

## READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

VANCOUVER CITY—1890.

[Four years after the City site was a tract without a house.]

FAIR City of Vancouver,  
We love thy riven strand,  
The town, the fjords, the snow-clad height,  
The witchery of sunset light,  
The deep hues of the land.

We joy in thee, Vancouver :  
What nobler port on earth ?  
Thou western rampart of a race,  
Whose empire belts the planet's face,  
How lightning-like thy birth !

But yesternight the warwhoop's might  
Died in the forest's pall,  
And where they writhed the war-dance,  
Now stands the Justice Hall.

No more we view the war-canoe,  
But the great China line ;  
The wigwam of the medicine-man,  
Is now the Christian shrine.

Along thy railroad artery,  
Thy lion guarded breast,  
Rolls on the British traffic tide,  
And fourteen hundred vessels guide  
Thy commerce on the west.

Thy virgin soil, as Eden fair,  
Yearns in her fertile power ;  
By kingly forests, leagues in length,  
Thy trade is nourished with the strength  
Of their primeval hour.

Columbia's heart, with mineral blood,  
Has charged the rocky vein ;  
And shed the gold and iron flood  
O'er every mountain chain.  
The buried forests yield the brand ;  
The furnace kindles through the land ;  
The metal flows amain.

Thine enginery, and industries,  
True labour's noblest daughters,  
In the rich guerdon of their toil,  
Rival the increase of the soil  
And harvest of thy waters.

What though the Titan trees have gone  
That crowned the City site,  
The masts, that line the harbour, have  
A hundred cubits height.

Where late a score of Siwash dwelt  
Are sixteen thousand souls ;  
And through the miles of arc-lit street,  
Where granite block and turret meet,  
The electric carriage rolls.

And o'er the whole, a statute roll,  
In human kinship grand ;  
With heart as wide as nature's plan,  
Proclaims to every brother man  
The right to own thy land.

If Norman graft on Saxon stem  
Worked, while the cycles ran,  
Till Britain's place among the race  
Was in the nations' van,

Vancouver, with a strength of stock,  
From every race possessed,  
Shall stand as firm as Burrard rock,  
The Empress of the West.

—Minor, in *Daily News Advertiser*, Vancouver, B. C.

## THE CREATION STORY.

A DOUBLE confirmation has, I conceive, now been supplied to the creation story of Genesis ; the first by natural and the second by historic science. Perhaps we have been too readily satisfied with assuming, in regard to the narrative, a defensive position ; whereas it may be found to contain within its own brief compass, when rightly considered, the guarantee of a divine communication to man strictly corresponding with what in familiar speech is termed revelation. We have here in outline a history of the planet which we inhabit, and of the celestial system to which it belongs. Of the planet, and of the first appearance and early developments of life upon it, anterior to the creation of man, in many of the principal stages which have been ascertained by geology. Of the celestial organization to which our earth belongs, whether in all its vastness or only within the limits of the solar system we can hardly say, but at the least a sketch of the formation of that system from a prior and unadjusted or chaotic state. Upon such a document a sharp issue is at once raised, at least as to the latter or strictly terrestrial part of it, the earth history, for all those who hold it to be in its substance a true account. We accept as demonstrated a series of geological conclusions. We have found the geology of Genesis to stand in such a relation to these conclusions as could not have been exhibited

in a record framed by faculties merely human, at any date to which the origin of the creation story can now reasonably be referred. Starting from our premise, we have no means of avoiding or holding back from the conclusion that the materials of the story could not have been had without preterhuman aid, and that preterhuman aid is what we term divine revelation. And if the time shall ever come when astronomy shall be in a condition to apply to the earlier portion of the chapter the demonstrative methods which geology has found for the latter part, it may happen that we shall owe a debt of the same kind to astronomy as we now owe to geologic science. My present purpose is to call particular attention to the exact nature and extraordinary amount of that debt. There was nothing necessarily unreasonable in accepting as worthy of belief this portion of the Book of Genesis, along with the rest of the book, and with other books of Holy Scripture, on general proofs of their inspiration, if sufficient, apart from any independent buttress, either of science or of history, to the creation story. In a court of justice, the evidence of a witness is to be accepted on matters within his cognizance, when his character and intelligence are not questioned ; or again, when the main part of a continuous narrative is sufficiently verified, it may be right to accept the rest without separate verification. If a new witness comes into court, and pretends to give us fresh and scientific proof of the creation story, this may be true or may be false. If false, the story is not disproved, but stands where it stood before. Bad arguments are often made for a good cause. But, if true, the event is one of vast importance. Now, the present position is as follows : Apart altogether from faith, and from the general evidences of revelation, a new witness has come into court, in the shape of natural science. She builds up her system on the observation of facts, and upon inferences from them, which at length attain to a completeness and security such as, if not presenting us with a demonstration in the strictest sense, yet constrain us as intelligent beings, to belief. The creation story divides itself into the cosmological portion, occupying the first nineteen verses of the chapter, and the geological portion, which is given in the last twelve. The former part has less, and the latter part has more, to do with the direct evidence of fact, and the stringency of the authority which the two may severally claim varies accordingly ; but in both the narrative seems to demand, upon the evidence as it stands, rational assent. In regard to both, it is held on the affirmative side that the statements of Genesis have a certain relation to the ascertained facts and the best accepted reasonings ; and thus this relation is of such a nature as to require us, in the character of rational investigators, to acknowledge in the written record the presence of elements which must be referred to a superhuman origin. If this be so, then be it observed that natural science is now rendering a new and enormous service to the great cause of belief in the unseen, and is underpinning, so to speak, the structure of that divine revelation which was contained in the Book of Genesis by a new and solid pillar, built up on a foundation of its own from beneath. It is, then, to be borne in mind, that, as against those who, by arbitrary or irrational interpretation, place Genesis and science at essential variance, our position is not one merely defensive. We are not mere reconcilers, as some call us, searching out expedients to escape a difficulty, to repel an assault. We seek to show and we may claim to have shown, that the account recorded, in the creation story for the instruction of all ages has been framed on the principles which, for such an account, reason recommends ; and that, interpreted in this view, it is at this juncture like the arrival of a new auxiliary army in the field while the battle is in progress.—William E. Gladstone, in *Sunday School Times*.

## RECENT MILITARY MANŒUVRES.

THE whole of Northern Europe has lately been ringing with the sounds of mimic war. In old times it was customary even for armies actually at war with each other to go into winter quarters, and to do nothing but maintain themselves in their respective positions for several months together. In these days we have changed and reversed all that. General FÉVRIER—as the Emperor Nicholas called the rigours of the winter which witnessed his own death—is no longer the formidable foe before whom all combatants retire ; and, what is more, whereas in former times there were intervals of comparative peace and inactivity in the midst of prolonged wars, so in these days peace itself is made to resound every autumn with all the pomp and much of the circumstance of actual war. Our own columns have been full for some time past of graphic descriptions, and instructive criticisms of German military manœuvres, of French military manœuvres, and our own less ambitious, but not less characteristic, cavalry manœuvres. Those of us who care for such matters have followed the several movements described with sustained interest, eager to obtain from them some clear light and definite leading on the many problems suggested by modern developments of the methods and weapons of warfare. To the eye of reflection the whole spectacle is eminently suggestive of the irony of human circumstance and the contradictions of social evolution. We live in an age which is commonly represented as pre-eminently democratic, industrial, scientific, and therefore, as some optimistic enthusiasts would fain persuade themselves, necessarily moving in the direction of peace and international good will. To all outward appearance, however, we are moving in precisely the opposite direction. Never was Europe so full of armed men as

it is at the present moment. Never before was the interest taken in military subjects and the attention devoted to military problems more general and more sustained. Let us hope that all this really makes for the preservation of peace ; that, as we said yesterday, the prospects and results of war are now so tremendous that soldiers and statesmen alike are reluctant beyond measure to contemplate even its possibility.—*The Times*.

## "EVIL CRAZED AND GOOD GONE WILD."

RUSKIN observed long ago that the best people he had ever seen knew nothing and cared nothing about art ; and Tolstoi noticed among the *litterati* of St. Petersburg that those who had the true theory of fiction were no better men than those who had the false theory. This was one of the things, in fact, that made him despair of all forms of aesthetic cultivation as a means of grace. The moral superiority of good art of any kind is in its truth, but we can have truth without any art whatever. It is well to keep both of these points in mind, the one that we may be good artists, and the other that we may be modest about it. There is danger to man, who is first of all a moral being, in setting up merely an aesthetic standard of excellence, and endeavouring for that, or in making the good of life consist of aesthetic enjoyment, which is really only one remove from sensual enjoyment. It is doubtless his keen perception of this that makes Tolstoi say those bitter things about music, or the worship of music, in "The Kreutzer Sonata." We suppose we must accept the sayings in that powerful book as Tolstoi's personal opinions, and not as the frenzied expressions of the murderer in whose mouth the story is dramatized, since Tolstoi owns them his in the deplorable reply he has made to the censors of his story. It is doubly a pity he made any such reply, because it detracts from the impressiveness of the tale, and because it dwarfs a great and good man for the moment to the measure of a fanatic. It does not, indeed, undo the truth of much that is said in the book : it does not undo the good for which the name of Tolstoi has come to stand with all who have harkened to his counsel ; but it does hurt both, and it puts a weapon in the hands of those who hate him. When a man like Poschdanieff, who has lived in the vice that the world permits men, marries and finds himself disappointed in marriage to the extreme of jealousy and murder, every one who looks into his heart, and finds there an actual or a potential Poschdanieff, must feel the inexorable truth of the story. Such a man, the natural product of our falsely principled civilization, could find nothing but misery in marriage ; every one sees that, feels that. But when presently the author of the story comes and tells us that marriage itself is sin, and not merely the pollution in which the Poschdanieff nature steepens marriage, one must listen reverently, because it is Tolstoi who speaks, but one must shake one's head. Tolstoi alleges the celibacy of Christ for the supreme example to all Christians ; but if Christ discountenanced marriage, why was He present at the wedding feast of Cana ? If we were to recommend either the novel or the author's gloss of it for the truth it could teach, it must be the novel, for that is true to Poschdanieff, and the other seems to us untrue to Tolstoi ; the one is evil crazed, and the other is good gone wild.—William Dean Howells, in *Harper's Magazine* for October.

## DESTRUCTION OF THE ADIRONDACK FOREST.

WHILE the children of this and other States have been learning the value and the lesson of Arbour Day, the destruction of forests has continued unabated. The Adirondack region especially is likely soon to be stripped of its advantages as a resort for seekers after health and recreation ; to say nothing of its economic value in feeding rivers and thus promoting cultivation. The latest operation of the lumbermen in that region is the erection on the shore of Tupper Lake of a saw-mill which is capable of turning out 35,000,000 feet of lumber a year. The terminal station of the Northern Adirondack Railway stands near the mill, so the latter will have abundant facilities for the transportation of its product to market. The extension of the railway in question to that place opens to the lumbermen a vast area of hitherto unassailed forest land. Already there are signs of the axe visible, and while the lumberman spares the smaller trees, the charcoal burner takes them all. Meanwhile but little has been done to protect the forests. The National Forestry Association has succeeded in arousing an interest in the subject in various States, and kindred organizations have been formed with the view of creating a healthy public opinion in opposition to this wasteful onslaught. But the foes of the forests are determined and unrelenting, and little has been done toward sparing our beautiful woodlands. It is undoubtedly true that in utilizing forest products and developing districts which were formerly a wilderness new and thriving communities have been erected and the aggregate wealth of the State has been increased. It may also be admitted that schemes for the appropriation of millions of public money to purchase forests and maintain a costly department of State or Federal Government present an inviting prospect to the hungry and thirsty seekers after places. Nevertheless, it ought not to be difficult to secure concert of action between the lumbermen and the public. It is certainly to the interests of the former to keep up a supply of lumber, thus perpetuating the industries which have been founded upon it. There are, of course, thousands of trees which die and go to waste every year, and their removal, under some arrangement,