

The rival Paris *Salon* exhibitions of this year are fully described, and Ernest Kraufft—in addition to his seasonable hints about out-of-doors “Pen Sketchings” for use in the Magazines—has something to say about “Art in Indianapolis.”

WE have received “The Battle of Queenston Heights,” a Lecture by Ernest Cruikshank, delivered at Drummondville before the Lundy's Lane Historical Society, December 18th, 1889. A history of this memorable engagement can never fail to be deeply interesting to the lover of his country since it forms one of the pivots on which our history turns. In this lecture Mr. Cruikshank has brought together every necessary fact for the clear elucidation of the position. Starting at the return of General Sir Isaac Brock, after the taking of Fort Detroit, we are rapidly carried through all the surrounding circumstances which culminated at Queenston, learning alike the difficulties which fettered the British commander, and those which beset the American general, after a period of advantage which at one time promised him unqualified success. The engagement itself is most graphically depicted, the death of Brock, the energetic action of Macdonell, himself fatally wounded very shortly after, the intrepidity of the U.S. officer, Captain Wool, who tore down the flag of truce about to be raised when the fire and dash of the British under Macdonell and Dennis threatened to drive the foe off the crest of the hill—to be later accomplished by General Sheaffe, who came to the rescue in the afternoon with companies of the 2nd Lincoln militia, men from the townships of Stamford, Thorold, and Willoughby, a list of whose names is given from a copy of the muster-roll of Hamilton and Rowe's companies. Wisely Mr. Cruikshank has not omitted to record much that will interest the student of topography. The time comes to most places, however secluded they may at one period appear, when great changes occur, some from physical causes, some commercial; therefore in dealing with history it is well, as far as may be done with certainty, to record the physical character of the ground. Nor is the weather at the period of a marked occasion to be overlooked as of no importance. Physical conditions often modify greatly an historic event, and we see the ancients not insensible to this fact, so that Lucan tells us the topographical conditions under which Caesar entrenched himself in Spain, and of the field on which Pharsalia was fought. It is therefore legitimate history that tells us of the condition of the road from Fort Niagara to Queenston, of the swelling and turbulence of the river, and the hardships which the men had to cope with in consequence of the heavy October gales, and the cold pouring rain of the days previous to the fight. The lecture may be had at Williamson's, King Street, City.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

DR. NANSEN'S account of his recent expedition to Greenland is not to be published till October.

THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH has resigned the editorship of the *Atlantic Monthly*, and Mr. H. E. Scudder is his successor.

A COLLECTION of anecdotes of Lord Beaconsfield is being made by Sir William Fraser, and will be published in one volume.

A POSTHUMOUS work of Ritschl, the distinguished theologian, is to be issued shortly under the title “Fides Implicita.”

MESSRS. HUTCHINSON AND COMPANY will issue “The Lumley Wood Mystery,” by Mrs. G. A. Lethbridge Banbury, in a few days.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD is reported as having sold the American rights in his new poem, “The Light of the World,” to Mr. Henry Deakin.

A NOVEL on labour and strike questions, entitled “Innocent Victims,” by Mr. Hugh Downe, is forthcoming from Messrs. Remington and Company.

MR. HENRY J. MORGAN, of Ottawa, has obtained an interim copyright for a new biographical dictionary to be called “Canadian Men of the Time.”

A VOLUME of “English Lyrics,” by Mr. Alfred Austin, with a preface by Mr. William Watson, will be published in a few weeks by Messrs. Macmillan and Company.

FIVE thousand dollars is the price put upon each of the few existing sets of John Gould's “Birds.” The forty-three volumes, elegantly bound are fitted into carved cabinets.

AN annotated edition of Schiller's “Jungfrau von Orleans” will appear shortly from the Clarendon Press, as the tenth volume of Professor Buchheim's “Series of German Classics.”

THE No-Name paper in the July *Arena* is a poem entitled Progress and Pain. It is said to be written by one of the most accomplished essayists of America, a frequent contributor to the leading Reviews.

“TOXAR” is the title the author of “Thoth” has given to a strange tale which Longmans, Green and Company will soon publish; and “Toxar” himself is a crafty British slave who serves a Greek tyrant to the latter's eternal damage.

THE anonymous serial, “Jerry,” in *Scribner's* for July contains many striking pictures of the fermenting life in a Western town. It is announced as abounding in strong emotional and dramatic situations. It would be hard to determine, from internal evidence, whether the story was written by a man or woman.

BENJ. R. TUCKER, the Boston publisher, who recently scored one of the most notable successes of the year by his translation of Tolstoi's “Kreutzer Sonata,” will publish on Saturday, July 12, another masterpiece of fiction—“The Rag Picker of Paris,” by Félix Pyat.

GEORGE HOWE, a New Orleans physician, has written for the July *Scribner* a paper entitled “The Last Slave Ship,” in which he narrates an event of peculiar interest, and of which he was an eye witness. “Thirty years have elapsed,” he says, “and nearly all of those connected with that voyage must ere this have gone to their last rest.”

AN article on the South of France,—Avignon, Nîmes, Arles, etc.,—entitled “A Provençal Pilgrimage,” begins in the July *Century*. The writer is Miss Harriet W. Preston, translator of “Mirèio,” the Provençal poem by Mistral, and a close student of the interesting life and literature of that region. The text is accompanied by a number of Pennell's sketches.

TO-NIGHT Mr. Geo. Belford, who will be remembered as having met with considerable success in Toronto some two or three years ago, gives a recital in Princes' Hall, Piccadilly, London (Eng.), in aid of the Fund for Restoring Toronto University library. Mr. Belford's generous effort is made under most distinguished patronage and will, we trust, command great success.

IN October Messrs. A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago, will publish a new book on “Savonarola” by the Rev. Professor Clark, LL.D., of Trinity College, in this city. The life and times of the celebrated preacher, and political as well as religious reformer, will lose none of their surpassing interest in the hands of Professor Clark, who will make use of all recent discoveries respecting the famous Florentine in order to the completeness of the work.

BLISS PERRY, the author of “The Broughton House,” a novel published lately by the Scribners, is the professor of English literature in Williams College, and the son of Prof. A. L. Perry, the eminent political economist. This novel is the author's first book, but he has occasionally engaged in journalistic work, particularly in connection with the *Springfield Republican*.

THE Philadelphia *Press* says that Walt Whitman has chosen the place in which he wishes to be buried. It is in Harleigh Cemetery, about a mile from Camden—a natural mound, beneath fine large trees. About two hundred feet below it a stream of water flows over a precipice from an artificial lake. A driveway from the woods winds within a few feet of the spot.

SINCE the readers of *The Critic* elected an American Academy, early in 1884, nine of the “Forty Immortals” have passed away—namely, Richard Grant White, Henry Ward Beecher, James Freeman Clarke, Asa Grey, Theodore D. Woolsey, A. Bronson Alcott, Mark Hopkins, John G. Saxe and Edwin P. Whipple. The surviving members are now balloting for successors to their deceased fellow-academicians.

GEORG EBERS, the German novelist, who has long been a confirmed invalid, recently celebrated his silver wedding at Tutzing, on the borders of the Starnberg Lake. Mr. Alma Tadema and his wife went from London expressly to offer their congratulations to their old friend; his former pupils sent him a life-size statue of Champollion; and at dessert he himself read a romantic poem he had composed in honour of his wife.

THE *Pall Mall Gazette* hears that Tolstoi is seriously ill. “He has inflammation of the bowels; and, as those who have read his latest novel will be sufficiently aware, he has a bitter antipathy to doctors.” There is danger, the *Gazette* fears, of his emulating the “Peculiar People” in declining to have medical assistance, in which event the world is likely to have nothing more from the pen of the author of “Anna Karenina.”

THE *Sherbrooke Examiner* has in a recent issue an article by a well-known contributor to THE WEEK briefly examining the why and wherefore of the poor showing made by Canadian literature at the recent meeting of the Royal Society at Ottawa. The writer suggests that possibly the advent of a critic of the Sydney Smith type might stir up our young litterateurs “to use the materials which lie ready to their hands, and the latter more forcibly.”

“KEELY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENCE” is the title of an article which Mrs. Bloomfield Moore has written for the July number of *Lippincott's Magazine*. Mrs. Moore has been one of Keely's principal financial backers, and believes thoroughly in the inventor. She gives an idea of the subtle nature of the force with which Keely has to deal, and explains the causes of the delays which have again and again disappointed both the inventor and his supporters.

MORE portraits of Browning, one of which, from a photograph, shows him with his son standing by the corner of a Venetian palace, are the principal attractions of the July *Magazine of Art*. The Rembrandts, Terburgs, Jan Steens and Janssens of the National Gallery of Ireland are described and illustrated in an article by Walter Armstrong. Current Art is exemplified by some pictures from the Royal Academy exhibition. There is a poem by the late Lord Houghton on “Easter in Florence,” with a pictorial border. The frontispiece is an etching by Eugène Gaujean after “A Study of Cats” by Lambert.

IN London the *édition de luxe* of “In Darkest Africa,” issued at \$52, is already selling at a premium, though the book is not yet published. Copies cannot now be had for less than \$75. Major Pond has secured Mr. Stanley for a lecturing-tour in America, beginning in New York early in November. They have signed a contract for fifty lectures,

and the number may be increased to a hundred. The sum paid is understood to be the largest ever given for lecturing. Mrs. Stanley will accompany her husband. Canon Liddon is still considering a proposal to go to America, but it is thought to be unlikely that he will accept it.

DONALD G. MITCHELL, who has for forty years past endeared himself to American readers as “Ik Marvel,” is now 68 years of age. He lives quietly at “Edgewood,” his home since 1855, and which he has rendered so famous by his writings. Notwithstanding his advanced age he is still engaged in literary work and the sale of his last book, “English Lands, Letters and Kings,” shows that he still retains his strong hold upon the public. The first volume of the work was issued only last November, and his publishers, the Scribners, are already about to print a third edition, while the second volume, recently published, has sold proportionately well.

MR. ISAAC PITMAN, of Bath, England, the father of phonography, has opened an office at 3 East 14th Street, New York, for the sale of his shorthand books. The system of Pitman is, to-day, practically doing the shorthand-writing of the English-speaking world, the systems of Ben Pitman, Graham, Munson, and others in use in America being only alterations of the original Isaac Pitman system. There are, however, a great many students and writers of the “Isaac” style (which has now been brought to almost absolute perfection in England), and these will now have a rallying point, and be able to keep *en rapport* with the latest development of the original phonography.

IN a letter of recent date George Kennan, author of the famous Siberian papers published in *The Century Magazine*, writes: “I have just learned that my articles have been translated into Bulgarian and published at Rustchuk. They are now out in German, Dutch, Polish, Russian, and Bulgarian.” It has been stated on excellent authority that Mr. Kennan's articles have been read by the Czar of Russia, though in general the numbers of *The Century* which contain the Siberian papers continue to be refused admission to Russia until the obnoxious articles have been expunged by the press censor, a process known as “blacking out,” which was fully described by Mr. Kennan in *The Century* for May.

MR. FLETCHER HARPER, of the firm of Harper and Brothers, who died in New York last month in his sixty-second year was the younger of two children of Fletcher Harper, who was one of the brothers who formed the original firm. None of the first set of partners now remain, but the business has been strictly retained in the family, the five present members—Phillip J. (senior partner), Joseph W., Joseph H., John W., and John—all being sons or nephews of the founders. Mr. Fletcher Harper was at one time a part owner of the *New York Times*. He was admitted to the firm of Harper and Brothers in 1869, and had until recently special charge of the periodicals of the firm. He was a man of high intelligence and had a finely cultivated taste for art. Mr. Harper was a prominent Mason.

THE Czar has forbidden the publication of “The Kreutzer Sonata” in Russia; yet neither his conviction of the impropriety of permitting such a work to circulate in his dominions, nor his dislike of the author's social theories, prevented his attending, a few weeks ago, a performance of Tolstoi's latest production, a play called “The Fruits of Education,” which, according to the *Novoe Vremya*, is as radical in its teachings as anything the author has produced. It is generally believed that the theories advanced by Posdnicheff in “The Kreutzer Sonata” are those of Tolstoi himself; but it seems hardly credible that an author in his senses should choose as the mouthpiece of his views on matrimony a confessed sensualist and murderer, who, if he has not been crazed by his personal experience of married life, has at least become morbid with long brooding on the subject. Such a choice would indicate a like morbidness, if not mania, on the part of the writer himself.

OF two noted Cambridge men-of-letters, the correspondent of the Worcester *Spy* writes as follows: James Russell Lowell is recovering from his recent illness and divides the summer between Cambridge and Southborough. A friend of mine, a physician, who studied him with a scientific eye, says that he had a long conversation with Mr. Lowell within a week, and he had never seen the poet's keen analysis more skilfully put forth than in that informal discussion. Another Cambridge convalescent is Col. T. W. Higginson, who is again at his desk regularly. Col. Higginson takes a daily spin on a tricycle, running out to Belmont, Watertown, Arlington, or even Lexington. His little daughter often rides with him. She is about twelve years old, a child of uncommonly fine mind, so that her father represses rather than stimulates; indeed, he said, “I study to keep her ignorant.” Her only education is browsing in a library and hearing the conversations of distinguished visitors, and this is an education by no means to be scorned.

THE military commission of the Austrian army have established a law that the offence of intoxication is to be punished the first time by a public reprimand, and the second offence by several days' imprisonment in the guard-house. The third offence is evidence that the victim is suffering from a chronic disease, and he is placed under constant surveillance. His pay is taken out of his hands, and every means used to prevent him from getting money to secure spirits.—*Scientific American*.