

Tamagno are to sing on different nights, for it is hoped that the tenor will "draw" almost as much as La Diva. He demanded a fresher and younger voice than Albani's to support his, and, having heard Mdle. Nordica sing, he was delighted at the prospect of singing with her. Had Mr. Harris been willing to release her this season, she would have sung "Desdemona" to Tamagno's "Otello" and Maurel's "Iago" at the Lyceum Theatre. Nordica will probably make her reappearance in America as "Valentine" in "Les Huguenots" to Tamagno's "Raoul," in Chicago, in November. This is one of her favourite rôles, and she is sure to win golden opinions in her native country, as she has already done in London.—*Boston Evening Gazette*.

"CARMEN SILVA," in other words, Elizabeth of Roumania, has completed the libretto of an opera to be called "Neaga," the composer being the Swede, Ivar Hallström. A second work, similar in character will soon follow.

THE Order of the Iron Crown has been conferred by the Emperor of Austria-Hungary upon Antonin Dvorak.

"PICTURESQUE MUSIC" has furnished some interesting performances at the Paris Trocadero. Finn students, Provençal Tambourine-players and the Japanese Troupe make up the material.

GOUNOD declined at the eleventh hour to have anything to do with setting "Quatre-Vingt-Treize," M. Theodore de Banville's verses, written in glorification of the Revolution Centenary. The Paris Opera has realized the handsome sum of 800,000 francs out of forty performances of the veteran composer's "Romeo et Juliette."

MESSRS. BREITKOPF & HARTEL, of Leipzig, announce the completion of their splendid edition of the musical compositions of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia. Four volumes containing twenty-five sonatas and four concertos, revealing much imaginative talent, attest to the gifts of the royal author.

A CONSERVATORY of Music is about to be established at Buenos Ayres.

THE Ottawa College of Music opens Sept. 4th. The staff includes Mr. F. Boucher, late of the Conservatory of Music.

#### LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

TENNYSON's forthcoming volume is to be made up of verses recently composed and of scraps rescued from forgotten books.

MR. GLADSTONE allows all the people in his neighbourhood at Hawarden freely to use his splendid library of 20,000 volumes.

W. M. ROSSETTI has in press in London, for publication in the autumn, a "Life and Letters" of his brother, Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

SIR HENRY PARKES proposes to retire from the premiership of New South Wales and to write a book on the political history of the colony.

LADY COLIN CAMPBELL will give some clearly-marked descriptions of modern society life in a few days, in a novel to be called "Darrell Blake."

MR. HAGGARD will visit Syria this fall, it is said, to qualify himself to write a book about Queen Esther to appear as a "syndicate" serial in 1891.

PROFESSOR ANGELO GUBERNATIS, of Florence, has just issued the first part of a "Dictionary of Living Italian Artists." The work will consist of ten parts.

M. DE LAVELEYE advises Frenchmen to read Mr. Bryce's book on America—"the best since De Tocqueville's"—in order to learn wisdom from our experience.

It is announced that there is to be this autumn an exhibition at Stockholm of copper-plate engraving, woodcuts, lithographic prints, and illustrated books.

LORD TENNYSON devotes the pension of \$1,000 a year which he receives as poet laureate to the relief of members of the literary profession who are in pecuniary distress.

MR. WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY, whose "Verses" have just been published by Scribner, is a Scotchman, a literary protégé of Robert Louis Stevenson, and the editor of the *Scots Observer*.

MR. JEFFERSON DAVIS' book, "The Rise and Fall of the Southern Confederacy," is a failure. This is attributed by the publishers to the intense sectional spirit in which it is written.

DR. WILLIAM TORREY HARRIS, the well-known educator and philosophical writer, has been appointed United States Commissioner of Education, a position for which he is eminently qualified.

THE book for which the Shah has been making copious notes during his European tour will be published soon after he returns to Persia. It is to be translated into English and French.

MR. LOUIS J. JENNINGS, M.P., formerly a journalist in New York City, has collected in two substantial volumes the principal speeches, delivered between 1880 and 1888, by Lord Randolph Churchill.

"RECOLLECTIONS of the Court of the Tuileries," by Madame Carette, is a recent book of reminiscences of the court of the last Napoleon, which is being widely read in France. It contains many memories of the Empress Eugénie. A translation will be published immediately by D. Appleton & Co.

MISS ISABELLA BIRD, whose brilliant works of travel have been enjoyed by many readers in many lands, has received from the King of Siam the order of "Kapolani," in recognition of her literary merit.

MR. H. F. REDDALL'S "Fact, Fancy, and Fable," to be published shortly by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, will be a work of comprehensive and cyclopaedic character, presenting concise information on a great variety of subjects.

THE Rev. A. K. Glover, B.Sc., Ph.D., will shortly publish a small volume entitled "The Jews of the Far East, or the Jews of the Extreme Eastern Diaspora," with the original Chinese texts of the inscriptions discovered at Kai-fung-fu.

MISS F. E. COOKE, the well-known author of biographies of Richard Cobden, Lloyd Garrison, and others, is engaged upon a "Life of Father Damien," for young people, which will be published by Messrs. Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., in September.

THE historical treatise on Columbus for which a prize has been offered by a Spanish Commission must be delivered to the Secretary of the Royal Academy of History, at Madrid, before the first of January, 1892. Works written in Spanish, Portuguese, English, German, French, or Italian, may enter the competition. The two prizes amount respectively to \$5,700 and \$2,895, each of the two successful authors receiving besides 500 copies of his work.

MR. JOHN SKELTON has nearly completed a work entitled "Relics of the Royal House of Stuart." It is to be illustrated by forty plates, which will be reproduction in chromo of drawings by Mr. William Gibb, of Edinburgh, and which have been made from the principal Stuart collections. Mr. Gibb is now engaged in making a series of drawings of the regalia of Scotland, in the crown room at Edinburgh Castle, and, by command of the Queen, special facilities have been granted to him by Lord Lothian.

AN important announcement from Rome is of the approaching publication, in photographic fac-simile, of the Vatican manuscript, Codex B. The work is being done under the auspices of Leo XIII. and the editorship of Abbé Cozza-Luzzi. One hundred copies of the New Testament are being issued, and may be had from the Fototopia Danesi, Rome, at the price of 200 lire. The first fifty subscribers will receive also four volumes of the Old Testament at the same rate. The New Testament volume will be of about 300 pages.

THE Lounger writes in *The Critic*: I heard the other day from an authority which I cannot dispute that "The Century Dictionary" has cost the Century Co. over \$500,000, and my informant added parenthetically that when the undertaking was begun, the company had no idea that it would swallow up a sum approximating this. But like Topsy it "grow'd." It has taken nearly seven years of the time of some of the best experts and specialists in the country, at an annual expense of not very much less than \$100,000. This, I believe, is the first time the cost of making this great dictionary has been stated with any degree of accuracy.

Two suits have been brought in the United States Circuit Court against the Henry G. Allen Co., of New York, by Adam and Chas. Black, of Edinburgh, Francis A. Walker, of Boston, and Charles Scribner's Sons, of New York. The Company publish the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" from a reproduction of the ninth edition taken by the "gelatine method." In the original is an article which Gen. Walker claims to have written and copyrighted, called "Political Geography and Statistics," and which is used in Edinburgh by permission of the author. Messrs. Scribner base their suit on the fact that the defendants use in the twenty-third volume a series of maps owned by the complainants.

In a recent interview Tennyson said that he attributed his success as a poet to his early study of the odes of Horace and the works of John Keats, or, to use his own words: "Keats and Horace were my masters." This is perhaps the greatest tribute ever given to the genius of the youthful Keats, who was literally killed by the merciless criticism of the magazine reviewers who were in his day the absolute censors of English literature. It has seldom fallen to the lot of any literary man to have been so roundly abused as Keats. His sole crime was that he broke away from the traditional stiffness of the age and launched out into new fields, where his wonderful imagination was given full play. It has also seldom happened that a condemned poet has been so quickly avenged.

WILLIAM PATERSON, London, has just published the completion of Professor Knight's library edition of the "Works of William Wordsworth," being a life of the poet, with which are incorporated the solitary canto of the projected "Recluse," the fragments of "Michael," the poem on Nab Well (originally designed as a portion of the "Recluse"), and many *nugae* which the lovers of the poet will not willingly let die; the Alfoxden and Grasmere journals of Dorothy Wordsworth; records of tours by Dorothy Wordsworth, Mrs. Wordsworth, and the poet's daughter; and numerous letters of Wordsworth to Coleridge, Southey, Lamb, the Beaumonts, Sir Walter Scott, Landor, Talfourd, Mrs. Barrett Browning, Henry Crabb Robinson, Sir William Hamilton, and Mr. Gladstone, the most of which are published for the first time. The biography is illustrated with an etched portrait from the picture by Haydon, which gave rise to Mrs. Browning's sonnet beginning "Wordsworth upon Helvellyn!" and forms Vols. 9, 10, and 11 of the "Works."

THE story of the last illness of Robert Hamerling, the Austrian poet, is, says the *St. James's Gazette*, as sad as that of Heine's "Matratzengruft." For thirty years the poet lay stretched on his bed, and it was in the intervals of acute suffering that he gave to German literature the volumes of majestic verse which will keep his memory eternally alive. In spite of his sufferings, Hamerling was the most punctual of literary workers. Only once he disappointed his publisher, and then he was almost in his death throes. He had agreed to deliver a poem by the 15th of May, but his tortures were so great that he was quite unable to fulfil his engagement. He asked for a little delay. It was granted. Again the inspiration failed him, and he wrote to the publisher that he feared he should produce no more verse this year. The publisher urged him to try again, and proposed another date for the delivery of the manuscript. This time Hamerling was punctual. On the day appointed he managed to scribble down in pencil some "Aphorisms," which he duly sent off. The last of these deathbed thoughts declares that "Life is a mortal sickness." A week later Hamerling's sickness was ended.

#### READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE

SAVONAROLA.

SUCH was his first vision, and the message which he soon preached for the first time among the Sienese hills, in San Gimignano, was its necessary sequel to a prophetic soul. "His war-cry and the standard of his whole life" was: "First, that the church will be scourged; secondly, that it will be speedily regenerated; thirdly, that all this will come to pass quickly." The impression made by such a dreamer of dreams of a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells upon perfection will, of course, vary indefinitely with the spiritual state of those to whom he comes with his message of unworldly wisdom. The living prophet's burning word sweeps away the doubts of the doubters and the denials of the sceptics, and his fiery purpose constrains the city or the nation to follow in his wake, as he steers by the eternal stars in God's heaven above him, leaving behind the shallows and the miseries to which creeping along the coast binds timid souls. His triumph may not last long; Savonarola's soon perished. Yet Florentine history soon vindicated the wisdom of the prophet-statesman, and the Reformation came in a far more thorough fashion than he had announced. But four hundred years later it is easier to criticise the prophet than to believe in him, if one is only the child of his own nineteenth century, and cannot go back in sympathy to the Duomo of Florence and realize the truth as well as the error in those which Savonarola actually set upon his prophecies and visions. Did he himself believe all these, or was he carried too far by the popular demand for signs and portents and fiery denunciations, so that he consciously went beyond the limits of his own superstitions and took advantage of the grosser appetite of the people? Prof. Villari is not a defender of the reality of Savonarola's visions as revelations of divine purpose for man, but he considers them the natural outcome of the fervid temperament of a great preacher of righteousness to a corrupt and licentious generation. In 1484, he was deeply stirred by the indifference of the Florentines to the simple but severe truth of the Gospel. "In this strangely excited state of mind, further increased by prolonged watching and abstinence, it is not surprising that Savonarola should have seen many visions. On one occasion, while conversing with a nun, he suddenly, as he thought, beheld the heavens open; all the future calamities of the church passed before his eyes, and he heard a voice charging him to announce them to the people. From that moment he was convinced of his divine mission, held it to be the main duty of his life, and thought of nothing but how best to fulfil it. . . . The visions of the Old Testament and the Apocalypse stood arrayed in his fancy as living realities, representing the calamities of Italy and the church, and symbolical of their future.—*The Literary World*."

#### IDEALS OF CHILDHOOD AND OLD AGE.

WORDSWORTH saw "Intimations of Immortality in the Recollections of Early Childhood." To the child, he says, earth and the things of earth are surrounded and filled with a glory and a joy which are not their own; and this glory and joy are tokens and proofs that the child has a life above that of nature—a life from God, and therefore, like the life of God, immortal. But to those who look for them there are "intimations of immortality" in the experiences of old age no less—nay, much more—than in "the recollections of early childhood." It would be a mistake to suppose that old age always is, and must be, unhappy if not cheered by the hope of another life. Death, even without that hope, is accepted as a welcome deliverance to many, perhaps to most, of those to whom nature has been as hard and cruel and hateful in the time of old age as in all other times; and among those to whom she is gentle and kind, and whose habits and circumstances are favourable to tranquillity and contentment, there are many who easily submit to the inevitable, and, without apparent expectation of a future life, give up one by one the activities of life, with more of pleasant memory than painful regret. No one, indeed, can tell what thoughts and hopes of another life may be silently cherished by those who express nothing of them to others. But there are, we believe, many Comtists and modern English Buddhists to whom the cessation of all personal existence at