

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

A MEMORIAL tablet has been put up at No. 19 Warwick Crescent, Maida Hill, where Robert Browning lived from 1861 to the summer of 1887.

DR. C. C. ABBOTT has written another suggestive book, entitled "Outings at Odd Times," which will be published immediately by D. Appleton and Company.

SIR DANIEL WILSON will lecture in Association Hall on Friday evening, 24th inst., on "One of Woman's Rights," in aid of the Newsboys' Lodging. A timely and eloquent lecture may be looked for in aid of a deserving object.

It is expected that the Imperial authorities will shortly allow the Copyright Bill passed by the Dominion Parliament of Canada to be enforced. Hitherto English regulations as to copyright have had equal force in Canada, but have been found to handicap the Canadian publishers too severely in their competition with American houses.

GOOD literature for the younger readers of this generation means the best possible literature; and this Messrs. D. Appleton and Company have endeavoured to provide in two series of books intended for readers between ten and seventeen years of age, but certain to prove of interest to all. In these series the best American writers offer interesting, wholesome fiction and tales of heroic deeds.

THE third year of the National Young Folks' Reading Circle provides for special courses of reading as well as a general course. The special courses include readings in English or American history, government, literature, etc., also courses in science and art. In the general course are included such authors as Hawthorne, Charles Kingsley, T. B. Aldrich, Louise Alcott, James Baldwin, Washington Irving, Horace E. Scudder, Mary Mapes Dodge, John Fiske, Walter Scott, etc.

OF the late Earl of Rosslyn a Scottish contemporary observes: "A kindly and serviceable man, he was extremely popular with his friends. He was a capital judge of a horse, and of a chef; more than once, we believe, he preached a sound and sensible sermon. He also wrote verse." His *vers de société* are what he will be remembered by. His epigram on Greville's "Memoirs" will not soon be forgotten. It begins:—

For fifty years he listened at the door,
He heard some secrets and invented more.

D. LOTHROP Co. have just published "Finding Blodgett," by George W. Hamilton; "A Real Robinson Crusoe," edited by J. A. Wilkinson; "How New England was made," by Frances A. Humphrey; a cloth, illustrated edition of the famous "Black Beauty"; "Out-of-Doors with Tennyson," edited by Eldridge S. Brooks, and the bound volumes "Babyland" and "Little Men and Women" for 1890. They also have ready new editions of the Red Line "Pilgrim's Progress," "Our Town" and "Five Little Peppers," by Margaret Sydney, and Dr. Stowe's compilation of religious thoughts, "Daily Manna."

NEWS comes from Mexico that a famous English romancer (perhaps finding England too small for himself plus Mr. Kipling) is about to "do" our sister Republic. A despatch of September 26 says: "Rider Haggard will arrive here early this winter and be a guest of T. Gladwynn Jebb, Managing Director of the Santa Fe Copper Mine in the State of Chiapas. Haggard proposes to visit that little-known State and penetrate its trackless forests, and also to visit the ruins of Palenque. He has been studying up the history and antiquities of Mexico in England, and has absolutely refused to read Wallace's 'Fair God' and other Mexican romances lest they should colour his mind. He prefers to gather his impressions at first hand. He will write a historical romance based on the ancient civilization of Mexico." Mr. Haggard must abstain from reading Mr. Janvier's "Aztec Treasure-House," as well as Gen. Wallace's "Fair God." In fact it might be just as well to stay away from Mexico altogether, and forget the little he may ever have known of its history. Then he could invent without restraint.

I HEARD it said in "the trade," some time ago, that there was a reaction against the vile and vicious in literature, but I fear the report had no foundation in fact. There may not be so great a demand for native vice in novels, but the taste for foreign vice is apparently increasing, and we have not the decency to pull even the flimsy veil of an unsuggestive title over it, but with brutal frankness tell the reader on the cover what he may expect to find inside. Yet if a man writes perfectly proper stories, he is sometimes treated with contempt. Thus the *Scots Observer* says of Mr. William Black: "His productions are read, either serially or in volume, in all the middle-class homes of Britain, in all the academies of cultured Philistinism. There is no need of a 'locked cupboard' for him; he may lie without offence or suspicion on the drawing-room table, and be read without a flutter by the most innocent maiden, for he reveals to her nothing she does not know or cannot readily guess." I fancy it is not altogether Mr. Black's morality, however, that irritates the *Observer* for there is this sting in the tail of the article: "But for him, in all probability, Hebridean seas would have remained unsailed by Yankee yachts, Highland moors and forests would have gone unrented by Yankee sportsmen, and Highland estates might perchance have escaped the many dollar and but indelicate attentions of Yankee millionaires." That is, perhaps, the real quarrel with the novelist. The difficulty is not so much his morals as our millions.—*Lounger in the Critic.*

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

A BROAD SIDE.

(Extemporized for Major McKinley to the air of "Maryland! My Maryland!")

A glorious future waits for you,
Canada! our Canada!
If to yourself you are but true,
Canada! our Canada!
And let not reciprocity,
Like Esau's Mess of Pottage, buy
Your birthright and your liberty,
Canada! our Canada!

I see a nation great and free,
Canada! our Canada!
Next to Old England on the sea,
Canada! our Canada!

I see great ships on every breeze
Bearing the wealth of Eastern seas
To pile it on Vancouver's quays,
Canada! our Canada!

Though foreign jealousy and greed,
Canada! our Canada!
Have on your labour war decreed,
Canada! our Canada!

Though from Columbia's borders hurled,
You'll find fresh ports in all the world,
Where e'er the Good Red Flag's unfurled,
Canada! our Canada!

The nerve which won the appalling day,
Canada! our Canada!
At Chrysler's Farm and Chateauguay,
Canada! our Canada!

Will steel you for the swordless war,
As in the fighting days of yore
Serene in battle's loudest roar,
Canada! our Canada!

Gnothi Seauton! look within,
Canada! our Canada!
Learn your own greatness, seek your kin,
Canada! our Canada!

Land of the wheat-field and the pine,
You have no need to play the vine,
And round an alien trunk entwined—
Arise, and a true nation shine,
Canada! our Canada!

—Douglas Sladen, in *The Dominion Illustrated.*

WHY HE RENOUNCED VEGETARIANISM.

DR. ALANUS, the former leader of the vegetarians in Germany, has renounced his faith, and resumed the use of animal food, says the *Medical Record* of Sept. 27. In a letter written to a local paper, he gives the reasons for his apostasy. He had lived for a long time, he said, on a purely vegetable diet without experiencing any ill effects, feeling no worse and no better than he had formerly while living as the rest of mankind. One day, however, he found that his arteries were apparently becoming atheromatous. He was unable to account for this, as he was not a drinking man, and was still under forty years of age. Finally he came across a statement by Monin, to the effect that abstinence from animal food was a fertile cause of atheroma. He could hardly have been much of a student of dietetics not to have come across that theory until his own arteries had become diseased. There is nothing like taking comfort out of everything, however; and he now consoles himself with the remark that he has "become richer by one experience, which has shown me that one single brutal fact can knock down the most beautiful theoretical building."—*Science.*

CANADIAN EGGS FOR BRITAIN.

THE McKinley Bill has come down upon the important Canadian egg trade with a heavy hand. Hitherto almost the whole of this class of export has gone to the United States. Last year the export to the States reached over 14,000,000 dozen, of the value of \$2,156,725; indeed, excepting barley, the exports of which to the States were last year of the value of \$6,500,000 the egg trade constituted the most important item of Canadian export to the States. This trade has hitherto been carried on under a free tariff, but from October 1st the duty is no less than five cents (2½d.) per dozen, and on the basis of last year's trade this would mean a toll of no less than \$700,550. In the face of these figures the Canadian egg exporter is naturally alarmed, and he has readily listened to the suggestion of the Canadian Premier that an effort should be made to divert this trade from the United States to the United Kingdom. The egg dealers of Toronto have met to consider the subject, and we shall no doubt hear shortly of experimental shipments. Such experience as the past has given is not, it must be admitted, altogether encouraging. Mr. D. Wilson, of Seaforth, Ontario, told the meeting that he once sent a car of eggs to England, and found so strong a prejudice against the imported article in the British mind that he lost money on the shipment. This is, of course, an isolated case, and there is at least some experience of a more encouraging kind. Dr. D. V. Beacock, of Brockville, Ontario; or instance, states that when in Eng-

land recently he met a London provision merchant who said he had received a shipment of 187 cases of Canadian eggs, which had arrived in good condition and given great satisfaction. Since Dr. Beacock's return to Canada this same merchant has written to him as follows, under date August 26th: "It just struck me that in your travels you might fall across some people having an idea of shipping eggs to London; and if so I should esteem it much if you would give my address to any person with this intention." It is thus evident that the British prejudice against Canadian eggs is not so overwhelming as Mr. Wilson's experience might lead one to imagine. And, in any event, the recent course of the cheese trade should have taught Canadians that if they have a good article to sell at a reasonable price the insular prejudice of the Britisher will soon give way. At present, practically, the whole export egg trade of Canada is done with the United States; the export to other countries was last year barely worth \$3,000. The enormous British importation of eggs from the Continent shows how little able British farmers are to supply the home demand.—*London-Canadian Gazette.*

EUROPEANS IN JAPAN.

JAPAN is not free from the difficulties which beset some of the Western nations in the imitation of whose methods she is proving so apt a scholar. Advices from Yokohama convey the intelligence that native feeling is running very high on the subject of the relations between the law and foreign residents. Hitherto a European living in Japan, if called to account for his actions, has had the privilege of being tried by consular court, native magistrates and judges having no jurisdiction in the matter. The people of Japan, who have during the present generation experienced a renaissance to which perhaps no parallel could be found, are beginning to feel more strongly the indignity to their institutions, which from some points of view may appear to be offered by this system. There are, of course, two sides to the question. On the one hand the European shrinks from the ignominy of submitting, should occasion arise, to the decision of a native of a State which, according to his own ideas, is but in the lower division of civilization's school. On the other the native thinks he has a right to demand that his country's laws shall be enforced in the way that the wise men of his land think fit, and he demands the recognition of this right in all future treaties with foreign States. A delicate and difficult task is therefore imposed upon those entrusted with the negotiations now going on in these wonderful islands of the East. No doubt they will exercise that discretion which is the soul of diplomacy, and do their best to bring about a settlement which all will loyally accept. In a country which is the theatre of so many startling experiments great caution may be necessary at the present juncture. No European, however, who has watched the astonishing adaptive powers of this curious Oriental people will doubt that, should their present rate of progress continue, they will be entitled to take rank with the nations of the West at no far distant day.—*Manchester Examiner, October 1.*

THE GREATEST OF TELESCOPES.

THE news of the arrival from Paris of one of the lenses for the object glass of the 40-inch telescope that is to be made by the Clarks of Cambridgeport, for the University of Southern California, has attracted considerable attention in the past week. It does not appear to be generally understood that the work of constructing the huge object glass that is to eclipse the Lick telescope, has but just begun, and that the most difficult and delicate part of it has not yet been touched. Not one lens only, but a second must be finished before the object glass is ready. That portion of a telescope consists of two lenses, one of flint and the other of crown glass, which by their differing refractive properties correct one another's chromatic errors and produce an image free from confusing fringes of coloured light. For two or three years the makers will slowly shape and polish the lenses, until every ray of light that passes through them is brought, as near as human skill can compass it, to one exactly accordant focus. When the glass is finished only some of the rarest of the world's great gems will rival it in money value. But the most interesting questions connected with the making of this huge telescope are: What will it be able to do; how much will its powers exceed those of the greatest telescopes now in existence; and what discoveries in the heavens may be expected from it? The most powerful telescope now on our planet is that of the Lick Observatory, whose object glass is 36 inches in diameter. The celebrated telescope of Lord Rosse, in Ireland, is much larger, it is true, being no less than 6 feet, or 72 inches, in diameter, but that is an instrument of a totally different kind, being a reflecting and not a refracting telescope. In a reflecting telescope there is no object glass, but the image of the object looked at is formed by a concave mirror, which brings the rays of light to a focus by reflection. Lord Rosse's telescope, owing to the vast size of its mirror, receives far more light from a star than the Lick glass does, but the lack of complete reflection from the mirror, and the imperfections in the mirror's form, more than counterbalance this advantage, so that for most of the purposes of astronomy California's Lick refractor is a far more effective instrument than its giant reflecting rival in Ireland. So it is with the Lick telescope that the new 40-inch glass should be compared. It is easy to compare the light-gathering powers of the two object glasses, since these vary directly as the