

Periodicals.

Anthony Hope and Clark Russell unite to make the January *Idler* a very entertaining number. These stars are well supported by a goodly company which includes such names as Conan Doyle and Joseph Hatton.

Littell's Living Age maintains itself in the face of keen competition as an eclectic periodical. The current number contains Prince Krapotkin's striking article on "Recent Science" from the *Nineteenth Century*, Gen. Wood's "Crimea" from the *Fortnightly*, and Gosse's "Walter Pater" from the *Contemporary*, together with some lighter selections from *Temple Bar*, the *Argosy*, and *Chamber's Journal*.

The *Expository Times*, January, carries on Mr. Headlam's useful notes on the "Theology of the Epistle to the Romans," Dr. Rothe's admirable "Exposition of the first Epistle of St. John," Mrs. Wood's "Studies in 'In Memoriam,'" It contains, also, a learned article by Mr. G. William on the "New Syriac Gospels," an article on the authenticity of the Old Testament by Dr. J. E. Cumming, a number of minor articles on particular texts and themes, and two series of excellent notices of new books.

The *Educational Monthly* for January contains several selected articles that are calculated to interest the teacher and fit him better for his work. One of the contributed articles, by Mr. C. Ochiltree Macdonald, complains of the want of national feeling in Nova Scotia and points out the cause of it. He thinks that it arises largely from the isolation of Nova Scotia from the rest of Canada in trade, and that its persistence is due to the fact that "Canada," as such, is comparatively ignored in the schools of the Province.

St Nicholas for February has a humorous Canadian back-wood's yarn by Charles G. D. Roberts. A pleasantly written account of the last voyage of the celebrated *Constitution* frigate to her marine graveyard at Portsmouth dock, where she still lies, recalls reminiscences of the old wars between Great Britain and the United States. A model natural history paper is Mr. Hornaday's on "The Doings of a Mole." The other sketches and stories make up a good number, of which the illustrative engravings are well up to the average.

The *Journal of Hygiene* for January contains a very impressive article on "The Cry for Rest" from the pen of O. B. Frothingham. He accepts the theory of "The Gospel of Work," but with limitations, adding that "the gospel for us is not work, but emancipation from work, the getting of lower work into higher, the advance of the worker from mean to honorable places of labor." He believes in not extending women's sphere downward to what has been men's work, but in getting men out of it as fast as possible. "Work is good, so long as there is nothing better; work is good in order that we may rest. There are other articles well worthy of perusal in the magazine.

Blackwood for January contains the second instalment of Dr. Skelton's charming reminiscences of James Anthony Froude. Froude's letters show him at his best, not only as a great writer and a shrewd judge of men and things, but as a firm, generous and faithful friend. Mr. Walter B. Harris relates in the most vivid way how he escaped from Mulai Bushta. Of all the great feasts that of Mulai Bushta is perhaps the most hazardous to visit, and the escape of Mr. Harris "is dubbed by the Moslems a miraculous one." He was well aware of the risk he encountered. Lovers of the grand old game of whist will turn with pleasure to the partly gossiping and partly critical article on the game. How the news of the battle of Ping Yang was told at Dragon Valley is related in an amusing letter to "Maga" by E. A. Irving dated at Ka-Yin-Chu, 28th October, last. "The Looker-on" contributes a bright, chatty paper on things literary, social and political. He administers some well-deserved chastisement on Mr. Aubrey Beardsley for his ugly illustrations of the *Morte d'Arthur*. The fiction in the number is very good.

Athletic Life, published "in the interests of Canadian Sports and Pastimes," is a new

candidate for public favor. It is to be published monthly, and the publishers' promise, that it will be profusely illustrated with photo-gravures and printed in the most artistic magazine style," is amply redeemed so far as the first number is concerned. Some of the cuts are very good, and there is hardly a very poor one in the number. The letter-press is quite worthy of the artistic work, not merely in the excellence of the typography, but still more in the literary quality and variety of the contents. Mr. Goldwin Smith contributes an article in his inimitable style on "Athletics" from an historical point of view. A brief account of the progress of horse-racing in Canada from 1871 to 1894 is given by "T. C. P.," whose initials will be at once recognized by every one interested in sport. Mr. Hedley writes of "Curling" with all the verve of the genuine enthusiast. There are articles on swimming, cricket, lawn tennis, and bowling, and military affairs are allowed the honor of a department to themselves. If *Athletic Life* can keep to the high standard of the initial number, it will be a credit to Canadian journalism.

The *Critical Review* for January, 1895, notices very favourably two books by Canadian authors. One of these is "The Religions of the World" by the Rev. Principal Grant, of Queen's University; the other is "History, Prophecy, and the Monuments" by Prof. McCurdy of the University of Toronto. The notice of Dr. Grant's work is very brief, but the *Review* says of it: "Principal Grant's volume is packed with good matter, carefully digested and clearly stated. It represents extensive and appreciative study of these great systems (Mohammedanism, Confucianism, Hinduism, and Buddhism), and furnishes a generally correct and attractive account of their leading features." The notice of Dr. McCurdy's book is much more extended, and is written by Dr. A. B. Davidson, who rightly says that "the author's work might fitly have been designated a History of the Shemitic World. While the reviewer cannot accept all the conclusions of the author on disputable points, he accords to this first volume the highest praise. 'The History of the Shemitic World,' as Dr. McCurdy records it, must be read in his own pages. His work is clear, enlightening, and eminently suggestive."

In the earlier chapters the author's style is perhaps a little heavy, but when he comes to his history proper it flows on in a clear and stately stream." One gathers from the notice, that, in Dr. Davidson's opinion, this book is the most important recent contribution to the vast subject of which it treats.

Science begins with the present month a new series, and from the announcement over the name of Prof. Newcomb, of Johns Hopkins University, one may assume that it has come back after its brief suspension to stay. The journal is to be "devoted to the promotion of intercourse among those interested in the study of nature." Dr. Newcomb thinks it unlikely that great discoveries, made by such men as Copernicus, Kepler, and Leibnitz, will ever be repeated, and that scientific progress hereafter will depend more on the efforts of less fortunate investigators whose function is "to develop ideas, investigate facts, and discover laws." The work of scientific research has become social and co-operative, and he and his coadjutors hope to make *Science* useful as a medium of communication between the members of the great hive of scientific inquirers. Mr. Packard, of Brown University, in commending an outline of the development of the evolution idea by Mr. H. F. Osborn, of Columbia University, speaks of the evolution hypothesis as having not only explained "the origin of life-forms," but "transformed the methods of the historian, placed philosophy on a higher plane, and immeasurably widened our views of nature and the infinite power working in and through the Universe." This mode of stating the case suggests the thought whether the doctrine of biological evolution does not owe as much to changed historical methods as the latter owe to it, and whether the replacement of the cataclysmic theory in geology by the theory of gradual change has not done a great deal for both.

The frontispiece of *Scribner's* for January is a strong portrait of the late James Anth-

ony Froude, and a brief but vigorous sketch of him appears as one of the articles. It is by Augustine Birrell, who has taken for his point of view one that enables him to give prominence to Froude's well-known hostility to every phase of ecclesiasticism. Archdeacon Froude, his father, "was a Masterful Anglican of the old high-and-dry school, who thought doubts illbred and non-conformity vulgar." The son's revolt against the father's dogmatism carried him very far. Admiration for Newman held him to Neo-Catholicism for a time, but when he revolted against it he became "A Protestant, preaching a broad-protestant John Bullism as opposed to Catholic piety and submission." As a stylist Froude stands high, in spite of obvious defects which might have been removed by the exercise of care. What success he secured is accounted for by Mr. Birrell's quotation of one of his early remarks: "O! how I wish I could write! I try sometimes, for I seem to feel myself overflowing with thoughts, and I cry out to be relieved of them. But it is so stiff and miserable when I get anything done. What seemed so clear and liquid comes out so thick, stupid, and frost-bitten, that I myself, who put the idea there, can hardly find it for shame if I go to look for it a few days after." Any one who has ideas to express and persists in trying to express them forcibly and clearly will learn to write a good style. A very good reproduction of the last photograph taken of Philip Gilbert Hamerton, the well-known art critic and *littérateur*, adds greatly to the value of this number. The other illustrations are of the usual high class, and so are the literary contents. This is especially true of Mr. Brook's clever sketch of the "Whig" party, and of the manner in which it gave place to the present Republican party in United States politics.

The *Journal of the Canadian Bankers' Association* for December, 1894, gives in full what has become known to the reading public as "The Baltimore Currency Plan." This is, in reality, a detailed scheme for solving the currency difficulty in the United States, adopted at a meeting of the American Bankers' Association. It is based on the idea that the National Bank system should be retained, but provides for the withdrawal of the bond deposit as security for the note issue, and the substitution of guarantees similar to those in use in Canada under the Bank Charter Act. The *Journal* publishes the first instalment of a thesis on "The Canadian Banking System, 1817-1890," prepared by Rodolf Morton Breckenridge for his Ph.D. degree in the Political Science faculty of Columbia College, New York, and several other timely and interesting articles. Dr. Breckenridge's thesis is briefly commented on in our "Topics" department in this issue.

Prof. Langley's paper in the *Popular Science Monthly* for February, on "Some Material Forces of the Social Organism" is much better than its title. His argument is that the "Social Organism," like "a closed system" of matter is conditioned by these three, amongst other principles: (1) that the size of a community tends to disrupt it; (2) that the intensity of effort of the whole community is dependent on the average vigor and intelligence of its members; and (3) that the dynamic value of any social movement depends more on its past history than on the immediate present, while any movement of a portion of the community thereby sets up a counter force whose tendency is to lessen or abolish the initial desire which started the movement. Familiar applications of this third principle are the decay of the warlike spirit due to the immense cost of modern armaments and the oscillation of society between the extremes of socialism and individualism. Prof. Sully continues in this number his "Study of Childhood," this one being devoted to "first attacks on the mother tongue." Not to mention many other interesting articles, a short editorial in the *Monthly* points out a curious coincidence of standpoint between Max Muller's "Why I am not an Agnostic" and Herbert Spencer's "First Principles." Students who had the privilege of hearing the late Prof. Young, of the University of Toronto, will recognize quite as marked a coincidence between his theory of knowledge and the doctrine laid down in the following quotation from Max Muller's article