

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Overland Monthly* for November contains the third part of Jouquin Miller's "Isles of the Amazons." Its best features are not, however, to be found in the lucubrations of the eccentric Poet of the Sierras. We find something more to our taste in an excellent paper on the "Folk Lore of Norway," and another on "Queen Elizabeth's California," giving an account of Frohisher's voyages in search of a north-west passage, and his discovery of the Meta Incognita, the unknown boundary, in this quarter of the then known world. "The House of the Sun" is a graphic description of an ascent of Haleakala, an extinct crater in Hawaii, which is supposed to be the largest in the world. The fiction department contains "The Lost Cabin," "Old Uncle Hampshire," "A Romance of Gila Bend," and "Ulrawa," all, with the exception of the second, being stories of the Pacific Slope, and possessing that *je ne sais quoi* of attractiveness that seems to be the peculiar characteristic of all stories coming from West of the Rocky Mountains. Science is represented by two articles: "The Mother Lode of California," and "The Natural History of the Animal Kingdom."

The *Penn Monthly*. In a former issue we expressed a hope that this valuable publication would become better known in Canada. A perusal of another number—that for November—strengthens us in this hope. Unlike some of its contemporaries and neighbours, the *Penn Monthly* is not restricted to the discussion of purely local topics. Its columns contain articles—giving evidence of deep thought and extensive research—on subjects of every possible import. Thus, in the present number we find papers on subjects historical, artistic, literary, and political economical. It opens with a sketch of Independence Hall, the National Museum and repository for relics connected with the history of American Independence. This is followed by a paper on the "German Critics of Adam Smith." "A Frenchman Sees M. Bonazet" is a translation from Edmond About's "Lettres d'un Bon Jeune Homme à Sa Cousine Madeleine," containing a clever and amusing description of a visit of the *bon jeune homme* to the gaming tables at Baden, and his fortune thereat. An article on "Queen Mary and Her Slayers" comes in very apropos of Mr. Froude's visit to America. The writer manfully enters the lists on behalf of the unfortunate and beautiful queen, and attacks one after the other her many opponents from John Knox down to the Oxford professor. Nor, we are bound to confess, does he always come off worsted. "Heresy and Heretics," and "The Loan Exhibition at Milan," complete, with the usual review of the events of the month, and criticisms of new books, a readable and instructive number.

The *Popular Science Monthly*. "Popular Science" is nowadays in everybody's mouth. The *Monthly* claims to be an exponent of the principles of science in a manner suited to the taste of an educated and reading people. Its aim is to diffuse, by means of instructive and attractive articles on matters of scientific importance, a taste for science, and a reaction in favour of scientific education. It is further especially designed to give prominence to those branches of science which help to a better understanding of the nature of man, and to point out the bearings of science upon questions of society and government. Judging from the present number—that for October—this programme, extensive and comprehensive as it is, is very fully carried out. A brief glance at a few of its contents will be sufficient to show the correctness of our estimate. Herbert Spencer has the *pas* with a paper, the fourth of a series, on the Study of Sociology. A translation from the German of Friedrich Mohr on "A Glass of Water," will without fail take the reader by surprise—and a pleasant surprise he will find it before he has read very far. An illustrated article on the anatomy and habits of spiders is worthy of attention, and Prof. Voit's Physiological Influence of Condiments, descriptive of the nature and action of condiments on the human system, deserves careful perusal. Then follows an abridgement—under the title of "English against the Classics"—from a pamphlet published by Messrs. Appleton & Son, entitled "Classical Studies as Information or as Training," in which "A Scotch Graduate" discusses, in a moderate and clear-sighted manner, a much-disputed question. Our space does not allow of doing more than merely mentioning the balance of the contents of this excellent periodical. There is a biographical sketch of Dr. Carpenter, accompanied by a portrait, with the Doctor's Inaugural Address before the British Association at Brighton last August; The Transit of Venus, by Ezekiah Butterworth, Esq.; On the Derivation of American Plants, by Prof. Asa Gray; and extracts from *Science Gossip* and the *Popular Science Review*. The Miscellany at the end of the number further contains much interesting and valuable reading.

Notes and Comments.

A number of Parisian ladies have formed themselves into an organization for the benevolent purpose of assisting young women out of employment. They purpose establishing an institution where governesses and others in want of situations and in reduced circumstances may find an asylum and help during the time of their necessity.

Portia's just pound, no more, no less, seems to be the motto which the Mortlake magistrates have adopted in their dealings with violations of the law respecting weights and measures. In a recent case these sapient judges inflicted a fine—with costs—on an unfortunate inn-keeper whose half-pint measure happened to hold a little more than the exact half-pint.

Coal appears to be going down with a run in Great Britain. Since the last fall chronicled in this column, the price has again declined. From the West of Scotland we learn that a large firm of coal and iron-masters has announced a reduction of two shillings per ton, in addition to the reduction of 3s. 6d. per ton agreed upon a few days before at a meeting of coal-dealers.

The New York Common Council has given evidence of a sagacity such as the ordinary run of Municipal Councils are seldom blessed with. An unfortunate Mansard roof cost Bos-

ton some twenty-five millions of dollars. This lesson the members of the Council found quite near enough home, and immediately passed a by-law forbidding the erection of Mansard roofs unless built of fire-proof materials.

A spot has made its appearance on the horizon of Eastern politics, which, however, does not threaten to assume serious dimensions. The matter in question is the proposed railway to run through Persia to India, for which the Shah has granted a concession for a line to run from the Caspian into the interior. The scheme is looked upon with great favour by the new Grand Vizier of Turkey, but the Shah's action is stated to have been unfavourably received at St. Petersburg.

"More emigrants!" is the cry that comes from Ontario. The emigration agents of that Province give the estimate number of emigrants required for the year 1873 at their several agencies as follows:—Toronto, 47,120 males, and 11,720 females; Ottawa, 7,540 males, and 1,630 females; Hamilton, 22,598 males, and 3,920 females; Kingston, 11,455 males, and 6,100 females; London, 23,450 males, and 4,200 females; making a total for the Province of Ontario of 142,033, and for these the Government Emigration Agents can find immediate employment. The case of Ontario is the case of all the Provinces of the Dominion.

It is small wonder that the popular ignorance of Canadian matters is so great in England, when we find the very teachers of the people totally unacquainted with Canada. The latest piece of information respecting this country is to the effect that Montreal is a city in the United States. The authority for this bold statement is an official of the Birmingham Free Library. A pamphlet recently issued at that institution has been presented "to the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal, United States of America." We would suggest to the directors of the Library the propriety of laying in a good stock of works on geography, and insisting upon the Library officials undergoing a geographical course.

A correspondent of the *Constitutionnel*, writing from St. Petersburg, says there has been not a little surprise felt in Russia at the remarks of some English papers on the recent expedition to Khiva. What could be more absurd (he asks) than to see "a military promenade" for the liberation of nineteen Russian subjects held captive by the Turcomans of Khiva, a source of peril to England? "We desire (continues the correspondent) to live on good terms with all the world, and especially with England. We wish to help to consolidate its government in India; but if, as some English papers threaten, England seeks to make war on us without any reasonable grounds, she may be sure that she will feel the consequences in India. The power of England in these regions can only be secured by her friendship with Russia."

A new system of adulterating bread—this time fortunately harmless—has recently been discovered in England through the means of a Dutch agricultural journal. This paper, in calling attention to the increasing cultivation of potatoes in the province of Groningen, in the north of Holland, states that the whole production is to a great extent converted into potato flour, for which there are no fewer than thirteen mills constantly at work in the villages near the town of Groningen. These mills turn out 250,000 kilogrammes of potato flour per day, the greater part of which is exported to England, only a small portion being retained for local consumption. That is to say, upwards of half-a-million pounds weight of this flour is sent daily to England to be used in the manufacture of bread. And for this bread, made half of wheat and half of potato-flour, the unsuspecting consumer pays as for pure wheaten bread.

Among the buildings destroyed by the recent fire in Boston was one, the loss of which can never be repaired. The old South Church is a relic of the past history of Boston, in which it has played an important part. It was built in 1729 by the Third Congregational Society, but was often used as a place of meeting by the citizens when Faneuil Hall was found too small to accommodate their numbers. In this church Joseph Warren delivered his oration, on the anniversary of the massacre of March the 5th, 1770, in defiance of the threats of the authorities, and of the presence of the troops. Here were held the series of meetings that culminated in the famous Boston Tea-Party, when "the detested tea" was thrown into the harbour by the determined colonists. In 1775 the church was turned into a riding-school by the British soldiers, who established a grog-shop in one of the galleries, part of which they threw open to the public. In addition to tearing down the rest of the galleries, and stripping the whole interior of its wood work, they left the floor covered with two feet of dirt. In 1782 the building was thoroughly repaired. The first Election Sermon was delivered in this church in 1712, and the ancient custom continued in observance until the fire.

Vanity Fair—not Thackeray's, but the original of Bunyan's creation—would seem to have a counterpart in the "city" of San Antonio, Texas. At least on one day of the week, and that, of all others, Sunday, this charming place assumes an appearance that would horrify the good saint whose name this godless city bears, could he but return to earth once more. A correspondent of the *Atlanta Constitution*, writing thence, thus describes a Sunday scene:—"This is Sunday, and I'll try and tell you what I've seen to-day. In the morning I passed an untold number of bar-rooms, and in all of them people, and the best citizens, too, playing billiards or cards, of course for drinks, and 'for the crowd'; really, if you won't drink and play billiards on Sunday you are not respectable. There are more bar-rooms in San Antonio than any place out of Texas to its size in the United States. As I sit in my room now at ten o'clock at night, I hear the band playing at the circus, and not very far off is a panorama on exhibition. To-day I was walking along the street, when I was startled by hearing a lot of boys shouting and the band playing; I looked up, and just then it all came in sight. It was this: the circus with all its riders, performers, &c., in regular circus style, were coming down the street, with the band playing, the boys shouting, and ever so many Mexicans and stragglers following them. Remember, this was on Sunday. Imagine all the bar-rooms open on Sunday at home, billiard playing, drinking, and last, but not by any means least, a troupe of performers dressed in their 'tights' riding down the street with a band playing."

News of the Week.

THE DOMINION.—Thursday, the 14th inst., was very generally observed as a day of thanksgiving. The Halifax papers are publishing articles vehemently opposing the location of the headquarters of the Intercolonial at Halifax.—H. E. the Governor-General gave his first State dinner on Monday.—The several schools of military instruction at Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, Quebec, Fredericton and Halifax, will be re-opened on the 1st December next, for six months.—The change of gauge to 3 feet 8 inches on the Grand Trunk railroad between Fort Erie and Sarnia, St. Mary's and London, commenced on Saturday night. The usual service of trains was suspended until Tuesday.

UNITED STATES.—The Swiss residents of New York are making great preparations to celebrate the 55th anniversary of Swiss independence.—The racers "Goldsmith Maid" and "Lucy" arrived from California last week. They will winter at Bristol, Penn.—The Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad is now completed to within twelve miles of Red River. The Texas Central Railroad will be completed to Dennison by the 1st January. The gap between the two roads is now only 42 miles. The shipment of cotton and cattle is increasing daily, and the business this season will exceed a hundred thousand head of cattle and thirty thousand bales of cotton.—At a meeting of the New York Board of Underwriters held last week a resolution was adopted making the rates of insurance conform to those of 1870, which are understood to be an advance on present rates of from 10 to 15 per cent.—Secretaries Fish and Boutwell are to retire from the Cabinet. It is expected that the former will be offered the mission to England and the latter a seat in the United States Senate.—Great excitement has been caused at Salt Lake by the report of the New York Lapidaries, now there, that among the samples of precious stones brought to this city, there are 26 genuine diamonds, one of which weighs three carats. The location where the diamonds were found is Western Colorado. A number of leading capitalists are putting up money for organizing an expedition to the spot.—The Mixed Commission on American and British claims have awarded \$3,000 additional against the United States for claims of British subjects.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The Royal Geographical Society has voted a gold medal to Stanley.—Charles Sumner left Liverpool on the 14th for New York.—A heavy gale prevailed on the English coast last week and caused much damage to shipping.

FRANCE.—The Assembly has adopted, by a vote of 475 to 142, a bill for the reform of the Jury system.—The first batch of exiled Communists have arrived safely in New Caledonia.—A new political party has been formed by the coalition of the Right and the Right Centre. At a recent meeting of deputies belonging to these two parties a coalition Conservative faction in the Assembly was agreed to, and a resolution adopted declaring that while they recognise the impossibility of a restoration of the monarchy, they hold that the issue lies between the Conservatives and Radicals, demanding pledges from the President that he will adhere to a strictly conservative line of policy, and warning him he can no longer have their support should he refuse.—Special services were held last Sunday in all the cathedrals throughout the country at which prayers were offered for the National Assembly, and the blessing of God invoked upon its proceedings.

GERMANY.—Stralsund has been visited by a two-fold disaster. During the heavy gale of the thirteenth instant the town was inundated, and in the midst of the confusion a fire broke out among the warehouses which caused much damage. Several vessels sunk in the harbour during the storm.—Prince Blismarek, who has been ill at Varzin, is progressing towards recovery.—The Government has issued a ministerial decree commanding the German Railway Companies to discontinue the practice of transporting emigrants, unless full rates are paid for persons and baggage. Hitherto Railway Companies have carried emigrants from the interior to the sea board at very low rates, and baggage free, encouraging emigration.

AUSTRIA.—The sessions of the Tyrolean Diet have been closed by the Governor in consequence of the refusal of the members to fulfil their duties.

ITALY.—The Pope has refused the annuity offered him by the Italian Parliament.

DENMARK.—A despatch from Copenhagen states that much damage has been caused by last week's gale. The streams rose to an unusual height, overflowing their banks, and inundating the country for miles around. Much damage was done to sea-port towns, and numerous marine disasters occurred. Reports of the loss of twenty-four ships have already been received. Half of the town of Praesto (?) in the Island of Zealand, in the Baltic, was laid waste by the force of the wind. The small island of Bolve (?) was entirely submerged by water, and every inhabitant was drowned.

SPAIN.—King Amadeo is confined to his room by illness.—Several of the Ferrol insurgents have been tried by court-martial and condemned to death.

PORTUGAL.—The Government has signed a concession to the Falmouth and Malta Telegraph Company for the maintenance and construction of the companies, empowering them to lay an electric cable from Portugal to Brazil.

INDIA.—The Viceroy is now visiting Bombay, where he met with a most brilliant reception. On Saturday he will hold a public audience, when many Indian sovereigns and princes were presented.

AUSTRALIA.—The Government of New South Wales are about to introduce a compulsory education bill compelling all children between six and fifteen years old to attend school.—All the betting and gambling houses in the same colony have ceased to exist, in accordance with a Parliamentary act.—Advices from Victoria report that the submarine telegraph to Europe still refuses to work. No despatches have been received since the first utterances. A land line is to be put in operation by employing a despatch steamer between Port Darwin and Baujowangle, Victoria.

CHINA.—An earthquake and a flood make up the principal news. The former occurred on the 21st September at Shanghai, but no particulars are given as to its duration or effects. On the 10th of the same month the plains near Tientsin were flooded, and at latest dates the water was still rising.—Advices from Nankin state that the Viceroy is determined to punish the parties engaged in the kidnapping of slaves on board Peruvian vessels.

SOUTH AMERICA.—Advices from Rio Janeiro, dated October 23, state that General Mitre, the Argentine envoy, was rapidly bringing his negotiations with the Brazilian Government to a satisfactory termination. All obstacles to amicable settlement had been removed. The Argentine Confederation was to make a separate treaty with Paraguay.

CUBA.—A private letter from the commandant of the Cuban insurgent army, dated the 1st ult., says there are still 18,000 insurgents under arms, including many negroes, who fight well. Several minor engagements have recently taken place with alternate success and defeat.