

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.



new and cheaper edition of Charles Reade's story, "*It is never too late to mend*," is now advertised for sale. It is understood in literary circles that this edition has been issued by a New York firm, in consequence of a liberal offer on the part of the "New Dominion Cement Company," to share the expenses connected with the publication. The Company are unanimously of opinion, that, on the principle of the association of ideas, the mere title of Mr.

Reade's novel is admirably suggestive of the article that *they* manufacture.

MARRIAGE AND GIVING IN MARRIAGE.

"Alas! for the rarity
Of Christian charity
Under the sun!"

HOOD.

At some recent marriages in this country, between Roman Catholics and Protestants, the authorities of the church of Rome have refused to perform the ceremony in their churches. Consequently, in these cases, there has really been only a civil marriage. DIOGENES remembers that his witty friend, Charles Reade, has said, "there are three sexes, men, women, and priests." And the latter seem so ignorant of human nature, that they fondly believe their refusal to marry one of their flock to a heretic, will prevent the occurrence of such marriages. It is impossible for the Cynic, or indeed for any one who knows the world, to conceive of a girl's refusing an eligible offer, merely because her priest might decline to marry her. Marriage she desires, and if it must be a mere civil performance in a drawing-room, with the accompaniment of a brass band, instead of the dimly-lighted church and solemn ceremony, why—it must be. But seriously, believing as the Philosopher does, that it is of vital importance that marriage should be held in reverence and of necessity therefore, celebrated in some sacred edifice with due solemnity, he regrets sincerely, that the authorities, of the church of Rome have adopted the rule referred to. DIOGENES cannot forget that the same clergy refused to bury Moliere, because he wrote for the stage, and he is sorry to find that much the same bigotry still exists in the 19th century.

A PLEA FOR THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH.

In the *Daily News* of Thursday, April 29th DIOGENES read the following sentence in the course of a criticism on a recent concert: "The programme comprised selections from eminent *maestros*." From the context the Philosopher presumes that the musical critic meant to say *maestri*, and he now respectfully suggests to him, first, the advisability of his learning a little Italian before attempting to use that language; and secondly, that, had the words "eminent masters" been employed, they would have been in better taste and at the same time more generally understood than "eminent *maestros*." Pure English is in all cases preferable to bastard Italian, dog Latin, or ungrammatically-constructed French. A modern author has judiciously observed that writers who habitually interlard their composition with foreign words or phrases, frequently do so for the purpose of concealing the poverty of their thoughts.

"IN THE MULTITUDE OF COUNCILLORS THERE IS SAFETY." (?)

Many hard words have occasionally been spoken of the Montreal City Council by people who were suffering under some grievance, real or supposed; but our Councillors, thank goodness, are angelic beings compared to the City Fathers of Quebec and Toronto. In proof of this assertion the Cynic begs to quote the *Quebec Morning Chronicle* of May 1st and the *Montreal Daily Witness* of May 3rd.

The following account is from the *Chronicle*:—

While Alderman Hearn was engaged discussing the motion, confusion and noise, with loud and excited talk, was going on in one of the ante-rooms. The Mayor called order at the top of his voice, but this appeal seemed to have no effect. The excitement and noise outside increased, and a number of the audience, mixed with members of the Council who had left their seats, made towards the door. In a few minutes they returned, and it was quickly explained that the difficulty outside was between Councillor Henry and Alderman Hall—that the former gentleman had made an attempt to strike the representative from Palace Ward.

Ald HALL—I claim the protection of this Council. I have been insulted and threatened with violence by a member of the Council.

Shouts of "Order" followed on all sides, the Mayor calling "Order" in a loud voice. The confusion then became general, each member standing up and calling "Order! order! order!"

Coun. GIBLIN—He's right! he's right! It is a question of privilege and he has a right to raise it at any stage of the proceedings.

Loud cries of "sit down, sit down; hold your tongues"—the Mayor again calling order while the members of the Council cried for an adjournment.

Coun. GIBLIN persisting in addressing the Council, continued to say at the top of his voice, that he would be put down.

Loud cries and hurrahs from the crowded gallery.

The MAYOR—"I will adjourn! I will adjourn! I will adjourn! if you do not respect the Chair."

Ald. HALL—"Yes, adjourn; it is right to adjourn, for the proceedings are disgraceful."

The MAYOR—"Sit down Mr. Hall."

Ald. HALL—"I will not sit down." (Cheers from the galleries, and loud cries of "go in old fellow," we'll stick to you.) "I will not sit down. My life has been threatened, and I insist upon obtaining the protection of the Council."

The confusion and noise which followed this declaration could be equalled only by the scene of last Tuesday week in the same room. The gallery, evidently bent upon enjoying the fun to its fullest extent, made all sorts of hideous noises, which are only heard in the lowest of theatres, &c: &c:

So much for the "Ancient Capital." Now for the "Queen City" of the West. The following account is from the "Toronto Correspondence" of the *Witness*:—

Our City Council debates have, of late, been characterised by a more than ordinary amount of blackguardism and scurrility; and the free exchange of the grossest insults and personalities between the more rowdyish of the Aldermen occurs every Council night. On Monday last the usual scene was commenced by Ald. Manning rising to make some personal explanations, when the Mayor ordered the galleries to be cleared and requested the reporters present, as a personal favor to himself, to leave the room. The Council continued in secret session for two hours, during which time torrents of abuse and invective are said to have been poured forth by the belligerents. Every one with the least sense of propriety is completely disgusted with this disgraceful conduct on the part of our city representatives, who waste the greatest part of every Council night in violent personal attacks upon each other. Bodily retaliation has frequently been threatened, and on one occasion, a portly City Father exhibited a clasp-knife at a Committee Meeting, with which he threatened, to disembowel a fellow-member.

From this it would appear that "in the multitude of Councillors there is *not* safety."

CORRECT—BUT QUEER.

The best Dictionaries define *Salesman* to be *one* who makes sales to customers in a store or shop." The word, therefore, is an epicene noun, and is legitimately used in the following advertisement, though somehow or other, it grates upon the ear:

Wanted a *Salesman of either sex* for five of the Best Selling 25c Articles in the country; profits extra large. One sample by mail 25c: the five for \$1.00 Address S. H. Hall 146 State St., Chicago.

From the *Daily Journal of Commerce*, Kansas City, April 29.