



THE HENRY IRVING SHAKESPEARE.

We have just received from the J. E. Bryant Company, Toronto, the eighth volume of this beautiful and valuable work, which we hope to review in our next issue.

RUDYARD KIPLING.

Messrs. John Lovell & Son have brought out "Plain Tales from the Hills," "The Phantom Rickshaw," "The Story of the Gadsbys" and "Soldiers Three," in their handsome Star Series of choice fiction. As the price is only 25 cents a volume, no lover of fiction, however moderate his means, need remain a stranger to the marvelous genius of the famous young Anglo-Indian.

"MAMELONS" AND "UNGAVA."

Mr. W. H. H. Murray is known by reputation to many, personally to several, of our readers, as an enthusiast for life in the open air, for wood-craft and wood-lore, and for all that mysterious realm of poetry and romance which is associated with pre-historic America. He is best known to the reading public in connection with the apocalypse of the Adirondack wilderness. It was through a volume of his, published by Messrs. Ticknor & Fields in 1868, that the great mountain and forest region, of which Mount Marcy is the crown, and of whose water system the Hudson river, on the one side, and Lake Champlain and the Richelieu on the other, are the most noteworthy outflows, was made known to the lovers of sport and the seekers of health. During the interval that has elapsed since the publication of his "Adventures in the Wilderness"—a book that is still read with pleasure and profit—Mr. Murray has been wielding a fruitful pen, giving his attention to many topics—social, economic and literary—but ever, when occasion offered, returning to his first love, that sylvan muse to which he owes so much of his fame and of his inspiration. Since he began to dwell in Canada and on the shores of Lake Champlain, whose eventful story is so interwoven with the history of Canada under both régimes, he has, from time to time, followed the guidance of his inclination, and pushed far into the still well nigh untrodden wilds of our great north country. The Saguenay region has long had attractions for him, not only as a land of promise for the settler, but as a region rich in possibilities for romance. Its geological history opens up stupendous vistas to the imagination, and its physical features, as convulsion after convulsion of nature has left them, are of exceptional grandeur. Sparse and meagre, moreover, as are the data that have come down to us for framing any consecutive narrative of the operations of civilized or uncivilized man on that marvellous stage, Mr. Murray, by piecing together certain known facts and the inferences that may be deduced from them with the indications of tradition and scientific theory, has peopled the "King's Domains" with tribes of the ancient Iberian *urstim*—that Atlantic stock from which (as Mr. Hale and other ethnologists would fain believe) the primitive races of America and Europe were derived. In "Mamelons" he makes a son of this ancient family (kinsmen of the Basques, who still hold by right of immemorial occupation a considerable portion of the Hispano-Gallic border-lands) do good service as a hero of romance. His heroine he fitly names "Atla," as being of the race of Atlantis, the common fatherland of both Europe and America. His title is simply the French name for "Mounds" (so called from their resemblance to what in Latin is *mamma*)—those breast-like sandy mounds in the rear of Tadoussac. His most spirited creation is the Trapper, John Norton, comrade and bosom friend of the Chief of the Lenni Lenapé (the native name of the Delaware clan, whose legends Dr. Brinton has so skillfully deciphered and so learnedly illustrated), who represents the old race. On his death-bed (for he lay dying of a wound received in the great fight at Mamelons) the chief summons the Trapper, then five hundred miles off, and the summons was promptly obeyed. John Norton struck the trail, "as an eagle strikes homeward towards the cradle crag of his younglings, when talons are heavy and daylight scant. He drew his line by the star that never sets, and little turning did he make for rivers, rapids or tangled swamp, for mountain slope or briery windfall." Mr. Murray writes a sort of rhythmic prose, of which the aspirants of the *Atlantic* might take heed. For instance:

"The Trapper was clad in buckskin from cap to moccasins. His tunic, belted tight and fringed, was opened widely at the throat for freest breathing. A pack, small but rounded with strained fullness, was at his back. His horn and pouch were knotted to his side. In tightened belt was knife, and, trailing muzzle down and held reversed, a double rifle. Stripped was the man for speed, as when balanced on the issue of the race hung life and death. As some great ship, caught by some sudden gale off Anticosti or Dead Man's Reef, and bare of sail stripped to her spars, past battures hollow and hoarse-voiced as death and ghastly white, and through the damned eddies that would suck her down and crush her with stones which grind forever and never see the light, sharpening their cuttings with their horrid grists, runs scudding: so ran the strong man northward, urged by a fear stronger than that of wreck on the ghost-peopled shore of deadly St. Lawrence. A

hound, huge of size, bred to a hair, ambled steadily on at his heel. And though he crossed many a hot scent, and more than once his hurrying master started a buck warm from his nest, and nose was busy with knowledge of game afoot, he gave no whimper, nor swerved aside, but silently followed on in the swift way his master was so hurriedly making, as if he, too, felt the solemn need which urged the trail northward. Never before had runner faced a longer or a harder trail or under high command or deadly peril pushed it so furiously forward. Seven days the trail ran thus, and still the man, tireless of foot, hurried on, and the hound followed silently at heel."

Our readers will acknowledge that this is an effective picture. We feel like exclaiming in the words of the famous song, slightly altered:

Hurrah! Hurrah for Norton brave!  
Hurrah for dog and man!

We are tempted to quote further so as to give the reader the full flavour of Mr. Murray's vigorous and harmonious periods, as he describes the feat of this man of men, this favourite of the gods of health and strength. But we have only room for another passage, which we leave with our readers as a companion picture. It is that of Atla, as she stands beside the Trapper at the dead man's feet:

"Her hair, black with a glossy blackness, swept the floor. A jewel, large and lustrous, an heirloom of her mother's race, old as the world, burning with Atlantean flame, a miracle of stone-imprisoned fire, blazed on her brow. The large gloom of her eyes was turned upon the dead man's face, and the sadness of ten thousand years of life and loss was darkly orbed within their long and heavy lashes. Her small, swarthy hands hung lifeless at her side and the bowed contour of her face drooped heavy with grief. Thus stood she, clothed in black cloth from head to foot, as if that old past, whose child she was, stood shrouded in her form, ready to make wail for the glory of men and the beauty of women it had seen buried forever in the silent tomb. Thus stood she for a time, as if she held communion with the grave and death. Then opened she her mouth, and in the mode when song was language she poured her feelings forth in that old tongue which, like some fragrant fragment of sweet wood, borne northward by great ocean currents out of southern seas, for many days storm-tossed, but lodged at last on some far shore and found by those who only sense the sweetness, but know not whence it came, lies lodged to-day upon the mountain slopes of Spain. Thus in the old Basque tongue, sweet fibre of lost root, unknown to moderns, but soft, sad and wild with the joy, the love, the passion of ten thousand years, the child of the old past and the old faiths, lifted up her voice and sang: 'O death! I hate thee! Cold thou art and dreadful to the touch of the warm hand and the sweet lips which, drawn by love's dear habit, stoop to kiss the mouth for the long parting. Cold, cold art thou, and at thy touch the blood of men is chilled and the sweet glow in woman's bosom frozen forever. Thou art great nature's curse. The grape hates thee. Its blood of fire can neither make thee laugh, nor sing, nor dance. The sweet flower, and the fruit which ripens on the bough, nursing its juices from the maternal air, and the bird singing his love-song to his mate amid the blossoms, hate thee! At touch of thine, O Slayer! the flower fades, the fruit withers and falls and the bird drops dumb into the grasses. Thou art the shadow on the sunshine of the world; the skeleton at all feasts; the marplot of great plans; the stench which fouls all odours; the slayer of men and the murderer of women. O death! I, child of an old race, last leaf from a tree that once shadowed the world, warm in my youth, loving life, loving health, loving love—O death, how I hate thee! Thus she sang, her full tones swelling fuller as she sang, until her voice sent its clear challenge bravely out to the black shadow on the sunshine of the world and the dread fate she hated. Then did she a strange thing: a rite known to the morning of the world when all the living lived in the east and the dead went westward."

What Atla did we must allow the reader to discover for himself. We recommend him to read "Mamelons" and its sequel, "Ungava." These companion idylls are bound together in a single volume, published by Messrs. DeWolfe, Fiske & Co., 365 Washington street, Boston. The book (which is enriched by notes on archaeology and natural history) may be ordered from any bookseller, and its purchase will occasion no regret.

#### THE CANADIANS OF OLD.

We have just received from the publishers a copy of Prof. Roberts's new translation of Philippe Aubert de Gaspé's romance, "The Canadians of Old." To many of our readers this interesting work is familiar, in one or other of the languages of this province. We have had occasion more than once to quote passages both from "Les Anciens Canadiens" and the "Mémoires" of M. de Gaspé, which may, in a sense, be regarded as its sequel. The author was a genuine type of the old noblesse, and the events related and scenes portrayed in his earlier as in his later work were drawn largely from recollections of his own home or from traditions communicated to him by aged members of his own family or other survivors of the Old Régime. The ancestral manor of St. Jean Port Joli was the original of the manor of Haberville, and the *dramatis personæ* are not altogether imaginary, as we know from the author himself. The eighty-five years of his life (1786-1871) linked together nearly all the great changes of administration which British Canada has undergone. His memory was first awakened when the Constitutional Act was passed and Upper Canada was born. He witnessed the eventful

half century that preceded the union of 1841, was still in the enjoyment of his faculties when Confederation was inaugurated, and only passed away when Canada comprised the whole vast region between the Atlantic and the Pacific. It was a happy inspiration that made him unbosom himself of a lore that would otherwise have gone to the grave with him. His pictures of the social and family life of "The Canadians of Old" and his record of the stirring events of which he was an eye-witness are well worthy of preservation, and in making our neighbours acquainted with his great romance Prof. Roberts has done good service to letters and to Canada. His version we find excellent, and the songs interspersed through the volume he has rendered as only a poet could render them. Though to the antiquarian student M. de Gaspé's "Notes et éclaircissements" (which constitute a fourth of the original work) are of considerable value, the publishers could hardly be expected to depart from convention by offering the public a novel so heavily annotated. "Les Anciens Canadiens" was first published at Quebec in 1863, an English translation appearing at the same time and place. The "Mémoires" followed in the year 1866. New York: D. Appleton & Company; Montreal: W. Foster Brown & Co.

#### Imperial Unity.

The following is the list of questions to which reference is made in our editorial columns as having been proposed to Canadian citizens by the Canadian Branch of the Imperial Federation League:—

1. Is the existing political union between the United Kingdom, Canada and the other parts of the British Empire generally satisfactory?
2. Is it desirable that the union as it exists, or with modifications, should be perpetuated?
3. Is it probable that some re-arrangement of the relations between the Dominion and the rest of the Empire will be called for by circumstances in the near or distant future?
4. If it be probable that at no distant day modifications in these relations will become necessary, and may on some emergency become imminent, is it desirable earnestly to consider the question in all its bearings, in order that any change may be established with wise deliberation?
5. In any re-organization of the Empire which may be necessitated by the progress of events, is it essential that every separate community under popular government should be consulted in a constitutional manner?
6. In any possible new relations between Canada and the other portions of the Empire, should all political rights now enjoyed be substantially maintained?
7. In a closer political union should Canadians equally with other British subjects elsewhere, have a voice in affairs which are of common concern to the whole Empire?
8. In what way should all British subjects have a voice in Imperial affairs—through their respective governments, or parliaments or otherwise?
9. If it be advisable, as some think, to establish an Imperial Council, or Senate, or Upper House, or Central Body of some kind to deal with, and be supreme, in matters common to the whole Empire, should representation in such Central Body be in proportion to population, or to the amount contributed to common revenue? or on what principle should representation be based?
10. In such a union as that contemplated in questions 7, 8 and 9, in order to give to British subjects everywhere advantages not enjoyed by foreign countries, would it be desirable to adopt what has been termed "A British family trade policy?"
11. Would it be desirable to give in whole or in part, the advantages of the British family trade policy to foreign countries agreeing to reciprocal terms?
12. If British subjects in Canada and elsewhere (in the outer Empire) be placed on an equal footing with British subjects in the United Kingdom, so as to obtain equal benefits from expenditure for common purposes, should all bear some share, and eventually as colonial wealth increases, a fair proportionate share in the expenditure?
13. Would it be advisable to raise the revenue for such expenditure (question 12) in the manner suggested by Mr. Jan. Hendrick Hofmeyr, of Cape of Good Hope, at the Colonial Conference of 1887, by means of a small *ad valorem* duty, to be levied generally, and independently of existing tariffs, on goods entering any part of the Empire from foreign countries? or in what way should provision for the expenditure be made?

14. Referring to questions 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13, would it be desirable that British subjects outside the United Kingdom should at one step assume the higher duties and responsibilities contemplated, or that full citizenship should be assumed by degrees, according to the conditions and circumstances of each individual community?

It is not expected that busy men who have not previously given their thoughts to the subjects involved, will be prepared at once to respond to each one of the above questions; it is, however, hoped that many persons of all origins and occupations will view it in the light of a public duty to answer such of the questions as they may have considered.

Replies to any of the above questions addressed to R. G. Code, 14 Metcalfe street, Ottawa, will be cordially received and duly acknowledged. Every person responding will be good enough to refer to the questions according to the numbers in the above list; they will further oblige by furnishing their full name, occupation and post office address.