

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE INDUSTRIES OF LUCCA.

The British Consul at Leghorn, in his last report, says that Lucca, which is known as "the industrious," owes its existence as a busy manufacturing centre chiefly to its abundance of running water. The river Serchio on which it is situated, and its tributary, the Liana, both have their sources in the Apennines. The great number of torrents help to swell the rivers and add to the available horse power. The principal industrial establishment of the district is that of Messrs. E. Balsareri & Co., of Pontorna-Moriano, where the spinning and weaving of jute, as well as of hemp and flax, are carried on. The establishment has been in existence as a jute mill for about 12 years, but the flax and hemp industries have only lately been introduced. There are about 2,700 spindles in the jute mill. It has been working with very good results, except during the last two years, when the high prices of raw jute were not followed by an advance in the spun and woven article. The flax and hemp spinning has not yet been carried on long enough for an opinion to be formed on its ultimate success. The mills have about 700-horse power at their disposal. The largest cotton mill in the district is that of Signor Schecalugo, which has about 40,000 spindles and employs nearly 800 workpeople. American and Indian cotton are used for spinning and the enterprise has proved a profitable one. The Italian Sewing Thread Manufacturing Company manufacture cotton and linen sewing thread. They have about 200-horse power (water) at their disposal, and 80-horse power (steam) and employ from 600 to 700 hands, as they also do their own twisting, bleaching, and dyeing. They principally supply the Italian market, but also do some business in the East. Wooden thread spools, for use in the local thread factories, are manufactured by Messrs. Pavoni, whose establishment is a large and important one of the kind. But the industry of which Lucca is most renowned, and which has chiefly earned for her the historic title of "l'Industriosa," is the spinning of silk. The silk of Lucca maintains its superiority to any other manufactured in Italy, and this is chiefly due to the skill of the workwomen, who take an intense pride in their work and in the traditions of Luccese excellence which are handed down from one generation to another in the spinners' families. —The Times.

A design for the memorial to be erected in Boston to John Boyle O'Reilly has been accepted by the committee in charge of that undertaking. D. C. French is the author of the successful design, and the contract has been awarded to him.

The indications point to-day to one of the largest crops of sugar cane ever harvested by the planters of Louisiana. The yield of sugar last year, in round numbers, had been set down by a conservative and well-informed sugar dealer as 450,000,000 pounds. The same authority, from the present outlook, says that the yield this year may confidently be expected to reach the very handsome total of 550,000,000 pounds. This would be an increase in yield of a full 100,000,000 pounds over the crop harvested last year. The yield in fact, may be said to be the greatest which Louisiana has ever produced. —New Orleans Times-Democrat.

PUBLIC OPINION.

London Advertiser: The Conservative leader argues that the plebiscite would be unconstitutional, but Sir Oliver Mowat, the victor in every constitutional struggle he has undertaken, has given his adherence to the plebiscite. He knows that a popular vote throughout the Dominion, no more violates British constitutional principles, than does a popular vote in the municipalities.

St. John Telegraph: All these elements, save the old line Conservatives, demand much more sweeping tariff reduction and reform than the Ministerial party are prepared either to give or promise. This affords a strong indication that the N. P. protection policy is no longer a name to conjure with in Ontario. In fact, the big province, which turned the scale for protection in 1878, is now, apparently, ready to reverse its verdict.

Quebec Chronicle: The "Valkyrie's" arrival at New York has been duly described. She is a fine vessel, and made the voyage across the Atlantic in very good time, considering the instructions which her commander received from her owner, Lord Dunraven—a splendid specimen of the British sportsman, and the author of a most interesting work, entitled *The Great Divide*. The "Vigilant" is the "Valkyrie's" rival on this occasion, and she, too, is a very good boat. The whole world seems to be deeply interested in the result of the contest, which has assumed a national significance and importance.

Montreal Witness: There are, indeed, many advantages to be derived from faithful work as officer or committee-man of some social or charitable organization. Not to mention the sacrifice of self that it entails, it gives valuable education in the calm and temperate discussion of definite subjects; it gives a knowledge of affairs; conduces to familiarity with the problems of the day; establishes one's character as a useful, intelligent, and reliable man, and is often the means of introducing people who can be of the greatest service to each other. Let the young who have energy to spare, aspire to the service of their fellow men in every way that is open to them.

Manitoba Free Press: Briefly stated the purpose of the association (for the taxation of ground values) is to aid in the return of members of Parliament and of county councils, who are pledged to advocate the appropriation of ground values for public purposes, as a matter of justice and expediency. It is claimed that land values, exclusive of improvements, are created by the industry of the community, and are maintained by public expenditure, and it is expedient to appropriate them as proposed, because the present system of taxation upon industry, discourages the beneficial employment of labour and capital. The transfer of taxation from labour to land values, would relieve industry of a crushing burden, while, at the same time, it would induce landlords to put land to its best use, or else to dispose of it to those who labour or employ labour upon it, thus causing an increased demand for labour, and promoting the general well-being of the community.

C. C. RICHARDS & CO.

Gents.—My daughter was suffering terribly with neuralgia. I purchased a bottle of MINARD'S LINIMENT and rubbed her face thoroughly. The pain left her and she slept well till morning. Next night another attack, another application resulted as previously, with no return since. Grateful feelings determined me to express myself publicly. I would not be without MINARD'S LINIMENT in the house at any cost.

J. H. BAILEY,
Parkdale, Ont

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO.'S

NEW BOOKS.

The Witness to Immortality, in Literature, Philosophy, and Life.

By Rev. Dr. GEORGE A. GORDON, of the Old South Church, Boston. 12mo, \$1.50. Dr. Gordon here presents the fruits of thoughtful study on the Immortal Life in the Scriptures, in the world's deepest poetry and philosophy, in the Epistles of Paul, and in the life and words of Christ.

A Japanese Interior.

By ALICE M. BACON, author of "Japanese Girls and Women." 16mo, \$1.25. A book of equal value and interest, describing, from personal observation, Japanese home and school life, theatres, traveling, hotels, temples, food, dress, dolls' festivals, wrestling contests, curio men, fireworks, the climate earthquakes, etc.

The Son of a Prophet.

By GEORGE ANSON JACKSON. 16mo, \$1.25. An historical story of great interest, giving a view of times and persons possessing a kind of sacred fascination. The scene is in Palestine and Egypt in the reign of King Solomon, and the author is very successful in his attempt to create the character of a man who wrote the wonderful Book of Job.

Sam Houston and the War of Independence in Texas.

By ALFRED M. WILLIAMS, author of "The Poets and Poetry of Ireland." With a Portrait and Map. 8vo, \$2.00. A valuable and interesting book, both as a history of Texas and a biography of Houston, who had a very remarkable career.

The Petrie Estate.

A clever story of the losing and finding of a will, of the course of true love, and thereby, with many other elements of interest. By HELEN DAWES BROWN, author of "Two College Girls." 16mo, \$1.25.

Rutledge.

A New Edition, from new plates, of Mr. Harris's very popular novel. \$1.25.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO., Boston

Wedding Invitations, "At Home" and Visiting Cards,

ENGRAVED OR PRINTED.

* Correct in Style, and at Fair Prices. ORDERS PROMPTLY FILLED.

Write for particulars to.....

"The Week" Printing Department, 5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

The principality of Ratzeburg celebrates a queer anniversary this year, the twenty-fifth anniversary of a quorum in its representative assembly.

Minard's Liniment for Rheumatism.