

olies; and he was inclined to consider this a fair set-off for the loss of the judgeship.

This bringing on of the nationality question in appointments to public office is often deprecated, but so long as politics remain as they are it must continue. If mere ability were the determining factor in every Government appointment, there would be good ground for objecting to sections of country and minorities of the population clamouring for recognition; but, as everybody knows, ability does not go very far in matters of this nature. It is the "pull" that counts; and wherever the votes are there is the pull also. For this reason in any mixed community like that of Montreal the nationality that is greatly in the minority would be denuded in the course of time of every shred of representation in the civil service of the country if they did not insist upon a fair division of offices. Too great complaisance in this matter by the English minority of Montreal has cost them position after position during the last twenty years, and it will continue unless they show themselves jealous of their privileges. This they now, fortunately, show themselves inclined to do.

Dr. W. H. Drummond will probably issue shortly a volume made up of collections of his French-Canadian dialect verse. In this field the Doctor has no rivals. Most of our French-Canadian dialect stories and poems are chiefly remarkable for their lack of resemblance to English "as she is spoke" by the habitant. The charge of publishing bogus French-Canadian dialect could be made against a good many writers, some of them of note. But there are at least two Canadian writers who are complete masters of this dialect—William MacLennan and Dr. Drummond, both residents of this city. Two of Dr. Drummond's poems, "The Papineau Gun" and the inimitable "Wreck of the Julie Plante," are included in the collection of American humorous verse published by Walter Scott, of London. Nothing ever written in Canada has had the popularity of the "Wreck of the Julie Plante;" it is known all over the Dominion. Dr. Drummond has written other ballads and rhymes which have seen the light and others which have not, and could easily fill a tidy volume with them. It should be warmly welcomed when published.

Mrs. J. B. Hammond, whose novel of Canadian life was recently mentioned in these columns, is putting the finishing touches to a volume of short sketches and stories of the Sudbury mining district, where she lived for years. "The Story of an Old-Fashioned Family," which is the title Mrs. Hammond intended should go on her novel, was written several years ago, but only saw the light this year.

The Montreal branch of the Woman's Art Association of Canada is now at work again, sketching classes being held on Thursday evening and Friday afternoon. It is to hold an exhibition of unframed sketches and illustrations on October 28th. The branch is now trying to induce the Montreal artists to throw their studios open on certain days to art students and members of the general public interested in pictures. The Montreal organization is fortunate in its President, Mrs. J. H. Peck, who has laboured earnestly and intelligently and, therefore, successfully in its establishment. It is expected that during the winter the energies of the branch will be directed towards opening up new avenues of useful labour for women, for Mrs. Peck and her associates are progressive and enterprising women.

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### Dictionary of National Biography.\*

THERE are no names of the very first rank in this volume; but there are a good many of real distinction and interest; and few will pass from page to page and from article to article without being deeply interested in the lives of many of those who are here commemorated. Upon one event, which was much deplored at the time, we may now congratulate ourselves. We refer to the retirement of Mr. Leslie Stephen from the editorship of *The Dictionary*. It was a great loss; but it has brought this compensation, that Mr. Stephen contributes to the present volume, for example, some of the best of its articles, and more than he could have done if he had been responsible for the whole.

The present volume extends from Owens to Passelewe,

so that we have, near the beginning, the well-known name of Oxenden, and first among these, Ashton Oxenden, late Bishop of Montreal, and so specially interesting to us Canadians. Bishop Oxenden is gently and generously handled in this memoir. Of more importance are the Ovenhams, and first among them that clever, able, and slightly eccentric Henry Nutcombe Ovenham, well known as the author of a remarkable book on the Atonement, a convert to the Church of Rome, who could never be got to confess that his Anglican orders were invalid. But we passed by one who was formerly well known in certain circles, John Ovenford, the dramatic author and critic.

Passing on to the next letter, we come to the Pagets—a considerable clan, numbering among them statesmen, divines, and soldiers, conspicuous among them the first Marquis of Anglesey, the heroic cavalry officer at Waterloo, at which he left one of his legs, and subsequently Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. Soon afterwards we came to Thomas (better known as Tom) Paine, with his *Rights of Man* and his *Age of Reason*, who is dealt with in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, by Mr. Leslie Stephen. We are reminded here of the manner in which "good people" thought it right to slander a man who was not a believer in revelation, and of the possibility of such a man being sincere and earnest. Of course, many readers will take Mr. Stephen's account with a grain of salt; still we see no reason for doubting the general accuracy of his statements or the general justice of the estimate which he makes of Paine.

Pakenhams and Pakingtons might detain us, but we light upon a more striking and attractive figure in the person of Archdeacon Paley, the author of the *Natural Theology* and the *Evidences*, one of the most lucid and, if not very profound, yet candid and convincing writers in the whole round of English theology. It is fashionable to say that Paley is out of date, and so he is in the sense that the old musket is out of date, yet many of the current arguments for religion are only Paley's refurbished; and if it is said that many of Paley's were borrowed (!) that is only what might be said of every writer on any subject except the first. Upon the whole, we will find no fault with borrowers, if they can only manage to put their material into such shape as Paley does. Mr. Leslie Stephen has given us here an admirable and delightful picture of the brave, simple, rough old champion of religious faith and goodness, which makes us glad to think that it will be some time before he is forgotten.

Reference, if no more, should be made to two notices of the Palgraves, father and son, the one historian of Normandy, and the other author of one of the best books of travel that we know. Happily, another Palgrave (of the *Golden Treasury*) is still with us. The Palmers are also notable. William Palmer, of Magdalene, the learned ecclesiastic, brother of Sir Rundell, afterwards Lord Selborne, one of the most beautiful specimens of an English gentleman, lawyer, Lord Chancellor, who is also here admirably commemorated. Another (Sir) William Palmer, also a learned ecclesiastic, indeed, some think the most learned man of all the Oxford Tract leaders, to whom we are indebted for the admirable *Origines Liturgicae*. And there are many more Palmers—an immense number, in fact.

Mr. Hunt, as was to be expected, gives us an admirable article on Matthew Paris, as does Mr. Carr on Mungo Park. Of the many Parkers, we naturally turn to Matthew Parker, under whom, as Archbishop of Canterbury, what we may call the Reformation Settlement was reached. This article has been entrusted to Professor Barr Mullinger, who has done it in a thoroughly satisfactory manner.

One of the longest papers in the volume—the longest, we think—is an unsigned article on Mr. Parnell, executed with great care and exactness, as far as we can understand the matter, with very great fairness also, presenting before us the man as he was, as he lived, as he acted. "By his personal efforts he dragged the question of Ireland's legislative independence from the field of academic discussion into that of practical politics. . . . At heart he was a rebel. . . . He read little and had no intimate friends." The article is full of incisive remarks like these, and for many reasons deserves to be studied. Then we have Parr in considerable number, and Parry, and Parsons, some of these eminent in many different fields; and Partridge, the Almanack maker, and many others. A dictionary is thought to be dry reading. That cannot be said of the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

C.

\* "Dictionary of National Biography." Edited by Sidney Lee. Vol. XLIII. Owens—Passelewe. New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co., 1895.