

on the stage, the first scene in particular being very pretty, incidental to the piece was some remarkably agile, though not particularly graceful, dancing by M'dlles Bonfanti and De Vere, of New York fame.

The management of the Royal Opera House has again succumbed to financial pressure, and the theatre has passed into the hands of the proprietor, Mr. French, who announces his intention of becoming his own manager. The principal piece produced during the month was "Monte Christo." The adaptation from Dumas' wonderful romance, was mainly for spectacular purposes, and in this view was successful; the carnival scene at the close being par-

ticularly good. Mr. Warner, as *Monte Christo*, and Miss Miles as *Mercedes*, were good; and the *Caderousse* of Mr. Ketchum, though not free from exaggeration, was exceedingly humorous. The Christmas spectacle was "Undine," in which Miss Miles filled the part of the heroine charmingly. Incidental to the piece were, the Japanese, Sanboro, in his wonderful performances on the tight and slack ropes; and the Austins, in their clever military drill. Miss Paynter, also sang a couple of songs acceptably. This promising young actress has a remarkably fine mezzo-soprano voice, which deserves careful cultivation; in which case we can bespeak for her a high place in the future as a singer.

LITERARY NOTES.

Dr. Hayden, of the United States Geological Survey, is about, says the *Athenæum*, to publish a work on the great hill-ranges of Colorado, Nevada, Utah, and Idaho. The work, profusely illustrated, will be published simultaneously in English, French, and German.

The first volume of Mr. Herbert Spencer's "Principles of Sociology" is completed and will be published immediately in London, and also by the Messrs. Appleton, in New York. It forms the sixth volume of the "Synthetic Philosophy." It is a subject for much regret that Mr. Spencer's health is not what his friends would wish it to be, and that it may be some months before he will be able to be at work again.

A work entitled "Charles Kingsley: his Letters, and Memoir of his Life," has just appeared in London, from the press of H. S. King & Co. It is in two volumes, and contains two steel portraits and numerous illustrations; also a fac-simile of his handwriting. The work is edited by his widow.

Captain Nares is writing an account of the Arctic Expedition which recently returned to England.

A new drama by Tennyson, entitled "Harold," has just been published in London by Messrs. H. S. King & Co. A Canadian copyright edition is also in preparation.

Captain Burnaby's work, the appearance of which has been looked for with interest for some time, has just been published in London, under the title "A Ride to Khiva; Travels and Adventures in Central Asia." There does not seem to be anything particularly new in it; but portions are of much importance as bearing upon the present complication in Europe. Captain Burnaby reports that the Russian officers with whom he associated all look on war with England in Asia as only a question of time, "while the Cossacks' day-dreams are of the plunder of India." He learned too that in

Tashkend, also, war is looked upon "as certain soon to happen, the Russian inhabitants of that city talking about India as a mine of wealth, from which they would be able to replenish their empty purses."

Mr. William Black's new novel, founded, in part at least, on his recent American experiences, will appear with the new year, in the London *Examiner*.

Mr. Motley, the American historian, is writing an historical novel. It will appear simultaneously on both sides of the Atlantic, probably in the spring.

Messrs. Harper Brothers have just published an American edition of Mr. A. R. Wallace's "Geographical Distribution of Animals," a work which has been pronounced worthy of a place on the shelf beside Lyell's "Principles of Geology" and Darwin's "Origin of Species."

The January number of *Macmillan's Magazine* contains an article by Goldwin Smith on "The Ascent of Man."

Messrs. Appleton have nearly ready for publication the autobiography of the Hon. W. H. Seward, with a later memoir by his son, Frederick W. Seward, late Assistant Secretary of State. The work will be sold by subscription only.

The Rev. J. M. Capes has in preparation an "Essay on the Growth of the Musical Scale and of Modern Harmony," in which he will show, as he believes, for the first time, "that both the one and the other are the natural development of the musical idea in the collective consciousness of musicians of successive ages, under the irresistible influence of the facts of atmospheric vibration."

Mr. A. H. Dymond, M.P., formerly editor of the London *Morning Star*, and now of the *Toronto Globe*, was recently unanimously elected an honorary member of the Cobden Club, on the motion of Mr. T. B. Potter, M.P., seconded by Sir Louis Mallet.