

In an article on the death of Benjamin P. Shillaber, popularly known as "Mrs. Partington," in the *Chicago Graphic*, we find our Haliburton in eminently good company. "Mrs. Partington," it says, "and 'Iko' were established favorites in their day, dividing the honors with 'Sam Slick,' 'Sam Weller' and 'Mickey Free,' and for quaintness, originality and copiousness have scarcely been eclipsed by 'Doesticks,' 'Nabby,' or 'Bill Nye.'" The memory of the Judge is not being allowed to perish either at home or abroad.

Provincialists in Boston are taking an increased interest in the literature of the Provinces. A "Book-a-Week" Club is to be formed, arrangements have been made with publishers whereby, on certain conditions, books will be furnished for a merely nominal cost, provided a sufficient number of people are interested. Among the works arranged for are "Sam Slick," by Haliburton, "Baddeck and that sort of Thing," by Charles Dudley Warner, "In Divers Tones," by Prof. C. G. D. Roberts, and "Acadian Stories," by Grace Dean McLeod. All but the last named now cost one dollar a volume, and they will be supplied for twenty-five cents in paper covers, and for fifty cents in cloth covers. The plan of the club will be given at the Province concert in Tremont Temple on New Year's night. The object is to introduce among the Provincialists of New England such works as are written by their fellow countrymen, or works written by others on Provincial topics. It appears to be a good plan and ought to succeed in awakening a deeper interest in such works.

A young lady, Miss Marie Muriel Dowie, a granddaughter of the famous book-printing Scotchman, Robert Chambers, has been striking out in a very original manner. She explored the Carpathian Mountains alone "bestriding a mountain pony in all the glory of skirtless knickerbockers, walking the mountains barefoot, and roughing it on rafts," as an English magazine says. This was a notable feat, and the young lady's literary ability enabled her to write an article on her trip which she afterwards read before the British Association. Straight laced old fogies are shocked, and wonder what women will be up to next, but the wise heads of the British Association are delighted. The correspondent of the *London Daily News* describes her address as follows:—"The low, sweet voice; the real and the simulative naivete (one as good as the other); the original thoughts, the pretty bits of poetico-artistic description of places and peoples, the witty criticisms built upon a concrete of common sense, the information running, warp and welt, through the entire fabric—the paper, in short, from beginning to end, gave us one of the most delightful treats ever enjoyed at a British Association meeting. It was eloquent, clever, refined, womanly and vigorous." We have not heard much about this young lady, but it seems that she has made for herself almost as big a place in the rank of the women of England as Miss Fawcett made for herself a few months ago. That bright young woman, by the way, shows that her attainments extend beyond mathematics, by a simple and highly creditable article in the November *Contemporary Review* on "Child Marriage in India."

The International Copyright Act passed in the United States Congress on December 3rd, is an act of justice to authors, which, although tardy, is welcome. Last year the Copyright Bill was defeated by a narrow majority, and cry of "shame" came from all quarters when the result was made known. The attitude of the Senate on this question is favorable to the right side, and it is probable that it will pass the bill with all the promptness that can be expected of such an august body. The bill passed in Congress by a vote of 139 to 95. By this act foreign authors in countries extending similar privileges to authors in the United States will be enabled to secure copyrights. There is, however, a condition attached to this long desired concession. The work must be set up in type in the United States, or at least be produced from type set up there, a provision evidently devised in the interest of United States publishers. Even thus hampered the Copyright Act must be regarded as a blessing. The Copyright League has worked faithfully for this measure to establish justice, to protect indisputable rights, and to secure to a considerable body of men and woman the enjoyment and control of their own property. The net result of the operation of this bill, as it is understood by the practical and experienced representatives of each interest affected by it, will be in substance this: The writers will secure pay proportioned to the saleable quality of their work, and American and foreign authors alike will have the advantage of both markets; publishers will have the same advantage, and American printers and binders will have a larger demand for their labor. In the meantime the American reader will be able to get some books that he cannot get at all now, will get most of his reading at as low a cost as now, and much of it even lower, and will get it all honestly. The effect upon Canadian literature cannot fail to be favorable. All English speaking people will rejoice that the United States representatives have decided in favor of national honesty and fair dealing.

Mr. Oscar Fay Adams seems to have been unfortunate in his female acquaintances. In the *North American Review* he gives "fair woman" a going over that ought to shrivel her up. Here is what he says, and if it is true of some of his acquaintances we wish to say that it is not so of ours:—"But it is when fair woman goes a shopping that she becomes least admirable. Then her hand is raised against every woman who crosses her path. From the moment she pushes open the swinging doors of the first retail shop she enters, and lets them fly back into the face of the woman behind her, till she reaches her home again she has laid herself open at every turn to the charge of bad manners. She has in her progress made tired clerks

spend hours in taking down goods simply for her amusement, when she has not the smallest intention of purchasing from them. She has made audible comments upon 'the stupidity and slowness of these shop girls' She has swept off from loaded shop counters with her draperies more than one easily damaged article, which she has scorned to pick up and replace. She has jostled against other women and met their indignant looks with a stony, not to say insolent stare. She has needlessly blocked the way when others wished to pass her. She has carried her closed umbrella or sunshade at an angle that was a perpetual menace to any woman who came near her. She has put up her glass and stared haughtily through it at the gown of the woman next her at the bargain-counter. In her shrill, penetrating voice she has discussed in the most public places gossip reflecting more or less injuriously upon other people. She has, in short, done very little that she should have done, and very, very much that she ought not to have done; yet she returns from it all with a serene conscience than a mediæval saint coming home to the convent after a day particularly well filled with meritorious deeds. She will tell you complacently that a man can never learn to shop like a woman. And man can never be too thankful for his inability in this particular direction." Mr. Adams must be a misogynist.

A late number of the *Montreal Witness* makes a strong appeal for the universal adoption of standard time, and also of the 24 hour system. The questions may well be kept separate, as the one is more immediately important than the other. Doubtless in due time the 24 hour system, now employed on the Intercolonial Railway, will win general acceptance, but it is slow work overcoming a well-mooted prejudice. A change of the time standard, on the other hand, is a thing which can be accomplished almost imperceptibly. Everyone sets his watch a half hour ahead or a half hour back, and in a day or two the difference is forgotten. There is nothing new to learn about it, there is nothing to unlearn. It is surely ridiculous that Halifax, St. John, and the railway connecting them should have three separate standards on which to reckon their time. A Halifax man, with his watch set according to Halifax time, going to St. John by the Intercolonial knows that Intercolonial time is exactly an hour slower than his watch. In St. John, however, he finds himself hopelessly at sea. Presently he is told that St. John local time is thirty-six minutes ahead of the Intercolonial time. With this information he is supposed to look at his own watch, deduct twenty-four minutes from Halifax time and go his way in his right mind. But if this process has to be undergone frequently, and amid many distractions, the result must be discouraging to those who are not expert at mental arithmetic. In the afternoon and evening the problem may be further complicated by the necessity for another calculation to reduce the time from the twenty-four to the twelve hour system. If, as is not infrequently the case, one has also to correct for an error of say seven minutes and a half in his own timepiece, the difficulty becomes absolutely appalling. We have heard it said in St. John that Halifax men are slow. This is not true, but we may sometimes wear an air of abstraction while we are endeavoring to decide what time it really is. In all seriousness the inconvenience seems to us a real one, and the state of affairs an anomalous absurdity which should be speedily rectified. If the I. C. Railway authorities and the city of St. John would adopt the standard of the 60th meridian, which it was always supposed they would adopt, the travelling public would have reason to believe that they wished to keep abreast of modern civilization.

The action of the Government of New Brunswick in sending an agent to England to make known the advantages that Province offers to settlers is meeting with very general approval. It is understood that the Dominion Government intends to use the money voted by Parliament last session for immigration purposes, or a part of it, in the payment of bonuses to agricultural immigrants from the mother country settling in the North-West and British Columbia, and this has raised the question in the Maritime Provinces of why should we not have a share in whatever benefit may accrue from such expenditure of money. We do not agree altogether with the policy of bonusing settlers or of assisting immigration, for the reason that the class of immigrants which the country needs most would come without it, if they were only well informed as to the resources, suitability, climate, etc of either the older provinces or the North-West. Some good, of course, may be done by it, but we are of the opinion that a sufficient sum of money judiciously expended in spreading a knowledge of the whole Dominion in Great Britain and elsewhere would result in giving us a superior class of immigrants, a class that may at present be kept away by the bonusing system, as it might be inferred that the country was not quite what it is cracked up to be, when it is necessary to pay people to come to it. At any rate there is little reason why discrimination should be made in favor of the North-West. In the Maritime Provinces there is much fruitful farming land unoccupied, which will return as good results to the farmer as the land in the North-West. Another thing is that the bonuses offered in the North-West allure many of the eastern people away, and this is scarcely fair. We are Canadians first, but we want to see the provinces "down by the sea" have an equal chance with our western territories. The action of the N. B. Government is a wise one and we hope to see good results from it. A thoroughly in earnest man, one who will not think he is off on a pleasure excursion, but who will do his eloquent best to persuade settlers to choose his native province as their future home, will, we fancy, do more to bring about the desired result than any amount of bonusing. If the Dominion Government would adopt this plan there is little doubt but that the European immigration would receive an impulse, for Canadians believe that all that is needed in order that Canada should become the favorite land for immigrants is that its climate and resources should become well known.