

LITERARY AND PERSONAL.

In the death of Mr. John Livingston, one of the editors of the *Montreal Herald* and again of the *Toronto Empire*, Canada has lost one of her oldest and ablest journalists.

Mrs Ward's last novel "The History of David Grieve," has been a remarkable success, the circulation having already reached a total of from 130,000 to 140,000 copies in the various copyright editions.

Mr. T. H. Preston of the *Brantford Expositor*, has succeeded Mr. A. F. Pirie of the *Dundas Banner*, as President of the Canadian Press Association. Both the retiring and the present President are journalists of mark.

The origin of right-handedness will be treated in the *Popular Science Monthly* for March, by Professor J. Mark Baldwin, who gives the result of a series of experiments upon his infant daughter, relating to the spontaneous use of the hands.

The Rev. Dr. Douglas, principal of the Montreal Wesleyan Theological College, died at Montreal on Saturday last. Dr. Douglas was one of the most distinguished orators of our country. His loss will be widely mourned as that of one who in many respects was a great and good man.

The American Academy of Political and Social Science will shortly publish a translation of the Constitution of Prussia, with an introduction by Professor James Harvey Robinson. This constitution has many most interesting features and will undoubtedly prove one of the most valuable of the series.

One of the daintiest and most artistic of minute catalogues is that of Messrs Stone & Kimball, Cambridge and Chicago. Its chaste and beautiful cover and exquisite letterpress are most gratifying. We observe works of two famous Canadian litterateurs in their list: Grant Allen and Gilbert Parker. To those who would have no wiser use for it, it would make a pretty table ornament.

The Howe Publishing Company of New York, announce that on or about February 20th, they will issue a new novel from the pen of Archibald C. Gunter, the author of "Mr. Barnes of New York," etc., entitled "A Prince of Paris." This novel will be very shortly followed by its sequel "The King's Stockbroker," a story of the first great inventor of that engine of spoliation called stock speculation.

Mr. Stuart Livingston, so well known to our readers as the author of Professor Paul and the writer of many a charming poem, is about to embody his poetical work in a volume to be issued at an early date by William Briggs. We have no hesitation in predicting for the coming volume unusual success. There can be no doubt of Mr. Livingston's literary merit, and the name and fame of "William Briggs" as a publisher are as household words in Canada.

A new volume of short stories by Thomas Hardy will issue from the press of Harper & Brothers on February 16th. These tales are eighteen in number, and grouped under the title "Life's Little Ironies." They include "The Son's Veto," "For Conscience' Sake," "On the Western Circuit," "The Fiddler of the Reels," "The Superstitious Man's Story," "Absent-mindedness in a Parish Choir," and the volume closes with "Netty Sargent's Copyhold."

The *Colonies and India* says:—"In Sir Samuel Baker we have lost an Englishman of the type that has done most to make us a great people, and one who would have won a name for himself even in the 'spacious times of great Elizabeth.' Whatever Sir Samuel attempted to do, he did well. Whether he was founding an English farm and homestead amongst the mountains of Ceylon, ruling the Sudan for the Khedive, or tracing the sources of the Nile to Albert Nyanza, his success was complete. The great traveller and sportsman served his country admirably, and his courage and sagacity are a splendid example

to the crowd of young Englishmen who to-day are urged on by the same love of adventure that prompted him."

At a recent meeting of the York Pioneers, at which the venerable Dr. Scadding presided, the learned doctor exhibited a photograph lately received by him from Devonshire, taken from an oil painting showing a full length figure of Governor Simcoe in military costume. This will materially aid the sculptor who shall be engaged to execute the statue expected to be hereafter erected in Queen's Park in honor of the first organizer of Upper Canada and founder of the city of Toronto.

It is hard to overestimate the value of such lectures as that of Dr. J. G. Bourinot, C.M.G., F.R.S.C., on the "Conduct of Public Meetings." Such meetings are continually being held on all sorts of questions and in all parts of our country. No intelligent man who attends a public meeting can fail to feel the prime necessity of its being conducted "decently and in order"—nor do we limit the application of the phrase to vestries. We are within the mark in saying that no Canadian is as well qualified as Dr. Bourinot to impart instruction on this subject, and such lectures as the one referred to are a public boon to all classes and conditions of Canadians.

It is said of the late and deservedly lamented G. W. Childs, that on December 3rd, 1864, he purchased the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, a daily paper, which, under his management, has become a very influential and widely circulated journal. Mr Childs was noted, not only for his success as a journalist and publisher, but also for his unostentatious philanthropy. The public drinking fountain at Stratford-on-Avon was erected by him, 1887, as a memorial to Shakespeare, and he had placed in Westminster Abbey a window memorial to Herbert and Cowper, 1877, and one in St. Margaret's Church Westminster, as a memorial to Milton, 1888, and also gave in 1889, to the church of SS. Thomas and Clementi, Winchester, a reredos as a memorial of Bishops Lancelot, Andrewes and Ken. In 1885 he published "Some Recollections of General Grant" and in 1890 a volume of his own "Recollections" was issued.

A Canadian literary entertainment was held at Victoria College on Friday evening of last week. Professor L. E. Hornung read a thoughtful paper on the general subject of the evening, in which the learned Professor clearly, calmly and critically dealt with the claim of Canada to a literature of her own. As we shall reproduce the text of this able address in our columns, we shall only here say that the University recognition accorded our literature by Victoria is noteworthy, and indicative of its onward and upward tendency. We were glad to observe the impartial and critical standard advocated in the address—sympathetic, if you will, but sound judgment, nevertheless, should prevail in all reviews of Canadian books. Indiscriminate eulogy can only promote indiscriminate mediocrity. There was also a very hopeful note as regards the future of Canadian writers. Examples of Canadian poetry were well rendered, notably by Miss Pauline Johnston.

From the *Literary Digest* we take the following items:—"Jonas Lie's 'Niobe' is declared the 'book of the year' in the literature of Northern Europe. It is the story of a country doctor's family, with enough of the horrible human nature in it to satisfy a cultivated Ibsen taste—for the three children born to the respectable doctor and his wife lead unenviable lives, and are finally destroyed by their mother, who dies by her own hand. Lie recently celebrated his sixtieth birthday with a due amount of popular homage in Norway, his native land." "It would seem that the two editors of Mr. Astor's *Pall Mall Gazette* have accepted their post more or less from the love of it. One of them Sir Douglas Straight, had a large and lucrative practice at the criminal bar in London until appointed a judge in India. He is now retired from the Indian Civil Service with a pension of \$10,000 a year and a title. The other editor, Lord

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Frederick Hamilton, is a younger brother of the Duke of Abercorn. Lord Frederick represented Manchester for a short time in Parliament, and served for several years in the diplomatic service, from which he resigned after spending several months in Buenos Ayres.

READINGS FROM CURRENT
LITERATURE.

THE SPORTING INSTINCT.

Sports and games have been defined as life in miniature, which is merely to say that they are restricted forms of war. Every sport must involve some at least of those qualities for the exercise of which war gives highest scope. Pluck, required for all, is not a simple quality, but the combination of all, being another name for manliness. It includes cool-headedness, persistence, cunning, rapidity of judgment, clearness of reason, and all the rest of the fine talents that go to the making of a brave man. Cunning, in its best sense, is a part of every sport—the cunning of one man or of several pitted against that of a beast or of some other man or combination of men. Herein lies the fascination of stalking, which is always the greater the more alert the beast, the more difficult his haunts. Racing, again, an obvious form of contest, is the best of good sport. Horse and man against horse and man is more complicated, and therefore more spirited, than man against man. A hunt combined with a race, such as fox-hunting, is still better; and if with race and hunt a dangerous fight be thrown in, the mixture of the three will of necessity prove best of all. And so it is this combination of race for first spear, pursuit of a wild beast, and final fight for the beast's life, that makes pig-sticking so magnificent a sport. In brief almost any incident of life may be turned to sport, and, on the whole, should thus be treated. For is not the sporting instinct the deepest and best in masculine human nature? It should not exist in woman. (For the sporting woman is worse even than the female politician.) The feminine qualities are required to balance it; but they should be supplied by women, as the manly by men. May it not be the case that this is an argument for the admission of women into politics? Our male politicians would then be free to become men once more.—*National Observer*.