

both had left school; but years afterwards it became Mr. Gladstone's duty, as Prime Minister, to offer a Lord Justiceship to George Mellish. "I wrote to him as 'Dear sir,'" says Mr. Gladstone, "having no idea that I was addressing an old fag of mine; but a few days later, as we were going down to Windsor, we met on the platform at Paddington, and he reminded me of the relation in which he had formerly stood towards me. All recollection of him had unaccountably slipped from my memory, until he thus unexpectedly reintroduced himself."

Another of Mr. Gladstone's fags was John Smith Mansfield, now a police magistrate at Marlborough Street Court. Mr. Mansfield says of him: "He was not exacting, and I had an easy time of it. I cannot remember doing anything more than laying out his breakfast and tea table, and occasionally doing an errand. As Gladstone was about five years my senior, there was an immense distance between us. I recall him as a good-looking, rather delicate youth, with a pale face, and brown, curling hair—always tidy and well-dressed—not given much to athletic exercises, but occasionally sculling, playing cricket, and hockey."

It used to be customary for a boy on promotion to the fifth form to give an entertainment in his room; and afterwards to recite a satirical ode, passing comments on all the other fellows in his boarding-house. These productions were often very coarse, for it was an understood thing that the authors of them were never to be molested by those whom they abused. Gladstone in his fifth form poem chewed all personalities, but conveyed his opinion with great vigor on some of the abuses of the school, and in particular on cruelties that used to be practised towards pigs at the Eton fair that was held every Ash Wednesday. A barbarous usage had arisen for boys to hustle the drovers and then cut off the tails of the pigs. Gladstone gave great offence by remarking that the boys who were foremost in this kind of butchery were the first to quake at the consequences of detection, and he dared them as they were proud of their work, to sport the trophies in their hats. On the following Ash Wednesday he found three newly-amputated pig-hung in a bunch on his door, with a paper bearing this inscription:

"Quisquis amat porcos, porci amabitur illis;
Cauda sit exemplum ter repetita tibi."

Gladstone wrote underneath a challenge to the despoilers of the pigs to come forth and take a receipt for their offering which he would mark—"In good round hand upon your faces," but the statesman, who, in his seventy-fourth year, feels trees for amusement, was already, as a boy, a tough foe to deal with, and his invitation met with no response. It would be pleasant if one could add that after this the pigs had a better time of it; but their miseries only ceased when the Ash Wednesday fair was abolished under Dr. Hawtrey.

A few weeks after Byron's death, Mr. Canning came down to Eton for the 4th of June, and found time to have nearly an hour's chat with the son of his principal supporter in the famous Liverpool election of 1812. Canning's career exercised the greatest fascination over young Gladstone's mind, and on that privileged day when he took the Foreign Secretary to see his room, and then walked about college listening to his advice and to his remarks about some of the important topics of the day, the fascination became complete and lasting. It was doubtless from a happy recollection of his own precocity that Canning did not speak to his young admirer as a boy about childish things; he must have seen the sparkle of hero-worship in Gladstone's eyes, and he hid himself out to produce a deep impression by emitting on all subjects those generous sentiments which leave their mark on a boy's understanding.

Just before Gladstone entered Eton, in 1821, the *Etonian*, edited by Winthrop Mackworth Praed, had run its short, brilliant career; and Gladstone, though a lower boy, got acquainted with some of the contributors to that periodical, who used to come and breakfast with his brother Thomas. Among them were Richard Durnford (whom "Gladstone minor" afterward appointed Bishop of Chichester), Walter Trower (who became Bishop of Gibraltar), Chauncey Harcourt-Townsend, and Edmund Beales (who acquired glory of a certain sort during the Hyde Park riots of 1866.) These school worthies had acquired a real renown through their writings; and as Gladstone rose to the higher forms, the purpose of founding a magazine naturally suggested itself to him as one of the only methods that lay open to him for achieving scholastic distinction. Nowadays the talents of school-boys find plenty of scope in competitions for prizes and scholarships, and, as a consequence, the various Eton periodicals started during the last thirty years have been very poor. Their staffs have been recruited from among boys not successful in school work—youthful eccentrics, trills, blazes, and such like. But in Gladstone's days there were no prizes for scholarships, and very few examinations. When a boy had once got into the fifth, he obtained his removes to the middle or upper division without trial, and eventually ascended to the sixth by seniority—there being only ten colleges and ten oppidans in that head form. Gladstone was "sent up" several times for his verses, but this was the only honor to which he and boys of his description could aspire. Thus the very best material in the school was always available for independent literary work.

It is to be noted, however, that if there was always plenty of talent at Eton, able editors

were as scarce there as elsewhere. The only three school periodicals which stand out as exceptionally good—the *Microcosm*, the *Etonian*, and the *Miscellany*—were edited by boys who possessed great firmness of character as well as genius and judgment. Canning, Mackworth Praed and Gladstone all knew how to recruit a staff, keep it up to the best standard of work, and prevent its members from falling out. If he had not become a statesman, he might have done wonders in conducting a London daily newspaper.

Gladstone was always merry enough; but he was not one of those boys who can be called "merry fellows." Whilst he edited his magazine, he used to stupefy his fags by his prodigious capacity for work. His table and open bureau would be littered with "copy" and proofs; he suffered, like other editors, from the plague of MSS., and had to read quires of proffered contributions that were unacceptable; and yet he always found time to do his school-work well. Dr. Keate, carper as he was, could find no fault with him; and even ended by taking him into special favor, as undoubtedly one of the best and most industrious scholars in the school. Probably no other boy ever got so much praise from Dr. Keate as Gladstone did, when the headmaster said to him:—"You belong to the Literati (Pop.), and of course you say there all that's on your mind. I wish I could hear you without your being aware of my presence; I am sure I should hear a speech that would give me pleasure."

The *Eton Miscellany* continued to appear until its editor left Eton at Christmas, 1827. He had then been a whole year in the sixth form; but he had not become Captain of Oppidans, for one boy who was his senior remained at the school much longer than usual; and, as already explained, places in the sixth were only to be conquered by time, not by merit. Gladstone was, however, President of the Debating Society and the acknowledged head of Eton in literary attainments and oratory. He helped to revive the prestige of "Pop.," which was on the wane when he entered it, though he never saw it in such a flourishing condition as it has been in these latter times, when there are always candidates to fill every vacancy. In Gladstone's days the society often found it difficult to recruit suitable members. Mr. Mansfield says of this society:—"Poorly educated as Etonians were by Dr. Keate, they did a great deal in educating each other. The Debating Society drew their attention to history and politics; and all the printed speeches of statesmen in the last century, and the beginning of the present, were known to the young debaters."—*Temple Bar*.

THE ITALIAN WAR-SHIP LEPANTO.

The ceremony of launching this most powerful ship of the Italian Navy has been appointed to take place at Leghorn to-morrow (Sunday), in the presence of the King and Queen of Italy. We are indebted to Mr. A. Percy Inglis, the Acting British Consul at that port, for a sketch of the enormous vessel lying ready to be launched in the builders' yard, that of Messrs. Orlando Brothers. In the construction of the *Duilio* and the *Dandolo*, which were double-screw turret-ships of the *Monitor* type, each carrying four 100-ton guns of Sir William Armstrong's manufacture, mounted in two turrets, the Italian Navy considerably surpassed anything yet supplied to the Royal Navy of Great Britain. But the *Italia* and the *Lepanto*, apparently, are very much more formidable; their dimensions being as follows:—Length, 122 metres (or 403 ft.); greatest breadth, not reckoning the armour, 22 metres 23 centimetres; height at the middle section, 15 metres 20 centimetres; medium depth of immersion, 8 metres 48 centimetres; tonnage, about 15,000. The *Lepanto* will have four 100-ton guns in a central armoured redoubt, and eighteen 4½-ton guns in the battery. There are two screws, each moved by two engines and three cylinders on the Penn system; twenty-six boilers, and six funnels. The indicated horse-power is 18,000; the expected speed is seventeen miles. There are only two masts, which serve for signalling. Side armour being altogether abolished, the system of defence consists in the cellular deck of the first battery, the armour of the main deck, the iron-casing of the funnels and passages for projectiles, and the armour of the redoubt containing the four cannon. The *Lepanto* is 22 metres longer than the *Duilio* and *Dandolo*, and will have 4,000 more tonnage, about 8,000 extra horse-power, and a covered battery of eighteen cannon, which the above-named ships have not. The *Lepanto* will therefore be much more powerful. As much as possible, she will preserve the type of a frigate, differing here also from the *Dandolo* and *Duilio*. She will cost about twenty-four millions of francs. Having been constructed in a private dockyard, her hull will cost the Government much less than that of the *Italia*, which was built in a Government dockyard. The launch might be attended with some difficulties, for it will be necessary to stop the ship as soon as she floats by means of large chains to prevent her from running against the opposite side of the basin, only 80 metres distant. But the report that it will be an expensive work to get her out of the basin when once afloat is exaggerated, it being only necessary temporarily to remove the floating bridge of the dock. At the moment of launching the hull will weigh about 4,000 tons. The *Lepanto* was commenced in September, 1877, and about 500 workmen have been constantly employed in her construction.

E. STONE WIGGINS, LL.D.

Professor E. Stone Wiggins, whose weather predictions have given him such wide celebrity, was born in the County of Queens, Province of New Brunswick, Canada, December 4th, 1839. He was educated in United States and Canadian universities, having taken his degree of Doctor of Medicine in Philadelphia in 1868, and his Bachelor of Arts at Albert University, Ontario, the following year. For two years, from 1868 to 1870, he distinguished himself as Principal of the High School at Ingersoll, when he was also appointed by the Ontario Government a member of the Board of Examiners for the examination of teachers for the Province. In 1871 he was appointed Superintendent of the new Institution for the Education of the Blind at Bradford, and to fit himself more fully for his special work and employ skilled teachers, was sent by his Government to visit various Blind Institutions in the United States. This position he admirably filled for four years. At the general election to the Canadian House of Commons in 1878, he was chosen as the Conservative candidate for his native county, a strong Liberal constituency, and was defeated, but was immediately appointed to a position in the Finance Department by Sir Leonard Tilley, the new Finance Minister in the Government of Sir John Macdonald, which then rose to power.

Professor Wiggins is the author of several works on scientific subjects; his "English Grammar for Dominion High Schools" being a superior work. Two years ago he was a competitor for the Warner prize, offered for the best essay on comets, and in the struggle took second place, though no less than one hundred and twenty astronomers competed. He is a direct descendant of Captain Thomas Wiggins, who was sent out in the year 1630 to this country by Lords Saye and Brook as Governor of one of the Massachusetts districts. As is known to our historians, this family were among the first to resist the arrogance of the Colonial Governors and are credited with having been among the chief actors who prepared the way for the Revolution of 1776. The late Stephen Wiggins, Esq., of St. John, great uncle of Prof. Wiggins, was one of the merchant princes of Canada, and, having won his millions on the sea, left a large bequest for the education and support of the children of sailors lost at sea. In 1843 he invested the sum of forty-five thousand pounds in the purchase of New York city bonds, and out of the interest of this fund has recently been erected in St. John's one of the finest charities in America, known as the Wiggins Male Orphan Institution.

In 1872 Professor Wiggins was married to his cousin, Miss Susie A. Wiggins, third daughter of Capt. Vincent W. Wiggins, of Queens, New Brunswick. This is the lady to whose zeal and talent is due the passage through the Canadian Senate, two years ago, of the well-known Bill to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister. Facing a second defeat of the measure, she bravely entered the Senate, and by her pleasant manner and persuasive arguments, converted her minority into a majority. Her letters signed "Gunhilda," and addressed to the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Ontario, to whose unwise interposition she attributed the defeat of the Bill in the first instance, were read with great interest both in this country and the United States. A number of ladies interested in the passage of this Bill have employed Mr. F. Danbar, the Dominion sculptor, to execute a bust of this lady, which is to be placed in the Dominion Library at the capital. Already it is said to be a striking likeness.

A FETE AT THE PARIS OPERA.

GOUNOD AND BOITO.

On the 31st of March a great fête for the benefit of the sufferers from the floods in Alsace and Lorraine will be given at the Opera House, Paris. The musical portion of the entertainment was organized by Louis Besson, of the *Evenement*, who addressed himself in the first place to MME. Ambroise Thomas, Gounod and Massenet. Thomas, as a native of Metz, as director of the conservatory and the composer of "Hamlet," at once promised his assistance, Massenet the same; with Gounod, Besson had a long interview. He wished to produce Boito's "Mefistofele." He had secured the services of Madame Salla, who had created the piece at St. Petersburg, and of M. Gailhard, who created it at London, as well as Boito's consent. But of course, when "Mefistofele" is mentioned, "Faust" is thought of. The two pieces have nothing in common except that they are both based on Goethe's poem, still it was feared that there might be some objection on the part of the illustrious Frenchman. Besson called and found Gounod smoking in a gray coat and a cap on his head. "For Alsace?" he replied when the object of the entertainment was mentioned. "Yes, I am with you. I am very busy. I am growing old, but your project is one to which I must associate myself. What do you want me to do?" The case was laid before him. "Shall I conduct the performance of 'Galla' or of an act of 'Romeo'? Dispose of me. You have kept a good place for Ambroise Thomas. He is our master." Then touching the piano he sang the waltz before the scene of *Opheïa* in the fourth act. "And Mozart," he continued, "you have not forgotten him, that divine master?" And he sang the air of the quintette from "Cosi fan tutti." "And Rossini! and Massenet!" "Now,

master," began Besson, "we reach a delicate point. There is in the world a *Mefistofele* floating about abroad—"

"Boito? Certainly; and here you have an opportunity to produce it."

"I came to ask your advice."

"My advice is, give it. Do not hesitate. Boito sent me the score; I read it; it interested me much. He is an Italian who has studied the German music, and who, while remaining a thorough Italian, has known how to appropriate the tendencies of the new school. Twenty-two years ago, when I produced 'Faust' at Milan, Boito was the leader of the youth and gave me a superb fête. He was one of the most enthusiastic apostles of French music in Italy. The least I can do is to do for him in France what he did for me in Italy. My 'Faust' has no connection with his 'Mefistofele.' I wrote my score after Berlioz had written the 'Damnation of Faust.' Why should not a third treat the subject after me? Give 'Mefistofele,' I will answer for its success."

A MUSICAL BED.

A musical bed is no longer a myth. A Rajah who desires to remain *incognito* has just ordered a couch worthy of the Arabian Nights. The bedstead is made of rosewood, covered with plates of silver, embossed or engraved. The style of ornamentation is, on the whole Indian; but the roses, ears of corn, vines and the like are modelled in the European fashion. The mattress is in *bleu clair* damask richly embroidered. When one lies down the music begins to play. The Rajah did not select the airs, but the maker of this piece of furniture chose them from the repertoire of Gounod, who must be immensely flattered by learning that he soothes to sleep such a wealthy and whimsical potentate. The spring, which sets the music in motion, likewise acts on four figures. These figures are painted to the life, and have wigs of diverse hues—blonde, black, red and chestnut—and clad only with a bracelet on the right wrist. They wave over the Rajah's recumbent form fans formed from the feathers of the white peacock, or the tails of the sacred Yak. One of the figures represents a Greek, one a Spaniard, one an Italian, and one a Parisienne. May he sleep well!

DEATH ON THE STAGE.

A tragic event is announced from Sinigaglia, the death of the tenor Ronconi. The theatre was crowded, the orchestra began to play, the curtain rose. Ronconi as *Faust* was seen sitting in a chair. The public welcomed him with applause, he tried to rise up and return his thanks, but was unable to do so, and, trembling all over, sank back. He uttered some phrases which were quite devoid of sense. The orchestra continued to play, but the tenor remained mute. Many thought that the actor was drunk, and expressed great indignation. Ronconi sat still, with his eyes glassy and unmoving; his lips were in motion; his mouth opened and shut; but not a word or a sound proceeded from it. He raised his hand painfully to his head. The public continued to hiss. The manager then came forward and endeavored to explain that the actor was seized by a sudden panic. Hisses continued with redoubled force, and the curtain fell on a death scene. Ronconi expired at three o'clock in the morning without having recovered consciousness. This Ronconi was the son of the celebrated baritone Ronconi, the contemporary of Lablache, Grisi and Alboni.

LITERARY.

THE Earl of Rosslyn has in press a volume of poetry, principally sonnets.

DR. O. W. HOLMES is to write a life of Emerson for the series of "American Men of Letters."

CHARLES A. DANA, editor of the *New York Sun*, has purchased a one hundred and fifty thousand dollar house.

THOMAS G. APPLETON has given five thousand dollars for the endowment of the women's annex at Harvard College.

MESSRS. BLACK, of Edinburgh, are issuing a new illustrated edition of the *Waverley* novels, in twelve volumes.

THE admirer of the old religious classic of the "Imitation of Christ," by Thomas à Kempis, will welcome the book in the style of the parchment Shakespeare. The publishers announce in the same form the poems of Horace and French lyrics.

HONORABLE FREDERICK BILLINGS, of Woodstock, who purchased the library of the late George P. Marsh for fifteen thousand dollars and presented it to the University of Vermont, has now given that institution seventy-five thousand dollars for a library building.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY said in a recent lecture that he had no sympathy with a kind of sect or horde of scientific Goliaths or Vandals who think that it would be proper and desirable to sweep away all other forms of culture and instruction except those in physical science.

WONG CHING FOO, the editor of the Chinese-American, is about to begin the translation into English of "The Fan Yung," or, the Royal Slave, the most popular of Chinese historical novels. The romance was written two thousand two hundred years ago by Kong Ming.

LANDMARKS of English Literature, by Henry J. Nicoll, is an admirable attempt to simplify and abbreviate the learner's course through the immense accumulation of English literary production. The author has a clear view of the value of the best, and he winnows the wheat from the chaff with an unsparing hand.