston gunnery school "A" Battery and some of the splendid field batteries of Ontario will come to the front, though Lieut. Col. Stevenson's Montreal Field Battery made an excellent score. This battery (there being no suitable range at Montreal) travelled 360 miles for gun practice at their own expense. The funds of the Dominion Artillery Association for prize badges, etc., are raised almost entirely by the subscriptions of the militia artillery officers themselves, supplemented by a grant of \$750 from the Government.

The system of scoring is by marking the parallelism of error, the method by which guns are tried for accuracy at the Shoeburyness gunnery school. This eliminates the chance of a man, who merely strikes the target once and never goes near it again, scoring more than a gunner whose limit of error may be no greater than that due to the gun, which frequently happened under the old method of scoring. There is however, an element of chance in the rate of burning of fuses which may have deteriorated in store from climatic or other causes, which can scarcely be eliminated. The extremely wet and foggy weather seems to have had a detrimental effect on the practice of more than one battery, obscuring to a certain extent the target and reducing the propelling power of the powder. This last effect is clearly shown by the mortar "épreuve." The illustration of competitive gun practice on the Isle of Orleans, P. Q., by our talented young soldier artist, Cornet Pennefather of the 8th cavalry, Fredericton, N. B., at present undergoing instruction at the Quebec Gunnery School, is extremely correct in all technical details as well as in artistic realization of the magnificent scenery of the noble river, the chain of the Laurentides and the Falls of Montmorency whose never changing voicings mingle to-day with the roar of artillery, making an undercurrent of God's melody to man's discord, as it did a hundred years ago when Wolfe watched his Louisburg grenadiers repulsed by Montcalm with a loss of 400 beneath its cliffs. Wolfe little thought that he had yet to lead the remnant of those gallant grenadiers to victory, and to die at their head, to share a monument with the then exultant and impetuous Montcalm.

"Mortem virtus, Commune
Famam Historia.
Monumentum Posteritas
Dedit."

ECHOES FROM LONDON.

THE Mormon delusion has not come to an end in England in spite of the death of the great biganist. We learn that the Mormon agents in this country and the Continent continue to be actively employed in promulgating the Mormon doctrines and in sending out numerous converts to the Salt Lake territory. The Guion Company's United States mail steamer *Wisconsin*, Captain Forsyth, which has just left Liverpool for New York, took out the last detachment of Mormons for this year. There were in all about 200, principally adults of both sexes, with a tolerably fair sprinkling of young women.

It is stated that some visitors to the Caxton Exhibition—people apparently intelligent and educated, had but hazy ideas of history as well as typography. The constant inquiries for the Bible printed by Caxton were perhaps a matter for not much wonder, at any rate such a book was a possibility; but it would be hard to keep a serious countenance when thus addressed by an impulsive lady: "Oh, will you please show me the first edition of Shakespeare printed by Caxton—the Queen's copy, you know?" Again, this question was soberly put: "Were all these books made by Caxton, or is it the printing only which is his?"

THERE will be universal regret in musical circles over the death of Mme. F. Lablache in Paris last week. Her illness arose from being struck by a wave while bathing more than a year since. As Miss Fanny Wyndham, she acted in the provinces at an early age; but her fine contralto voice having attracted the notice of the late Earl of Westmoreland, the founder of the Royal Academy of Music, she studied at that institution in 1836-7, and made her debut in Italian Opera at the Lyceum Theatre in 1836, when the late Mr. John Mitchell was the *impresario*, and Sir Julius, then Mr. Benedict, was the conductor and musical director with the late Signor Puzzi. Miss Fanny Wyndham subsequently made a successful debut at Her Majesty's Theatre, but retired from the lyric stage on her marriage with Signor Frederic Lablache, the son of the Lablache who, with Grisi, Rubini, and Tamburini, formed the unrivalled quartet at the Haymarket Opera House. Mme. F. Lablache has left her husband one son (now acting at the Adelphi Theatre), two daughters—one married to Herr Rokitsansky, the basso profundo of the Viennese Imperial Opera House; the other Miss Fanny Lablache, the authoress of "Starlight Stories," a book which excited some attention last Christmas for its interesting series of seven tales. Signor Frederic Lablache has been known as one of our most able professors of singing, and as a composer of some clever pianoforte as well as vocal music. His sister was married to the famed Thalberg, and the widow is living at Naples.

ECHOES FROM PARIS.

THE handsome skating rink of the Chaussée d'Antin, situated in the Rue Blanche and the Rue de Clichy, which last spring was made quite a fashionable rendezvous, was reopened some days ago, and is now more attractive than ever. During the summer a number of improvements have been effected by the direction to increase the convenience of the skaters. One of the sharp corners, which jutted forth in a rather dangerous manner, has been rounded off.

A VERY ingenious aid to candidate deputies is announced. An optician supplies a barometer and thermometer, with a space between for the enamelled photo of the candidate. As the elector will consult the instruments daily at least, they cannot deny a regard to the portrait of the donor. There is a tiny shell-mirror over the top, and a plain one at the bottom, of the case; these are intended to win the suffrages of the fair sex. The Government must find it difficult to please all their supporters.

THERE is no building in France, of circular description, attaining to the height of the Central Pavilion on the Trocadero, erected for the coming exhibition. The four Towers will be 250 feet high. There will be forty statues placed upon the exterior pillars of this pavilion, or palace, as it should be termed. The scaffolding erected in the interior of the building, for the purpose of raising and placing the iron rafters, is a work of art and will cost over 60,000fr. There will be in this building a music hall capable of seating 6,000 persons. The palace will be perfect in every detail, and will remain one of the splendours of the capital.

THE Paris shopkeepers, taking example, by the rands Magasins du Louvre, which were the first to present to their customers the small balloons bearing in large letters the name of the establishment, now make an enormous consumption of the airy articles. One manufacturer alone makes 20,000 of these balloons each day. Since the death of M. Thiers, over 50,000 balloons have been stamped with his portrait. The first distribution was made on the day of his funeral. It is a noticeable fact that those impressions upon the vulcanized gutta-percha, of which the balloons are made, are very accurately and delicately drawn.

THE New Avenue de L'Opera was inaugurated on Wednesday week last by the Marshal. Previous to that pedestrians could get from the Place de l'Opera to that of the Théâtre Français,

but it was not open to vehicles. The Marshal walked along nearly the whole extent of the Avenue, accompanied by a little knot of engineers and other officials, the workmen and general spectators lining the road on either side. When the procession had passed through, and the President was on his way back to the Elysée, *fiacres* and carriages began pouring down the Avenue. This new street supplies a great public want, and no time will be lost in getting it into general use. In the evening following the inauguration the Jablockoff system of lighting by electricity was tried from the *façade* of the opera. Six of these lights were placed on the candelabra that decorate M. Garnier's monument, and the whole Place was inundated with a soft, pleasant light, that threw the architecture of the loggia into bold relief, and illuminated all the surrounding houses.

It is not certain whether bull-fights will be permitted to figure among the extra amusements for visitors at the Exhibition. Wonders are expected under the head of stenography, a science which, like legal resistance to arbitrary officials, is of late making much progress. Homer, it is announced, will be written on a postcard; formerly, the poem was put into a nut-shell. Guides already offer themselves to explain the works of the Exhibition to visitors; an intelligent one would pay a tourist to engage. The wooden and iron rafters for the central domes are being rapidly bolted into position; the flooring is well advanced in the galleries, and the machinery department is being flagged. The new bridge across the Seine, to supply the place of that of Jena absorbed by the Exhibition, will be completed by the close of October. The landscape gardeners have planted an immense number of beautiful trees, and are deeply engaged in the mysteries of lakes, grottoes, cascades, and grass-plats. People remark that the Marshal only visits the works—after a change of Ministry.

M. THIERS has left a considerable legacy to his country. By an article in his will, of which up to the present moment only his intimate friends have been aware, he leaves to the State, not only all his collections, but also the immense historical materials which he had gathered for six works, as well as the house which he had partly rebuilt with the funds voted by the National Assembly after the defeat of the Commune. We understand that this house will be converted into a museum. The packets of MSS., comprising documents of the highest political and diplomatic interest, which he used for his "History of the Revolution" and his "History of the Consulate and the Empire," and which had been given him or transcribed for him by the surviving members of the families of the historical personages concerned, or by the Chancelleries of the various countries, will be deposited in the National Archives, after the friends of the deceased have selected from them all matter of a purely personal nature. This explains why the Government abstained from sealing them up, as is customary with the papers of late Ministers, the day after their death. The copies of Italian painting which Mr. Thiers had had executed for him, mostly in water-colour, by the pupils of the Ecole de Rome, will be presented to the Museum at Marseilles, his native town.

BEFORE THE FOOTLIGHTS.

Lovers of good music will again have an opportunity this year, on Thursday, October 18th, at Mechanics' Hall, to hear a concert from the Mendelssohn Quintette Club of Boston, at present composed of the following artists: S. E. Jacobsohn, violin; Gustav Daunreuther, violin; Thomas Ryan, clarionette and viola; Edward Heindl, flute and viola; Rudolph Hennig, violoncello; Alexander Heindl, violoncello and double bass (a permanent addition to the Club); assisted by the distinguished vocalist, Miss Ella C. Lewis. This charming singer accompanied the Club in their tour last season. Miss Lewis is one of the finest soprano singers the Club have had the good fortune to have sing with them in their many years of concert-giving. This well-known Club has for *twenty-eight years* given concerts of the highest order throughout the breadth of the land, and during this period its popularity has never diminished nor have the high aims it assumed at its birth been abandoned. Its two new members are Messrs. Jacobson and Daunreuther, the former one of the world's great violinists, who has recently become their iron leader, and who has been identified for several years as the leading violin and solo virtuoso of the Theo. Thomas Orchestra. Mr. Daunreuther is a pupil of the great violinist Joachim, a young violinist of remarkable skill, fresh from success as soloist and quartette player in London and on the continent.

ADVICE TO STUDENTS.—Sit up to the table when you read; easy chairs abolish memory. Do not go on reading the same book for too long at one sitting. If you are really weary of one subject, change it for another. Read steadily three hours a day for five days in the week—the use of wet towels and strong coffee betrays ignorance how to read. Check the accuracy of your work as soon as you have finished it. Put your facts in order as soon as you have learnt them. Never read after midnight. Do not go to bed straight from your books. Never let your reading interfere with exercise or digestion; and lastly, if you can, keep a clear head, a good appetite, and a cheerful heart.