

LITERARY GOSSIP.

PROF. HUXLEY, it is said, has been ordered by his physician to take absolute rest from all literary labours for several months.

MARK TWAIN can be serious when he will, and the appearance of the name of S. L. Clemens, of Hartford, among the signatures to the anti-Blain address to Connecticut Republicans will interest many people.

EMILY FAITHFULL states that her new book, "Three Visits to America," is intended to give the results of her observations in the United States regarding the changed position of women in the nineteenth century.

WE understand that a book entitled "The Life and Times of Hon. Oliver Mowat" will be published by Hunter, Rose and Co., of Toronto, before Christmas. The work is the joint authorship of two well-known writers.

A NEW book, entitled "The Hundred Greatest Men," is announced. It will contain special introductions by Matthew Arnold, Paine, Max Müller, Renan, N. Porter, Helmholtz, Froude, Professor Fiske, and the late Dean Stanley, with a general introduction by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

SOME erroneous statements having appeared as to Lord Tennyson's forthcoming volume, we are authorized to state that it will consist of a single dramatic poem, of considerable length, on the subject of Becket.—*Athenæum*.

THE latest addition to independent journalism is *The Critic*, "a literary and commercial weekly journal," published in Halifax, N.S., and "devoted to the interests of the Maritime Provinces." The new venture, which takes the shape of four large neatly printed pages, can scarcely be said, by the initial number, to establish its claim either to literary excellence or political independence.

A LADY one day came upon the poet Fontenelle as he stood absorbed in contemplation before a flock of sheep, and said to him: "Now, Monsieur Fontenelle, I feel sure that from the sight of these innocent sheep you are gathering inspiration for some gallant pastoral?" "Oh, dear no!" replied the poet; "I was only thinking that out of so many sheep there would perhaps be only one leg of mutton done to a turn!"

COMPLAINT is properly made against the exhibition of obscene pictures by some newsdealers, the demoralizing effect being noted in crowds they attract; but the same crowd will stand and study almost any window picture, whether it has a bad or a good motive. This is an indication, in a small way, of the value a free public art gallery would be to a community as an educating agency.—*Chicago Current*.

MILLIONS of dollars are sacrificed annually through a defective system of butter-making in the Dominion, and until the creamery plan supersedes that of the dairy Canada will be counted as a mere unit in competing for the trans-Atlantic trade. It is a sorry spectacle to witness, that, when England wants first-class goods, Canada, as a rule, has only second-class and poor qualities to give her.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

WE maintain that instead of political parties assailing one another because this or that government has encouraged emigration to Canada, or out of hundreds of thousands of emigrants has brought in a few hundreds who might have been left behind, they should recognize the fact that there is no portion of our public expenditure that brings such ample returns as that which is devoted to swelling our population from the Mother Land.—*Montreal Gazette*.

MAURICE THOMPSON, one of the closest thinkers and most graceful essayists of the day, contributes to *The Current* of October 18th a paper entitled "Novels and Novels." He takes the ground that all the good stories have not been told, and that out of the regions remote from the great literary centres ought to come "many precious notes of originality and power." *The Current* has secured a series of papers on "The Land of the Lotus," by Col. David B. Sickels, late representative of the United States Government at the Court of Siam. Their publication will be begun shortly, and they will be found most interesting for abundant information regarding that country.

THE *London Times* says:—"There was never a time when a first-rate English novelist was more wanted than now. We have Wilkie Collins for plots. We have Mr. Black for sunsets. We have Mrs. Oliphant, whose variety is inexhaustible and whose industry is beyond all praise. We have Ouida, who would thrill us with sympathetic emotion, if we could for a moment forget the lime-light and the spangles. We have Mr. Henry James and Mr. Howells, unrivalled painters in miniature. We have Miss Broughton, whose characters, as Anthony Trollope has said, 'stand upright on the ground,' but whose world is a singularly unpleasant one. And we have a general want of breadth and finish in our modern English fiction."

WHILE Verdi was putting the finishing touches upon "Il Trovatore" he was visited in his studio by a privileged friend, who was one of the ablest living musicians and critics. The latter was permitted to glance over the score and try the "Anvil Chorus" on the pianoforte. "What do you think of that?" asked the master. "Trash!" said the connoisseur. Verdi rubbed his hands and chuckled. "Now look at this, and this, and this," he said. "Rubbish!" The composer rose and embraced his friend with a burst of joy. "What do you mean by such strange conduct?" asked the critical one. "My dear friend," responded the master, "I have been composing a 'popular' opera; in it I resolved to please everybody except the great judges and classicists like you. Had I pleased you, I should have pleased no one else; what you say assures me of success. In three months 'Il Trovatore' will be sung, and roared, and whistled, and barrel-organged all over Italy." And so it was!

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AND PRACTICE,

With an introductory account of the Origin and Growth of Parliamentary Institutions in the Dominion of Canada. By JOHN GEORGE BOURINOT, Clerk of the House of Commons. One Vol., 8vo., cloth, 802 p.p. Price \$6.

All persons interested in the proceedings of public bodies, all Members of Legislatures or Civic Corporations, all Lawyers who are concerned in private bill practice are respectfully requested to read the following:—

From the Speakers of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of the Province of Quebec.

We have had the privilege of perusing the advance sheets of your work, about to appear on Parliamentary Procedure and institutions in Canada. It is with great satisfaction that we give our testimony as to the value that this remarkable work must have for the public men of Canada. We believe it is but right we should offer you jointly our hearty congratulations. In addition to the useful information contained in the book on the political history and parliamentary usages of Canada, it displays throughout a methodical arrangement which must be much appreciated by all those engaged in parliamentary life. Its lucidity is a quality not to be found to the same extent in Sir Thomas Erskine May's work on parliamentary practice and usages in England. Besides, the precedents that you cite are especially valuable since they are drawn to a great extent from our own parliamentary records. We are convinced that your work will be favourably received, not only in Canada, but in all countries governed by the British constitution, and will do honour to yourself as well as to the Dominion. Accept, therefore, our sincere congratulations, etc.

(Signed) BOUCHER DE LA BRUEE,
Speaker of the Legislative Council, Quebec.

J. S. C. WURTELE,
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Quebec

From the BRITISH QUARTERLY, July, 1884.

Mr. Bourinot has supplied a distinct want by furnishing an elaborate and exhaustive account of the parliamentary institutions of Canada. These institutions, originally derived from the English Imperial Parliament, have diverged from it in the course of years, and a great many precedents have arisen, the divergencies thus caused calling for a work like the present. . . . That the book will be of the greatest value to the Canadian lawyer and Parliamentarian is certain. It will very probably occupy the position of the standard text-book for some time to come. Mr. Bourinot is to be congratulated on the successful issue of what must have been an immense amount of patient labour.

From the WESTMINSTER REVIEW, July, 1884.

Mr. Bourinot, whose official position is a guarantee of his fitness for the task, has executed very satisfactorily a laborious work which will prove most valuable to Canadian Members of Parliament, and to all who care to see how the young but vigorous institution is working. . . . The work is so well got up and so conveniently arranged under chapters and paragraphs, that even without the index it would be easy to refer to any question on which the reader might desire to consult Mr. Bourinot.

From the LONDON ATHENÆUM, July, 1884.

Mr. Bourinot's position affords him experience in the working of the parliamentary system; he brings to his task unstinted labour and research, and he possesses that judicial faculty without which experience and information would be of no avail—not Canadians only, but all charged with the future of representative government, conducted on what may be termed the old English method, will be glad to examine the modifications in that system which have seemed expedient to the Canadian legislators. And Mr. Bourinot accordingly will find readers of his pages not only here and among his own people, but in that portion of Great Britain that is encircled by the Southern Seas.

From the MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA DAILY ARGUS.

Mr. Bourinot's work naturally challenges comparison with Sir T. E. May's well-known text-book, and in clearness of treatment, in method of arrangement, in fullness of precedent and indexing, we shall expect the student to award the palm to the Canadian author, who has had the opportunity of improving upon his model and has taken advantage of it. Certainly the work is one which might with singular advantage be placed in the hands of every member of a parliamentary legislature, for he must be dull who did not arise from its study with a full grasp of the situation. We congratulate the Canadian Parliament on the high character and tone of the text-books issued by its officers. We are sure, just as the works of Mr. Alpheus Todd are in the hands of every parliamentarian, so will this manual by Mr. Bourinot be. Sir T. E. May's work has now a companion on the book-shelf.

Ex-Speaker Anglin in the TORONTO TRIBUNE.

A careful perusal of Mr. Bourinot's work has satisfied us that it will supply a want which members of the Canadian Parliament and Canadian Legislatures must often have felt. Its arrangement is more scientific than that of May's work, the lines of which it follows in the main. It is more clear in many cases, and the student can learn more readily from it what the practice is in any case. . . . Mr. Bourinot has succeeded in producing a book, which although the subject is necessarily dry, is very readable. We join heartily in congratulating him on the great success he has achieved in a field into which so few have dared to enter.

Hon. D. S. Mills in the LONDON ADVERTISER.

We believe it to be one of the most useful hand-books of parliamentary practice that have been published; certainly the very best work for the use of Members of the Senate or of the House of Commons of Canada. Mr. Bourinot has had an experience of years, first as assistant clerk, and of late years as the Clerk of the House of Commons, and has thereby become thoroughly familiar with parliamentary procedure and practice under our federal constitution. The federal character of our Government has, of course, modified to a considerable extent the parliamentary practice of England. Mr. Bourinot's work is the first full and fair representation of that practice and procedure.

From the TORONTO MAIL, April 9th, 1884.

Those who are interested in private bill legislation will find the book essential. All Members of Parliament will give the author a benison. And the student of parliamentary affairs and the lawyer will be under an everlasting obligation. We must for this issue content ourselves with this preliminary notice of a book we have looked for with impatience, and which we gladly welcome now.

From the OTTAWA DAILY CITIZEN, April 12th, 1884.

Parliamentarians and all others interested in the working of the parliamentary institutions in Canada will welcome the publication of an elaborate work by the Clerk of the House of Commons. It contains over eight hundred pages of octavo, and is the only exhaustive treatise that has appeared on the subject in any of the dependencies of England. In the arrangement of subjects, the disposition of precedents, the indexing, and all other matters of importance to those who have to consult it, the book is all that could be desired. Its clearness of treatment also makes it especially valuable, and it will be appreciated by all those who may refer to its pages.

From the TORONTO GLOBE.

To the preparation of this work of parliamentary reference and practice, Mr. Bourinot seems to have devoted an immense amount of labour and research. What makes it particularly valuable as a guide to correct Parliamentary Procedure is the fact that all recent decisions and the reasons therefore are recorded, and all the most important decisions of the Supreme Court and of the Privy Council upon the question of the relative jurisdictions of the Dominion and Provincial Legislatures. The list of authorities and references is exhaustive. The work opens with a concise history of the origin and growth of representative institutions in Canada. The rules of procedure are given with great minuteness.

From LA MINERVE, MONTREAL.

Ce précieux travail, le premier du genre dans notre pays, mérite plus qu'une simple mention. Il vaut la peine d'être connu, apprécié, et surtout d'être lu par tous ceux qu'intéresse le jeu de notre système législatif et parlementaire.

From THE WEEK, Sept 4, 1884.

A book on Parliamentary Procedure and Practice is very like a book on the procedure and practice of law or medicine—interesting chiefly to those who are obliged to use it. As such must Mr. Bourinot's book be received. But, embracing as it does a condensed history of the establishment of Parliamentary Government in Canada, and some general remarks about constitutional questions, it may be looked into with profit by all those who take an interest in public affairs.