

playing. This polished Polish Cæsar of the piano is also an accomplished musician, having written several works, including a concerto for piano and orchestra, and also many songs in six different languages, four of which he speaks fluently. His father was a Polish nobleman, and also a musician of note (which is presumably a necessary attainment for any aspirant to the gentle Art). Suckling and Sons are making musical Toronto their debtors by giving them an opportunity to witness the lion of the day. The plan is at their music store.

THE PATTI CONCERT.

NOTWITHSTANDING many and diverse statements to the contrary, La Diva Patti, the undoubted queen of song, is to appear in concert in the Pavilion on Tuesday evening, January 26th. Patti brings with her a complete concert company, and intends giving an act or scene from some favourite opera. The box plan will be open at the Grand Opera House to subscribers on Thursday, 21st, at 10 a.m., and on Friday morning to the general public.

THE Queen has sent Master Jean Gerardy a handsome diamond horse-shoe scarfpin as a souvenir of his visit to Windsor Castle on the 1st inst. The court jeweller has had good reason to rejoice of late at her Majesty's recent recognition of musical celebrities.—*Musical News*.

"OLD ATLANTIC" has had many precious burthens to carry on his turbulent bosom within the past few months, there being the following aggregation of planetary singers now in America: La Diva Patti, Albani, Sealchi, Emma Eames, Van Zandt, Lilli Lehmann, the sisters Ravogli, Valero and many others; also Signori Edward and Jean De Reske, Gianini, Camera, Nicolini, Vinche, Sertolini, Del Puente, Coletti, Valero, Carbone Campanini, Ardit, etc., all performing in New York this month—a veritable constellation.

THE effect of the realistic move on the theatrical observer has just had peculiar proof. The London *Figaro* objects to the traditional red dress worn in "Faust" by *Mephisto*. It observes that the "robin red-breast clothes are not only a gross anachronism, but an obvious absurdity. Mephistopheles, in walking through the streets of Leipsic, could not have sported so outlandish a costume without inevitably raising a mob at his heels, whereas the character shows that he would rather have preferred to elude public observation."

LA GRANGE, of Paris, the well-known professor of singing, said last week: "American opera singers are rapidly becoming the first of the world. France is producing no great prima donnas. We are relying on foreigners to interpret our best operas. It seems strange that France, which has given to the world so many superb singers, should now fail to produce a single one. Perhaps we may here perceive a sign of the much-talked-of decline of the French race. At any rate, America seems free from this failing, for that country is now producing the purest voices, which are fast becoming the most prized on our lyric stage. I know singers in the American colony in Paris whose voices would assure their possessors certain success in the opera, but their families object to their entering upon a professional life."—*Musical Courier*.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

NURSE HEATHERDALE'S STORY. By Mrs. Molesworth. Illustrated by Leslie Brooke. London: Macmillan and Company; Toronto: Rowse and Hutchison.

There is a fascination in this fine, quiet, simple story for children. The author has the gift of combining naturalness with a strong interest in her narrative. She is evidently a story-teller *par excellence*. The illustrations are good, and the get up of the book is quaint and pleasing.

BETTY ALDEN: The First-Born Daughter of the Pilgrims. By Jane G. Austin. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company; Toronto: Williamson and Company.

This well-written story which takes the reader back to the days of the Pilgrim Fathers, with their quaint and severe manners, and their doings, presents to the readers a heroine with which they will sympathize, and in whose fortunes they will be deeply interested. The story is told with literary power and finish.

KATIE: A Daughter of the King. By Mary A. Gilmore. New York: Anson D. F. Randolph and Company; Toronto: Upper Canada Tract Society.

A neat and attractive little book bearing the insignia of that unostentatious but very useful organization, the Daughters of the King. The story is above the average of the class to which it belongs, and its perusal will awaken thought and emotions of a generous and sympathetic character. It can without misgiving be cordially commended.

PRINCE DUSTY: A Story of the Oil Regions. By Kirk Munroe. Illustrated. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; Toronto: Williamson and Company.

It is no doubt generally supposed that the regions where petroleum is produced are anything but romantic. The writer of this story has demonstrated that these oleaginous districts can be productive of as interesting and fanciful

romance as any which have for their endowment the scenes of natural loveliness. The plot is skilfully constructed and completed with success. The reader will find that Prince Dusty and his surroundings are anything but tame and uninteresting. The illustrations are of most excellent quality.

A PRACTICAL INTRODUCTORY HEBREW GRAMMAR. By Edwin Cone Bissell, Professor in Hartford Theological Seminary. Hartford: The Theological Seminary.

Proficient Hebrew scholars may prefer the elaborate works of Gesenius or Greene, but the learner who would master Hebrew in a reasonable time will find in this new work by Professor Bissell what will most admirably serve his purpose. Its chief recommendations are "the facilities it offers for acquiring, during the study of the grammatical principles, a choice Hebrew vocabulary," the ease with which the student can lay up in memory a store of words, and the character of the exercises appended to each lesson. These begin with the simplest forms and proceed to the more complicated by regular gradation. In the exercises and in the illustrations of rules the author has sought to confine himself to strictly Biblical expressions. The arrangement is clear, and in every way most serviceable. With this grammar and a copy of the Hebrew Scriptures any one who applies himself with ordinary diligence and systematic study will in short time be able to read with ease the Old Testament in its original tongue.

BLANCHE, LADY FALAISE: A Tale. By J. H. Shorthouse. Price \$1.00. London and New York: Macmillan; Toronto: Rowse and Hutchison. 1891.

It would be impossible for the author of "John Inglesant" to write anything that would not be striking, remarkable, and out of the common, and "Blanche, Lady Falaise" is all of this. Whether the characters and situations are probable, we will leave others to speculate; they are certainly not impossible or incredible. The father of Blanche was a fellow of his college and afterwards a country rector, a delightful type of Anglican pastor, now almost extinct, it is to be feared. Blanche herself was an idealist of a charming, if somewhat narrow, description. Unfortunately she met a clergyman, also an idealist, not a hypocrite, but partly a self-deceiver, who got engaged to her, but forsook her for a richer woman. Then Blanche married Lord Falaise, who had been her father's pupil, and had always loved her. Lord Falaise is, in some ways, the finest character in the book, *sans peur et sans reproche*; and perhaps a little too perfect. But we see so much of imperfect men and women, and they are present also in this book, that it will not hurt us to see something of those who come nearer to any high ideal.

We suppose we could criticize this book, and by and by the critical spirit will awake in us. But it is not easy to lay down a book of Mr. Shorthouse's and begin criticism in cold blood at once. So we think it better to give our readers these first impressions—emotions aroused by the immediate perusal of the volume. Most people who know the author will read this new work of his; and they will hardly be disappointed in it, even if it does not reach his highest level. It is, at least, the most striking book that has come into our hands for some time.

THE HOUSE OF MARTHA. By Frank R. Stockton. Price \$1.00. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company; Toronto: Williamson. 1891.

Whatever differences of opinion may exist as to the general character of American fiction, there is little question of the wide, almost universal popularity of Mr. Stockton. His "Rudder Grange" is known and read of all men. His "Squirrel Inn," recently published in the *Century*, has well sustained his reputation; and the same hand will be recognized in "The House of Martha."

The House is an Anglican Sisterhood, constituted in a peculiar manner. The Superior is only a temporary one, and a very pretty young lady, her cousin, is on probation before finally taking the vow of celibacy. This young lady becomes amanuensis to the gentleman who tells the story in the first person. Wearing a huge bonnet, sitting on the other side of a grating, and never showing her face, she is unknown by sight to her employer, until one day a wasp invades the apartment in which she works. And then the bonnet comes off, and the carefully gathered up, abundant hair escapes, and a lovely face lighted up by beautiful blue eyes is discovered. This is all quite improper and contrary to rule; but how could it be helped?

And how could the employer help falling in love with this charming young person? At any rate he did; and we are left to suspect that she was not insensible. However, the writing was stopped and they were separated, and met again in surprising ways. To the writer's great delight he found that Sylvia—this is the young lady's name—had not yet taken the vow. But soon afterwards, in a conscience-stricken kind of way, she did; and the whole thing seemed likely to come to an end. But something else came to an end, and we think it better not to tell the reader what that was, lest we should spoil his enjoyment of the story; although, in point of fact, a story so well told as this may be read with pleasure even if the reader should commit the impropriety—common, we are told, with most women and a good many men—of reading the last chapter first.

DICTIONARY OF POLITICAL ECONOMY; Containing Articles on the Main Subjects usually dealt with by Economic Writers, with Explanations of Legal and Business Terms which may be found in their Works, and Short Notices of deceased English, American and Foreign Economists, and their chief contributions to Economic Literature. Edited by R. H. Inglis Palgrave, F.R.S. First Part: Abatement-Beche. Price 3s. 6d. net. London: Macmillan and Company. 1891.

This is the opening volume of a useful and needed work. Political Science has become a department by itself, with its own nomenclature, history and biography; and few outside of those who make a specialty of the subject can be expected to understand at sight the numerous technical expressions made use of in economic writings. It is to aid this class of persons who need to know something of the results of political science and who have not the time or inclination to spend some years in mastering the subject that this Dictionary is designed—as well as for the student who is wrestling with initiatory difficulties. There has been, we should say, no attempt at original work; indeed, to quote the plan of the work, "where controversial questions are concerned, the main conclusions arrived at by leading writers of the various schools are stated clearly and impartially." Among the historical articles we may cite that on "Merchants, Adventurers"; and on "Ateliers Nationaux," the former being a careful survey of these remarkable organizations which date from the time of Henry III.'s establishment of the staple. Earlier political economy is glanced at in the article on St. Thomas Aquinas, in which a *resumé* of his political theory is culled from his various theological writings. Present economical problems are touched upon in the various articles on Agriculture, such as "Agricultural Community" and "Agriculture in England"—on "Anarchism" and on "Arbitration." The articles on Banking are numerous and good; we may especially note the one on "Banks in Canada," by Mr. B. E. Walker, Toronto. There are a number of biographies which are generally short, though occasionally interesting. Altogether, the opening number is a decidedly good one, and if the rest of the ten or twelve numbers are equal in merit, the whole work will be a valuable addition to the shelves of men who need some information about a science which is growing every day in practical importance.

A FRENCHMAN IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. By Max O'Rell. Toronto, Canada, and Berlin, Germany: William Bryce.

The versatile author of "Jean Bull et son Isle" is well known to Anglo-Saxons in general. Candidly we confess that we do not consider that he entertains the very highest enthusiasm for "the finest breed in the whole world," but we are willing to forgive him everything he says for the delightful way he has of saying it. Max O'Rell is never tedious; a description of a hotel-waitress, a newspaper reporter, an English "Johnnie"; a quotation *verbatim* from a newspaper, an adroit comparison—he is laughing at us, but there is no bitterness in his laughter. At times this man of the world becomes a philosopher and we are reminded of the old-time saying of Horace: "What hinders a man from speaking the truth even in jest?" At one time he is attacking the "unco guid" with remorseless satire: "The Jewish 'uncoguid' crucified Christ. The Anglo-Saxon one would crucify Him again if He should return to earth and interfere with the prosperous business firms that make use of His name"; at another, he is paying a delicate compliment to a beautiful woman; in both he is sincere. He has a kind heart, this witty Frenchman, and has always a good word for what is beautiful or graceful in humanity or in art. But for the opposite, for that personification of American insolence, the average railway conductor, for that concoction of exaggerations and blunders which is served up to the American public under the name of "translations," he has indeed "Words that burn." "And as I looked at that copy of *Manon Lescaut*, I almost felt grateful that Prévost was dead." What can be more eloquent than these few words? If M. O'Rell can pay a beautiful woman a compliment with the subtle touch of Horace, he can also lash a Philistine with something like the vigour of Juvenal; he is not afraid of either performance. He thinks the American a thoroughly good fellow *au fond*; and as for the fairer portion of American humanity, no words but the author's own can adequately express his respect and admiration for them. Canadians will be gratified by his remarks on Canada, and the book should be widely read on this continent. Whether serious or laughing, Max O'Rell is always witty, and when one has finished this volume of racy anecdotes, acute criticisms and personal adventures, one is perfectly willing to begin another by the same author.

SHORT STUDIES IN LITERATURE. By Hamilton Wright Mabie. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company.

In his preface the author states that these studies are interpretative rather than critical. "Each chapter," he says, "might be elaborated into a volume." This is strictly true, but the studies, short as they are, contain much that is valuable to all students of literature. "Books and Literature" is the name of the first chapter, and in it the author contrasts Geoffrey of Monmouth and Alfred de Musset, that is the purely objective and the wholly subjective habits of mind. His conception of literature is given in these words: "It is the opportunity of most