

the Jew shall have the pound of flesh: but the Jew is told that the bond does not give him one drop of blood and—

"In the cutting of it, if thou dost shed
One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods
Are, by the laws, of Venice, consecrate
Unto the state of Venice."

The Jew is utterly foiled; he has a right to a pound of flesh, but he is afraid to take it, as he cannot get it without shedding Christian blood, and thus forfeiting his property to the state; and to make the matter worse for poor Shylock, he is accused of having broken the law in seeking the life of a citizen. Now if there was such a law, making it illegal to seek the life of a citizen, then the bond given by Antonio was void *ab initio* and the question as to whether the penalty could be enforced would never have been entertained for one moment by the Court; and if there was no such statute, and

"Lawfully the Jew might claim
"A pound of flesh, to be by him cut off
"Nearest the Merchant's heart,"

then he would have been entitled to shed blood in getting it; for where anything is granted, everything requisite for the proper enjoyment of it is also granted; so that the right to shed blood being a necessary appurtenance to the right to take the flesh, would have been necessarily included in it.

From this and other instances, we conclude, that although the Bard of Avon did in his youth spend some time in the office of an attorney, and did acquire some knowledge of law there, still that he was very like the majority of "the young limbs of the law" of the present day, and paid more attention to, and thought more of, the fairer portion of the children of men than of the productions of Glanvil, Bracton or Fleta; and delighted more in the chase than in the dry and ponderous volumes of statutes and text-books.

KINGSTON, C. W.

V.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND MONTHLY.

The Prospectus of a Church of England monthly, to be published in this city, under the title of "The Church of Old England," has been issued by Mr. John P. McMillin, a Southern gentleman now residing in Montreal. The proposed monthly will contain thirty-two pages royal 8vo. Subscription one dollar per annum. We believe the first number will be issued in March, if in the meantime subscribers can be procured to cover expenses.

We have received two useful little works from Mr. C. Hill: "Day's American Ready Reckoner," which contains many useful tables, adapted to the country merchant, the mechanic, the lumberman, and, in fact, to all who are called upon to deal with figures and are not specially expert; also, "Martinez' Letter Writer," which is replete with models—and, as far as we can see, judicious ones—for correspondence on every possible aspect of social and mercantile life.

THE MAGAZINES.

GOOD WORDS. Strahan & Co., Montreal.

SUNDAY AT HOME. Strahan & Co., Montreal.

The magazines for February are beginning to arrive. In "Good Words" the "Madonna Mary" is continued, and the scene of the story transferred to England. "The Old Yeomanry Weeks" is a pleasant sketch of the days which preceded volunteer reviews. "A Frenchman's Impression of England a Century ago," by Dean Alford, will be specially interesting to those who know something of London as it is. There are several articles of a more thoughtful character, and an amusing poetical sketch concludes the number. "The Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood," which are told with great ability, constitute, to us, the chief attraction of "The Sunday at Home." "Millicia of Prague" is an interesting sketch of the days when religious persecution was rife in Old England. Among the other articles we notice an interesting sketch of Frederick W. Robertson, whose "Life" was reviewed in the READER a few weeks since.

CANADIAN LITERATURE.

We recently announced the forthcoming publication, from the Canadian press, of a new work from the pen of Mr. Morgan, and the probable issuing of a second edition of Mr. Sangster's "St. Lawrence and the Saguenay;" and we now have much pleasure in giving our readers some further intelligence with regard to literary movements in the Province. Messrs. Chewett & Co., of Toronto, have in press a work on Trigonometry, by Professor Cherriman, of University College; and the same enterprising publishers will soon commence the publication of a second edition of the Common Law Procedure Act, by Mr. Harrison, the able Western law writer. Messrs. Rollo & Adam, of the same city, will shortly produce a work on the Canadian Oil Fields, by Mr. Edgar, a Barrister of the "Queen City." We also hear of a Life of the late estimable Chief Justice Robinson as being nearly ready for the printer's hands; and of a well-known Canadian journalist and author as being engaged on a Life of the late Honourable Robert Baldwin, with Memoirs of his time. We learn, too, that Mrs. Somerville, of Dundas, has in contemplation the issuing of a collected edition of her poems; that Mr. Isidore G. Ascher, one of the best of our Canadian poets, who is now residing in London, and contributes to *Coburn* and *Bentley*, is to bring out a new volume in verse during the summer season; that a young gentleman in Upper Canada, who lately graduated with high distinction at one of our universities, is also preparing a series of tales and sketches for the London market; and that a former well-known contributor to the *Reader* is busily engaged on a work which will see print in a short time. We bespeak for all these efforts the highest success. By the way, what has become of the novel which it was said the late Mr. Cyrille Boucher had nearly got ready at the time of his death?

LITERATURE IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.*

Two works have lately come to us from our cousins in the Maritime Provinces, which claim more than a mere passing notice. The first, a valuable addition to the historical literature of British America, and one which must have cost more than the ordinary labour and research which such a literary undertaking requires, is from the pen of Mr. Beamish Murdock, Q. C., a name well known in Nova Scotia, not only for his services in the cause of our youthful literature, which we are all so desirous of fostering and serving, but from his having held various offices of importance under the crown, and being now one of the oldest living members at the Halifax bar. The other—a volume of poems—the production of a young lady, Miss Lockerby, who is now first introduced to the literary public.

Mr. Murdock's work (so far as published) commences with the history of French discovery, colonization and adventures in Acadie in 1604, and the 1st vol. brings the narrative down to 1739. Of the 2nd vol. four numbers have appeared, bringing it down to a later date—1756. The theme is a most romantic and inviting one, well worthy of engaging the pen of a Prescott or an Irving. Mr. Murdock has brought one good quality to his task necessary in a historian, a determination to write from history and documentary evidence, and not from vague, uncertain and often false tradition. The array of authorities which he quotes quite appals us. His style is clear and comprehensive, and free from any laboured effort. The "Wild Brier" is a model of excellence, coming as it does from our "tight little island," on the seaboard. The printing and binding is neatly if not elegantly done, and the work has been stereotyped too, and all on the Island! The contents of the volume compare favourably with many of the same class which emanate from the American or Colonial press. The descriptive powers of Miss L. are considerable, and,

* "History of Nova Scotia or Acadia." By Beamish Murdock, Esquire, Q. C. Halifax, N. S.: A. & W. Mackinlay, vol. 1, 1865, pp. 643.

"The Wild Brier: or Lays by an untaught Minstrel." By E. N. L., Charlottetown, P. E. I. G. Bremner, 1866, pp. 196.

if properly cultivated, will bear good fruit. Her versification is pleasant and smooth. The book breathes a spirit of religious quiet and contentment throughout. We cannot do more in the present instance than announce the appearance of these two meritorious productions, which are really entitled to more extended notice, apart from the fact that anything written in the Lower Provinces, at the present time, when we are probably on the point of being united with them, ought to receive superior consideration and welcome.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

The second volume of the "Life of Cæsar," by the Emperor Napoleon, will not be issued yet. Several cancels and alterations in the text have, we hear, been made by the Imperial author during its progress through the press.

The *Paris Patrie*, in its survey of the events of 1865—the year of the conclusion of the American war, of the death of Lincoln and Palmerston, and of sundry other events—finds nothing in it worth remembering hereafter save the Emperor's "Vie de Jules Cæsar."

The friends of William Carleton, the Irish novelist, who is now seventy years old and in failing health, are exerting themselves to procure for him an increase of 50*l.* to his literary pension.

M. du Chaillu announces that he is about to give another volume of Travels and African experiences to the world. In it will be contained a full account of the small and peculiar tribes of natives met with by him in the mountains of Western Equatorial Africa between 1° and 2° north latitude, and 12° east longitude. This tribe of pigmies, termed "Obougo," may, M. Chaillu thinks, be considered the gipsies of the region. They are of migratory habits, and find a temporary shelter under trees or in caverns, and steal and then decamp. In the proposed work, besides other details concerning these little people, a short vocabulary of the language will be given.

The recent extraordinary articles in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, entitled "A night in a Workhouse," are said to be from the pen of Mr. Anthony Trollope. They have been reprinted in pamphlet form.

A new feature has been introduced into Shakespearean criticisms. We have heard much about the various subjects mentioned by him, but we are now threatened with notices of the things which he did not mention. In the current number of *Notes and Queries*, Mr. Walter Thornbury has an article on "Shakespeare's Silence concerning Smoking," and he promises others on "Shakespeare's Silence about Scotchmen and Silver Forks."

Literature and science are gradually becoming recognized as entitled to honours, as yet but sparingly apportioned to them. Professor Simpson, of Edinburgh, has had a baronetcy conferred upon him by the Queen.

The corporation of London have voted the use of the Guildhall for the purposes of an Industrial Exhibition to be inaugurated on the 1st of March next. In return the committee of the Industrial Exhibition have determined to devote the surplus funds, if any, to the establishment of a Free Public Library for the City of London. Why should we not have a Free Public Library in Montreal and other Canadian cities?

M. Sayers has recently discovered a substitute for the magnesium light, which promises to be of much service to photographers. Twenty-four parts by weight of nitrate of potash, seven parts of flowers of sulphur, and six parts of red sulphide of arsenic, are thoroughly mixed. This composition, when set on fire, affords a most brilliant light, and the negatives produced with it give excellent positives. The contrast between the lights and shades, which, with artificial light, is apt to be very great, may be easily softened down by igniting at once two portions of the mixture; one, the more powerful, to light up the subject, and the other to modify the tones. It has been found that about half a pound of the mixture will afford light for half a minute,