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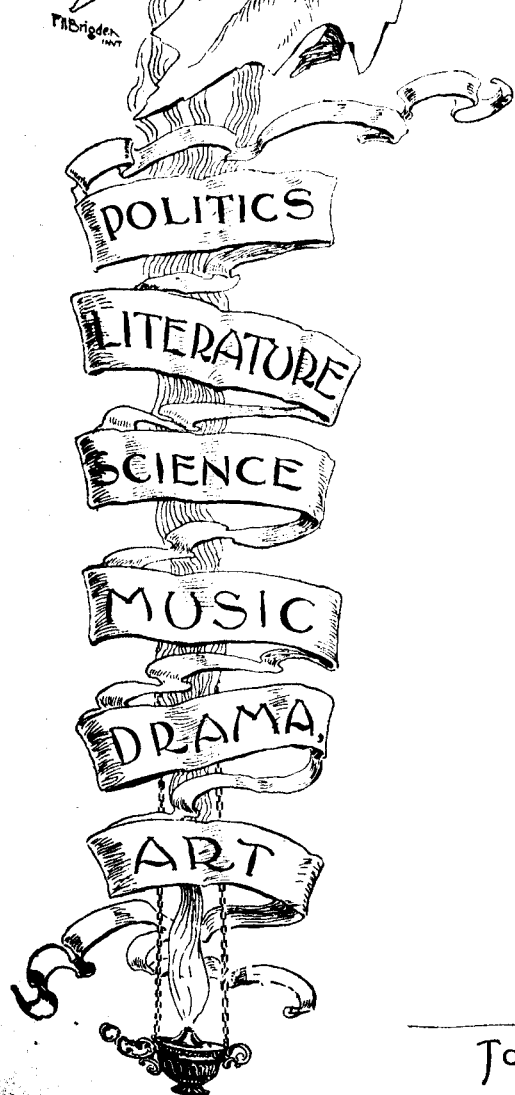
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THE WEEK.

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Current Topics.

The choice of Sir Donald Smith to be High Commissioner of Canada in London is well received on all hands. Sir Donald is also sworn in as a Privy Councillor. That step is most appropriate. The object of the office is to have in England a Canadian ambassador. A rich man should be appointed in order that he may discharge the social functions necessary to keep the country prominent. Too many of our politicians appear to ignore entirely this side of life. We all have to work so hard in Canada that we are apt to forget the claims of society. Sir Donald Smith can and will answer these claims most satisfactorily. Then it is always well to have an agent on the spot—one who can represent verbally Canada's necessities and wishes. So much can be said which cannot be written. In old colonial times, the Colonies had their agents in London. They were there looked upon as paid agents more than as political appointees. The presence in London to-day of agents for all the Colonies is attributable to two things—first, to promote the general interests of the Colony, and next, to secure immigration. These two points are part of the scheme of the federation of Greater Britain and as far as Canada is concerned they can not be trusted to a better man than Sir Donald Smith. We look for the very happiest results from his appointment.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell's Resignation.

The late Premier (for so we must now call him), Sir Mackenzie Bowell, has practised the virtue of retirement. He is no longer Premier of Canada. His tenure of office was stormy and short. When he succeeded to the position he was handicapped by much difficulty. If Sir John Thompson had lived he would probably have encountered the same troubles as Sir Mackenzie Bowell. The latter received as a legacy the disturbing Manitoba Schools question. He pledged the French-Canadian ministers that a measure would be introduced on the lines of the decision of the Imperial Privy Council. Exactly under what circumstances that pledge came to be given is not yet known. But when Sir Mackenzie met his English speaking colleagues then his difficulties began. The McCarthy wing of malcontents saw their chance. Pressure was brought to get the pledge made by the Premier withdrawn. In this crisis Sir Mackenzie was firm. His Ministry seemed on the point of collapsing and he had the game in his own hands. If he resigned, the Liberals

would be called on to form a Ministry and the Conservatives would have to face a general election immediately. The Conservative party saw the position. The bolters came back, and Sir Mackenzie triumphed. The victory was dearly bought. He secured the fulfilment of his pledge and he gave a chance to the Conservative party to rally. But he himself was sacrificed. History now has to record the curious fact of the fall of an Orange Premier because he tried to aid the Roman Catholics to get Separate Schools.

The New Premier. Sir Charles Tupper now reigns. He has, in many respects, the qualifications necessary for his high position. He can deal

with large matters in a large way and has also that capacity for detail without which no man can achieve great things. Having been in touch for so long with the centre of the Empire he will have learned that knowledge of the main-springs of policy which other politicians who have only local knowledge cannot gain. But he has also some things to unlearn. The very fact of his having Imperialist sentiments is against him with a section of the people of Canada, who have what may be called a Provincial tone of thought. They are nervously afraid that the interests of Canada will be sacrificed to Imperial requirements. Sir Charles may expect to find a good deal of difficulty with these people. Then, again, as he himself has been for some time out of active Canadian politics his re-appearance is, to some extent, a resurrection—and in politics there is no resurrection. Then, again, Sir Charles is not as young as he was—but he has not lost any of his powers of hard hitting. His opponents will still find him active enough. The greatest objection urged against him is his reputation, well or ill deserved we do not pretend to say, for persuasive methods in politics, that kind of method which in old times Philip of Macedon used against Demosthenes. When Sir Charles and Sir John Macdonald were in their glory times were flush and there was plenty of money to spend among the constituencies. Those days are gone. If there is any money to be spent now it must come from the "party." But in spite of all the objections which may be urged against Sir Charles Tupper, he is undeniably a strong man—the strongest man the Conservative party could have chosen—in fact, almost the only man they could have served under. He has courage, tenacity, eloquence, and great powers of carrying a policy to its practical and logical conclusion. If he succeeds in retaining the reins of power we may rely on his making history for us. His task is to choke off the Manitoba school matter and direct the attention of the electorate to trade questions.

The Sohmer Park Meeting.

It is very unpleasant to observe how remarkable is the difference between the Liberal and the Conservative reports of the Sohmer Park meeting in Montreal last Friday evening. According to the Montreal Gazette and the Toronto Mail and Empire the meeting was practically a failure—"compared with the Laurier meeting of a few months ago in the same place it was a dismal fiasco." But, according to the Montreal Herald and the Toronto Globe, never was such a meeting held in Canada,—“it was the largest and most enthusiastic gathering ever seen in the Canadian metropolis.” With regard to the attendance the Conservative papers place the number at between five and six thousand at the outside limit; the Liberals claim fully twelve thousand. A difference of six thousand in the estimate is a little too much. But when the party journals of one side deride the meeting as a fiasco and those of the other proclaim it a magnificent

and unequalled ovation, we are not unprepared for very different figures touching the number of the audience. The journals quoted are the leading newspapers of the Dominion which plume themselves on their eminent respectability and invariable trustworthiness. Now it is evident that magnifying and belittling carried on to this extent is nothing more nor less than downright lying, and its evil effects must be widespread. There is no excuse for it, and the papers themselves lose far more than they gain. Indeed, we doubt if they or their party ever gain anything even temporarily by the publication of untrue reports. The confidence and respect of the community cannot be enjoyed by the journal which trifles with the truth.

A Tribute to
Mr. Laurier.

Having read these conflicting reports and studied with care the speeches delivered on the occasion we have come to the conclusion that Mr. Laurier's meeting was a success, but not quite the success the Liberal papers say it was. But Mr. Laurier has every reason to feel deeply pleased at the splendid reception he himself received; and if his speech was a little disappointing, if the audience felt that something was lacking in it, if they wanted something new and something strong and did not get it—perhaps the great company of people expected too much, for it was a company with great expectations. Perhaps the new and strong things are to come by and by, though many supposed that the "platform" was to have been laid down that night in the sight of all the people. The meeting was a fine tribute to Mr. Laurier's influence and popularity. Indeed, his charming personality is always irresistible. Surrounding him was the flower of the Liberal party, and speaker after speaker paid marked homage to the hero of the evening. There is evidently no division amongst the Liberals respecting their leader whatever difference they may have respecting the trade policy of the country. Mr. Laurier defined the Liberal fiscal policy to be a gradual modification of the present tariff, not its destruction. The welfare and interests of both farmers and manufactures are to be carefully considered. The Liberal tariff will bear lightly on the farming community, but at the same time greatly stimulate the manufacturing industries of the Dominion. Mr. Laurier sees how this difficult thing is to be done, but he did not stop to explain how it is to be done. With regard to the everlasting Remedial business Mr. Laurier vigorously protested against being made responsible for the withdrawal of the Bill, and once more repeated his plea for conciliation, and his sympathy for the down-trodden minority. Amongst the other speakers were Hon. Mr. Harcourt, Ontario's Treasurer, Hon. L. H. Davies, Mr. D. C. Fraser, Mr. Tarte and Mr. James McShane.

English
Opinion.

The London papers do not quite know what to think of the recent severe obstruction in the Canadian Parliament. The Times commiserates Sir Charles Tupper and says fate has not been kind in plunging him into such a controversy on his re-entry into Canadian politics. The Morning Post remarks that "the occasion which has produced this extraordinary energy on the part of Canadian legislators is the Committee stage of the Manitoba Schools Bill. If there was the slightest chance of the measure becoming law one could understand such heroic devotion to duty. But seeing that the Bill contains one hundred and twelve clauses, of which only three have been voted, and that the life of the present Parliament must terminate in a fortnight's time, it is difficult to understand the motive which prompts the Dominion Government to persevere to the bitter end. Scenes such as this only tend to excite public opinion in the

Colony, while all hope of the Schools Question being a minor consideration at the General Election must now be abandoned. This is a great pity, as not only are religious differences at issue, but Constitutional questions, such as the right of the Federal Parliament to interfere with Provincial legislation, are also involved. Without in any way dealing with the merits of the Bill, it should not be forgotten that the Canadian Government are merely upholding the rights of the Constitution in pressing legislation in the matter upon the Federal Parliament. At the same time it would seem more dignified to let the issue be fought out in the constituencies. To try and force a measure in the last hours of a dying Parliament is not good policy if the party in office wishes to return to power." The St. James Gazette does not approve of the cry "Hands off Manitoba." It observes that "it is upon this electioneering cry that the Liberal obstructionists in the Dominion Parliament are fighting the Bill to restore the rights of Catholics to denominational teaching in the great Province in the North-West. Like most cries invented to tickle the ears of the electorate and draw votes into the party net, it is of a specious, if not dishonest, character."

The Triple
Alliance.

The recent meetings of the German Emperor with King Humbert at Venice and with the Emperor Francis Joseph at Vienna were interesting and important events. It was admitted that the object of William's journey was to renew the Triple Alliance for five years from 1897. The Kolnische Zeitung, the organ of the Berlin Foreign Office, makes the journey the text for a little essay on the Vatican. "The times have changed," it says, "but the Vatican has remained the same. It still clings ever steadfastly to the old dream of bringing the world under the sovereignty of the crowned prelate. It has remained as it was before, inwardly hostile to the very existence of the State, and incapable of relinquishing the idea of developing itself into a State universal. At the same time, it is deeply imbued with the conviction that only the path which it points out is the path of truth, and so far it is always a danger to intellectual liberty, which has only found a safe home within the framework of the modern State. But there is no longer any cause for fear. Public opinion during the last few days has been very much occupied by the fact that the German Emperor has shown special favour to a Cardinal of the Roman Church, while his brother, Prince Henry, as his representative, has paid a visit to the Pope. Anxious minds may be reassured. The eminently peaceful character of the Emperor's tour has been visibly displayed by these acts. In view of the strained relations existing between the Vatican and the Quirinal their object was manifestly to point out to the world that no difference is made in demonstrations of friendly feeling. In order, however, to place an accurate construction alike on personal and political circumstances attention need only be drawn to one obvious point—namely, that it has not happened that the Emperor in a tour to Italy has exchanged greetings with the Pope without visiting the King, but, *vice versa*, he has visited the King without seeing the Pope. And so will it remain in the future.

The Irish Land
Bill.

The new Irish Land Bill is a vast measure but it seems to meet with general approval. It is fair to the landlords and yet offers boons to the tenants which the Nationalist's leaders hardly dare oppose. Much is said in favour of "the able and ingenious purchase clauses under which the Irish tenant will get the annuity he pays for the freehold reduced every ten years for the next thirty years." The estates "that are lying rot-

ting in the Encumbered Estates Court are to be made to feel the revivifying effects of purchase," and "a quasi-automatic readjustment of rents every five years is to be introduced if both sides are willing." The tenants are to have the value of their improvements secured to them. The Times, in the course of a rather non-committal editorial, says:—"Whatever else may be said of the Irish Land Bill, introduced by Mr. Gerald Balfour, it must be admitted that it is a measure covering a large area and embracing a great number of highly debatable and extremely technical questions. This was acknowledged by the Chief Secretary himself, and was insisted upon by Mr. Morley and Mr. Dillon. The speech in which Mr. Gerald Balfour explained the provisions of the bill was a model of lucidity, in spite of its portentous length, and deserved in every respect the praise bestowed upon it by his predecessor in office. But no powers of exposition can avail to popularize a subject which cannot be treated at all without a reference at every point to one of the most intricate and perplexing Acts upon the statute-book. No legislation can now be framed dealing with the position and the rights of landlords and tenants in Ireland which does not start from the artificial and, at the same time, imperfectly defined arrangements set up by Mr. Gladstone's Act of 1881. Though there are many points in the Bill which will give rise to controversy, the most serious objection to it is its length and perplexity. A measure which requires to be expounded by a Minister remarkable for conciseness of expression and closeness of reasoning in a speech of three hours can hardly be adequately dealt with in less than an entire session."

A Knotty
Question.

An interesting question arose in the Imperial House of Commons week before last after the discussion of the private Bill brought in by the London and North-Western Railway had been read a second time by the very small majority of seventy-nine. Sir W. Houldsworth, who was on the Board of Directors of the Company, and who had taken charge of the Bill, had voted in the majority. It was moved that his vote be disallowed as that of an interested member. A warm discussion followed, which was finally settled, says The Standard, "by the Government promising a Committee to investigate the general question. But what is the point that is to be raised? Is it proposed to prevent any member who is concerned in a railway Company or an industrial enterprise from taking part in a Division which may have some bearing on its prosperity? A barrister or solicitor could be challenged with regard to any legislation that might influence the course of legal business. An Irish representative who happened to be either a landlord or a tenant would have no voice on the Land Bill now before the House of Commons; or any teacher or teacher's delegate on Sir John Gorst's plan of educational reconstruction. Equally serious would be the argument against a Labour member being able to enforce his views on the subject of Employers' Liability or the Law of Conspiracy. What members would be at liberty to go into the Lobby on the Budget? Every proposal to impose, increase, or remit any form of indirect taxation must have a direct effect on numerous trades and industries. The only result of imposing such restrictions as must logically follow from disqualifying Sir William Houldsworth in regard to his holding in the London and North-Western Railway would be that, on almost every Bill that came before the House, a large percentage of the members would find themselves disabled from giving their votes. Why should Parliament exercise this very invidious kind of cen-

sorship? Hitherto, it has always avoided the responsibility, and its decisions in the individual cases brought under its notice have been strictly limited to the special circumstances."

Duelling
in Germany.

Berlin has been greatly agitated lately by a scandal in which the "Court Party," with the Emperor at its centre, is accused of acting with great "barbarism." The London Spectator says: "Herr von Kotze was, it appears, suspected of forwarding obscene libels to various great ladies, was tried *in camera* by a Court of Honour, but was acquitted, a judgment apparently ratified by opinion. The Imperial Court, however, maintained that Herr von Kotze was bound to challenge all who had traduced him. He fought one duel without results, and then challenged Herr von Schrader, a Chamberlain of the Empress Frederick. It was arranged that this combat should be fought with pistols at ten paces, and should continue until one of the parties was 'incapacitated.' Herr von Schrader was shot in the lungs, and died in great agony, entreating his family not to avenge his death. Herr von Kotze received the congratulations of the Emperor, but the Liberals are furious, maintaining that he was practically ordered to fight, and that the Emperor ought to be the last man in his dominion to sanction breaches of the law. That appears to all Englishmen to be a sound criticism, but one question naturally suggests itself. If society in Berlin disapproves of duelling as inconsistent with both morals and civilization, why does it not stop duelling by refusing to boycott any one who declines a challenge? The Emperor cannot send public opinion to a fortress."

Its Abolition
Favoured.

All the German newspapers discuss the question of duelling in general, and the weight of opinion seems to be on the side of its abolition. Reichsbote, the orthodox Conservative paper, states that "the whole tragedy must the more deeply and painfully affect the patriot, as the *prestige* of the Prussian Court has greatly suffered in consequence among all classes of the community. What is the use of a duel in such a case? It is as clear as daylight that the most humane and correct settlement of the quarrel would have been before a Court of Law. In the second place, we deplore these duels as examples of brutality. If cultured and high-bred men resort to the pistol, nobody can be surprised if the lower classes try to settle their disputes with the revolver or the knife." Vorwärts, a Socialist journal, is very severe. It says: "What revolts us is not so much the rebellion of the individual duellist against the law. Every class sins in this respect after its own fashion. It is rather the double injustice shown first in the mildness of the laws relating to duelling in their application to a crime of the privileged classes, and secondly the lax execution of these laws out of consideration for these classes; and it is sufficient in this connection to contrast the heavy penalties of imprisonment so frequently imposed on members of the Proletariat, even in trifling cases of acts arising from outbreaks of momentary passion, with the harmless punishment of "fortress arrest" for duellists. It is well known that even those mild sentences are frequently quashed in Germany by way of clemency. For a member of the Proletariat who has to struggle hard to get enough for his wife and child to eat there is the sharpest application of the law. The duellist who impudently defies the law and tramples religion and morality under foot becomes for certain circles the lion of the day, and the Law, so implacable towards others, looks upon him with the greatest indulgence."

Is Life Worth Living?

HERE is a question which has been asked, under many different forms, and answered in different ways, for centuries. "My soul is weary of my life," said the Patriarch of old; and again, "I would not live always." And, we believe, he was quite sincere. And so was St. Paul when he expressed "a desire to depart." But we greatly doubt the sincerity of many who give expression to such sentiments. The originator of modern Pessimism, Leopardi, regarded Life as an evil; but when cholera invaded the city, in which he dwelt, he fled from it, lest he should contract the disease. Schopenhauer, the German Apostle of the same belief or unbelief, had certain episodes in his history which would make one doubtful of his sincerity. And we wonder, when we behold some rubicund songster declaring,

"O Paradise, O Paradise,
I'm weary waiting here,"

what he would think if he were taken at his word, and told that he must forthwith depart for Paradise!

We have been led to these remarks by a lecture by Professor James, of Harvard University, who bids men hesitate before they declare that Life is not worth living.

We all remember the joker — was it the joker of Punch? — who answered the question by the answer: "That depends upon the liver;" and the answer was not only comical, but even instructive. But this is only one side of the subject, and a very superficial aspect of it.

When people speak of the insufficiency of human life in the days in which we live, they can hardly have considered the difference between these times and those which have gone before. In these days we have at least a large amount of liberty of thought and action which our forefathers did not possess. We can believe what we like, and express our belief without fear of the consequences. We can very nearly do what we like, so long as we don't interfere with the liberties of our neighbours. We need not go back very far to find a time when men were imprisoned and put to death for exercising the rights which we now enjoy without question. It is very wonderful that we should not think life desirable, where they found it endurable.

Is life, then, so miserable that we cannot endure it? There are a certain number of suicides in this country, and a very much larger number in the United States. But most of them are insane. Shall we judge of life by the conduct of madmen?

Dr. James seems to us to hit the point when he says "that life is worth living to men who have religious faith." By this he does not mean merely what used to be said by certain representatives of Christianity, when they said that life was very miserable, but there was a happy life beyond. According to this theory, the present world was under the dominion of the devil, and Christian men and women must expect to live a life of misery, but there was a happy land beyond, where there was compensation for the miseries of life. That was a view of existence which made an appeal to the faith and patience and hope of the human race.

But there is another way of viewing the subject — the conviction that this world, the life we are now living, is under the dominion of God. If there are no other than material goods, if there is nothing worth living for but enjoyment, and sensuous enjoyment, then we can quite understand that life is *not* worth living, that this view should be adopted by many of our fellow men. We can quite understand that a man should say, "I cannot endure the troubles of life, and I will end them." But there is another and truer view of life,

the view of the man who says, "I am here to do my duty, to fill my place in the world, and there is a satisfaction in thus fulfilling my destiny which is independent of mere enjoyment." In that case life is worth living, because there is in it a sense of human dignity and worthy effort.

We have no objection to the introduction of the idea of a future life. That may reasonably counsel patience and perseverance to the toiler. But there is no necessity for postponing the greatness of life to an unknown future. The present life has a dignity, a power, a force, which makes it well worth living.

* * *

The Recompense of Love.

The Vaunt of wealth : the arrogance of pow'r ;
The vain man strutting on his haughty way !
The scoff of hate ; these last to-day an hour :—
Tomorrow Love will wake at break of day.

Tomorrow love will wake when sweet birds sing,
And take my hand and lead me to a stream,
Where willows lave their arms and flow'rs of spring
Gaze sadly on their faces, for they seem

Too lovely to themselves to last for aye ;
(And nothing cares to know that it will die)
Tomorrow Love will wake, I said, and stay
Beside me while we watch the thrushes fly :—

Beside me, while we watch the winter go
With age-stooped form and white clouds round his head,
And husky voice that calleth for the Snow,
The pale-robed snow, sad priestess of the dead.

But hope has come again with May, and fear
Of Mammon, venal God-of-gold is fawn ;
For Love is here, and Love will stay a year ;
What dread of boastful Pride ! new joys have grown.

For Love will stay a year ; yea, Love ! stay two !
When winter reigns again we'll sing of May ;
I'll raise a birchen wigwam here for you,
'Twill be thy wild-wood castle, silver-gray.

We'll build a fire of scented cedar chips ;
We'll laugh when north winds blow ; we'll dance when light
Of crescent moon sows diamonds thick ; our lips
Will whisper raptures of our dreams at night

We'll wait till May, when rainbows spring in flow'rs :
We'll sit again beside this prattling stream
That shuts the world out with its tale ; the hours,—
That have so much to win that it would seem

They speed by all together in a race ;—
'Twill leave us golden moments full of joy ;
We'll pluck the daisy-flow'rs of downcast face,
And reading petals will be our employ.

New York

JOHN STUART THOMSON.

* * *

"Wanted."

IN these days of business stagnation there is no column in the advertising space of daily papers that is more anxiously scanned than that headed as above, but the wants of a community are varied and thousands of them never appear as "ads." The great and unadvertised want of this city is Public Spirit. Not that we are wholly destitute of the article, as witness the deeds of a Howard, a McMaster, a Ross Robertson, and a Massey, but these are prominent chiefly as oases in the great desert. So far as they go, they are good, but they are still far from "filling the bill." We can boast of no McGill, Molson, Redpath, Stephen, Workman, Smith or McDonald as in Montreal; no Carnegie, Lick, Armour, Field, Lenox, Smithsonian and scores of others such as numerous cities have had in the United States; and if we go to Great Britain for examples, we find many places utterly insignificant in comparison with Toronto, but which have to thank the generosity of public-spirited individuals for the possession of benefactions tending to elevate the masses physically and intellectually.

It must be admitted that in every new country the struggle to live is often a severe one, and for many years few people have more means than is required to conduct and develop business enterprises, but the time always arrives when at least a proportion of those engaged in mercantile and other pursuits, not only acquire competencies, but become what we call wealthy. Toronto has reached this stage, and it is only reasonable to suppose that some of her merchant princes are already contemplating great public surprises along lines advantageous to the community as a whole, or for the purpose of affording encouragement to this or that department of art and science.

Foremost, perhaps, among existing institutions in need of aid, stand Toronto and Trinity Universities, and it is almost certain that in the near future both will become recipients of gifts corresponding in munificence with those that have placed Cornell, Johns Hopkins and Chicago where they stand at this moment. This may safely be left to graduates from our Halls of Learning, with the remark that they cannot too soon begin to consider how necessary it is to act promptly.

But the institutions referred to exist, even though they have to struggle. There are, however, certain non-existent institutions which, in a city so important as Toronto, should be called into being. Enthusiastic but impecunious men and women have at one time and another devoted their time and energies towards the realization of desires to establish such, but the attempts have proved either abortive or only in a small measure successful, chiefly from lack of funds. Governments and municipal corporations do not readily respond to requests for aid in the prosecution of even the most praiseworthy undertaking which presents no prospect of a material return—indeed they are frequently unable to do so legally, while in many cases it is undoubted that the strongest kind of opposition to the necessary expenditure would be manifested by the very class of persons it might be proposed to benefit.

At such a juncture it is that the instincts of the philanthropist, or of the merely modest well-wisher for his kind, come in. He recognizes that, wittingly or unwittingly, so far as the people themselves are concerned, there is a *want*, and he determines to supply it. It may have been necessary in a particular quarter either to go thirsty, or to slake the thirst with pots of beer—here there shall be a fountain, which may be of a purely utilitarian type, or of a character that will not only enable the citizens to satisfy their thirst materially, but esthetically, should the latter have a place; and, if not, that will tend to create it, in the belief that the "true and the beautiful" should always accompany "the good." Once upon a time a retiring mayor of Toronto placed an unpretentious-looking drinking-fountain on the market-square to signalize his term of office, but not a single successor has even made an attempt to emulate or to imitate the good example!

Cabmen's shelters are not now regarded as luxuries, and in some towns (Ottawa for example) the erection of these is the result of private beneficence, but too often they are only blots on the general effect of the architecture in their vicinity. Should anyone desire a glaring example of this kind it may be seen on Church street, next door, it may be said, to the handsome pile of St. James' Cathedral.

Fortunately, "we are not all built alike," if it be pardonable to use a semi-slang expression, and we find accordingly that the tendencies of public spirited citizens are as varied as their tastes. Toronto presents an admirable field for the exhibition of diversified benefactions. It is old enough to possess sites that have become historic. Here and there stood the first schools, churches, and other public buildings. Not far away were the stocks. At another spot was held a certain memorable meeting. Yonder is the first brick house erected in the town. There was planted the "gallows-tree" on which so-and-so were hanged for treason. Scores of memorable places and events deserve to be commemorated in such a way as to yield information to our own people, and perhaps even more so to the numerous visitors who are annually attracted hither from all quarters. Marble slabs, granite panels, and brass plates may be profitably utilized to direct attention to these facts, and private owners of property would in no wise diminish its value by placing such records in conspicuous places for the benefit of the public.

It would require many pages for a bare name-list of the

notable men—yes, and women, too—who have been connected with this city in various capacities. Such names must crowd on the memory of every intelligent citizen. Might not large and small companies of individual admirers unite in having prepared busts, if not statues, of these worthy ones, to be placed in accessible positions—perhaps in a gallery of art—for the admiration and instruction of the living and of the unborn?

An edifice to contain such, and to afford ample space for paintings by the best foreign as well as native artists is an imperative necessity. It need not be costly, but simply chaste, suitable, and commodious. It is within the scope of the writer's information that at least two men of means have had under their consideration for some time the advisability and propriety of erecting a building for a provincial art gallery and museum. If such be the case, it would seem surprising that action in this direction is not taken at once. Never was there a more opportune time. Every day adds to the difficulty connected with bringing together material of certain kinds. Our best paintings fall into private hands, and in future may be collected only at ten or a hundred times what they would cost to-day. Many of the best pieces by Toronto's most famous artist, Paul Kane, are in private hands in this city, but there ought to be a Paul Kane gallery for the use of the public, and it is not improbable that the pictures referred to may be procurable for this purpose. Historical specimens of all kinds are desirable. The history of our country is as stirring, as noble, as inspiring as is that of any other under the sun, and it is the duty of every Canadian living to aid in preserving for the study of future generations that which will inculcate a love for country, not alone in the colonial, but in the broader and even more glorious sense of being Britons.

The quantity of extremely valuable material in the form of manuscript documents scattered over Ontario is immense and requires but an effort to bring it all together. Already the York Pioneers have done something towards this, but the scope of their influence is too limited to enable them to cover the ground. They are, too, in possession of numerous old-time domestic and other sociological specimens all of which are said to be stored away in a lumber-room, as are also some thirty or more thousands of specimens that exemplify the manners and customs of the former Red Man—the Huron, the Kentice, and the Iroquois.

It is needless to say that it is the proper work of a Government to set about the formation of a public Museum. We may grant this contention at once, but when we are face to face with the bald fact that our Government is not sufficiently "educated" to see its duty, or, seeing it, to have it performed, then, we must look to the public spirit of individuals.

We have to congratulate ourselves that of late there has arisen in Ontario a strong desire for the pursuit of Canadian history, and this is most notably manifested in the formation of local historical societies. What, too, is perhaps equally remarkable, is the fact that some of the most active of these are wholly composed of, and managed by, women. Even in this connection there is room for the display of the wealthy man's public spirit, for it is not probable that any of the organizations referred to exist in other than a "hand-to-mouth" sort of way, tending to cripple even the most praise-worthy efforts, backed as these may be with the very highest enthusiasm.

Much may be hoped for from the efforts now being put forth to hold an Historical Exhibition here next year, and much more might be anticipated if there could but be evoked the much-to-be-desired public spirit in which this city is so lacking.

Will any prominent individual move?

Will any Church or Society take this matter into consideration?

Will a few men of light and leading organize as a Monument and Inscription Committee?

Is there an alderman who will advocate even a little step in the direction indicated?

Could the Mayor be induced to call a public meeting to consider the subject?

Have the school trustees no interest in any kind of education outside of the schools?

Is there anybody who will do anything?

Divorce in Canada.

IN the opinion of many persons it is time that a change should be made in the system of granting divorces in Canada, or rather in Ontario, for the Maritime Provinces have their Divorce Courts. The only method by which a divorce can be obtained in this Province is by a special Act of the Dominion Parliament, which must pass the Senate and House of Commons after the parties and their witnesses have appeared and testified before Committees of both houses. This is a very costly proceeding for the applicant who generally has already suffered sufficiently from his matrimonial wrongs without the additional injury of being forced to pay a large sum to get release from their continuation.

An applicant for divorce in addition to the expense and inconvenience caused by attending the Committees in Ottawa with his witnesses is required to deposit with the clerk of the House \$200.00 towards the expense of the respondent.

Divorce in this Province is the privilege of the rich, and the poor man, unable to bear the expense, is compelled to endure his wrongs without hope of relief. It should either be refused absolutely to all applicants or the means of obtaining it should be altered so as to put it within the reach of all who are entitled to it. It is the boast of the law that the courts of the land are open to all without distinction—the pauper may sue as well as the millionaire—and yet for matrimonial wrongs, by not establishing a proper tribunal, and by compelling applicants to go to the expense, delay, and difficulty of getting an Act of Parliament, the poor man is treated most unfairly and is practically refused redress.

Parliamentary divorce is antiquated and unsuited to our age and country. It has been condemned by all the great jurists, and was long ago abolished in other countries including England.

It is urged by those who favour the Parliamentary system and the putting obstacles in the way of those seeking relief that if divorce courts are established divorces would be made easy and their number would increase. But surely this argument will not bear investigation. If it is admitted that there are causes for which divorce may be granted then it is unjust to put unnecessary obstacles in the way of those desiring the remedy. The wrongs for which it should be granted exist whether courts are established or not. The same argument might be urged against allowing promissory notes to be sued for in the courts—because the number of law suits would increase. But the knowledge that no courts existed by which they would be collected would benefit dishonest debtors to take advantage of the helplessness of their creditors and would be an incentive to dishonesty. And making divorce difficult and costly, is an incentive to immorality and cruelty. The offending husband or wife realizing that he or she is safe from exposure, and that the innocent party is helpless as the difficulties in getting a divorce make it almost impossible, is tempted defiantly to pursue a vicious course.

In the Police Court not long ago a working man was charged with the non-support of his wife and children. He gave as a defence that his wife was unfaithful, and that he did not believe the children were his, but whether the charge was true or not the magistrate could not investigate it. An order was made against him for their support, and he was held to apply for a divorce. But this, owing to the great expense, he is unable to do, and he is forced to support an unfaithful spouse, and children who he believes are not his own, while his wife can pursue her evil propensities with impunity.

The High Court of Justice in Ontario should have jurisdiction in divorce matters similar to that possessed by the Divorce Court in England. Parliament should cease to perform work for which it is unfitted, which involve investigations of a judicial nature and which properly belong to the law courts.

The causes for which divorce should be given would have to be settled by Parliament. This is a subject on which great diversity of opinion exists. The Catholic Church opposes it on any ground. Most Protestants believe it should be granted for adultery and many believe for total desertion also. After this comes debatable ground. Many believe it should be granted for cruelty, habitual drunkenness, and conviction for grave crime. It is certainly a great

hardship to be tied for life to a confirmed inebriate, or that a woman should be subjected to intolerable cruelty. Though she can get an Order of Protection against her husband, there are grave objections to this separation which differs from divorce with liberty to marry again and obtain the support of another. Conviction for a crime followed by imprisonment for life would seem a good cause. The majority of Canadians are opposed to the looseness of the system prevailing in the United States with divorce for many trivial causes. Many members of the Dominion Parliament, and some who have had much experience on divorce committees favour the establishment of a court empowered to dissolve marriage for adultery.

A strong objection to the Parliamentary method is the great variety of creeds and opinions held by the members of both Houses. Parliament is not bound by any rules, and has unfettered discretion as to the causes for which relief may be given, or whether it may be given at all. Many members are Roman Catholics who are opposed to divorce for any reason, and invariably vote against it; this is an interference with the rights of Protestants who hold no such views. The warmest advocates of the present system admit that this is a grave objection to it, and it alone constitutes a sufficient reason for the establishment of a court with powers clearly defined by statute.

Many who favour divorce for any but the most serious causes apparently do not fully comprehend the importance of the marriage relation, regarding it as a mere contract between the parties. But it is much more, though it is entered upon as the result of a contract. It is a condition or relationship with fixed duties and obligations imposed by law, irrespective of any contract made between the parties. Every civilized country regulates it by law, and desires that it should be for life and not a mere temporary partnership to be dissolved at the pleasure of either party. It should only be dissolved, if at all, for the gravest reasons. The State is deeply concerned in the stability of marriage: the training of children, whether they are to be good or bad citizens being involved. An eminent Scotch judge has observed: "Though the origin of marriage is contract it is in a different situation from all others. It is a contract coeval with and essential to the existence of society, while the relations of husband and wife, parent and child to which it gives rise are the foundation of many rights acknowledged all the world over, and which though differently modified in different countries have everywhere a legal character altogether independent of the will of the parties. The rights arising from the relation of husband and wife, though taking their origin in contract have yet in all countries a legal character determined by their particular laws and usages altogether independent of the terms of the contract or the will of the parties at the time of entering into it."

The Roman Catholic Church regards marriage as a sacrament, and prohibits divorce for any reason whatever, though the Pope may grant it by dispensation. Protestants do not so consider it, though they hold it has a divine origin. They generally believe that Christ permitted divorce for adultery, which is the doctrine of the Greek Church, and some hold that it is also permitted by the New Testament for total desertion, and this is the law of Scotland.

In the United States each State has exclusive jurisdiction over divorce matters, and the reasons for which it may be obtained vary in different States. Some of the causes are adultery, cruelty, desertion, habitual drunkenness, conviction for crime, and it may also be procured for causes that are comparatively unimportant. Some of their courts have almost full discretion as to whether it shall or shall not be given in the particular case.

Many of the American law-writers strongly defend their system. They contend that where any of the foregoing causes exist good morals and the proper education of children will be better served by a legal separation with liberty to marry again than by forcing the parties to continue in a union at once repugnant and unnatural.

In South Carolina, however, a divorce has never been granted since its formation as a State, no divorce courts exist, nor will the Legislature grant it by statute. But the evils calling for relief are as common there as in countries where divorce is permitted, and the law, though refusing re-

dress to a wronged wife, allows a man's illegitimate children to share in his estate.

In England before 1858 a divorce could not be obtained excepting by a special Act of Parliament, the law being the same as it is at present in Ontario. Marriage was considered indissoluble and the courts could not dissolve it. The religious reasons for this were not in force as the Anglican Church did not consider marriage a sacrament, and after the Reformation Cranmer reported in favour of empowering the Courts to grant divorce. The expense of obtaining it was very great, amounting, in some instances, to thousands of pounds, and as many complaints were made, at last the Queen in 1850 appointed a Commission to investigate the whole matter.

The Commissioners reported in favour of the establishment of a court empowered to dissolve marriage for adultery, and accordingly this was done in 1858. At present divorce is controlled by the High Court of Justice. The proceeding is initiated by presenting a petition to the Court setting forth the grounds on which the applicant relies, the other party is then served, the matter is tried by a judge and jury, and if the facts are decided in favour of the petitioner the Court grants a divorce. It may be tried *in camera*, and a bill has just passed the House of Lords allowing the presiding judge to say what portions of the evidence shall be published. This law has given great satisfaction and no objections have been urged against it in Parliament or by the press.

The law in Canada varies in the different Provinces. By the British North America Act divorce is one of the matters over which the Dominion Parliament has exclusive jurisdiction, but in the Provinces where Divorce Courts existed prior to Confederation the Dominion Parliament has not interfered with them though it has the power.

In Nova Scotia the Judge in Equity is Judge of the Divorce Court, which can declare a marriage null and void for adultery, cruelty, impotence, or kindred grounds within the prohibited degrees, and the powers and principles belonging to the Divorce Court in England as far as applicable have also been conferred on this Court.

In New Brunswick there is a Court called "The Court of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes" presided over by one of the Judges of the Supreme Court. The grounds of divorce are adultery, impotence and consanguinity within the prohibited degrees.

In Prince Edward Island matrimonial matters may be heard by the Lieut. Governor and his Council, who are constituted a Court for this purpose. The causes of divorce are adultery, impotence, and consanguinity within the prohibited degrees.

In British Columbia the powers belonging to the English Divorce Court have been conferred on the Supreme Court of the Province, but this has been doubted and the law is unsettled.

In Quebec no court can dissolve marriage, and by the Civil Code of Lower Canada marriage is declared indissoluble. The Provincial Courts, however, have power to annul a marriage for any of the following causes: impotence, where there has been no free consent, or an absence of consent of parent, etc., to the marriage of a minor, and lastly where the marriage is between persons related within certain prohibited degrees. Marriage between Roman Catholics performed by a Protestant minister has been held invalid and may be declared void.

In Ontario no Divorce Court has ever been established and the only means whereby marriage can be dissolved is by a special Act of the Dominion Parliament. The High Court of Justice has jurisdiction in cases of fraud, mistake, duress, and lunacy, and possibly want of age. A marriage under these circumstances may be declared void. But this is on the ground that as there was no consenting mind in one of the parties no valid marriage was ever contracted and the decree of the Court is simply a judicial declaration of what was already void.

In Manitoba and the North West Territories the law is the same as in Ontario.

It has been suggested that Parliament should abolish the Provincial Divorce Courts and delegate to the Supreme Court in Ottawa or to a Judge thereof a limited jurisdiction in divorce matters to include Ontario. While there are many objections to this it would certainly be a great improvement on the present system of Parliamentary divorce.

CHARLES EGERTON MACDONALD.

The Fall in Prices.

IN dealing with this phase of the "Silver and Gold" question in THE WEEK of the 10th April, Mr. Jemmett, after saying "that prices on the whole are now about 40 per cent. lower than they were in 1871," lays down the following "preliminary" proposition:—

"The value of a commodity, its exchangeable value, is anything else for which it can be exchanged. It is not any one thing but anything which is exchangeable for the commodity. There can thus be no such thing as a universal rise or fall in values; that would mean that everything had risen or fallen with respect to everything else."

In this I entirely concur. It practically admits, or rather sets forth all I have been contending for so far as the rise in the price or exchangeable value of gold is concerned; accept it and a simple arithmetical calculation will show that gold in relation to all other exchangeable products is 66 2/3 per cent. dearer than it was in 1871. The only question remaining at issue between us now is the share that the demonetization of silver has had in bringing about this result. Mr. Jemmett thinks it has been small, I think, not only that it has been large but that this is fairly deducible from his own argument.

In his first paper (THE WEEK, March 27th) he points to the "enormously increased" production of gold in recent years, and says there is no reason to suppose that the increased supply "has been obtained at any larger proportionate cost;" in his second (THE WEEK, April 3rd) he shows that the increase in the world's supply of silver has also been very great, due largely to increased facilities of transport, and improvements in mining machinery; while in his third (THE WEEK, April 10th) he grows eloquent over the great advances that have been made in the production of other commodities. Placing these three—gold, silver, and general products—in opposition there is nothing in the cost of production or quantity produced of any one of them to indicate any marked change in "the proportion in which it will exchange" for any one of the others.

As the precious metals waste less in the using their value is less affected by occasional variations in the product, and they have a cumulative property not possessed by ordinary commodities; so, while production of all commodities, including gold and silver, remains stationary, or increases uniformly, there is a continual tendency to a rise in prices. In view of this and of the large increase in the supply of gold and silver during the last twenty-five years, notwithstanding the increase in the supply of other products may have been somewhat larger, it is not probable that there would have been any material difference in exchangeable values had both metals retained the position in the mercantile world they occupied previous to 1871. Had they both continued to be money metals the ratio between the money and the goods seeking it would not have been seriously disturbed.

I will try and make this clear without encumbering the page with many figures.

In 1871 gold and silver were recognized and freely coined as money in every country save one, and constituted the world's money supply; silver being in excess in the ratio of about 5 to 4. This money supply we will represent by the figure 1. Since that time the increase in the supply of silver has been about 40 and of gold 48 per cent., making the total or aggregate increase nearly 44 per cent., leaving our present supply, had it not been arbitrarily interfered with 1.44. As silver has since been demonetized in all the rich countries, it is within the mark to say that the demonetizing processes that have been going on during the last twenty-five years have removed half the silver from its place as money and made it a mere commodity, thus reducing the money supply one-fourth or to 1.08, leaving us in the twenty-five years an 8 per cent. increase of money, while, during the same time, after commodities have increased at least 50 per cent. This would seem to just about account for Mr. Jemmett's 40 per cent. reduction in prices.

The conclusion that it is to the changed conditions produced to legislation hostile to silver that we have to look for the principal cause of the fall in prices is irresistible, and it seems so obvious that we wonder why it has ever been disputed.

ADAM HARKNESS.

A Spring-Time Sonnet.

Welcome! Sweet nurse of opening buds and flowers
 Thy softening skies we hail; thy balmy breath
 A thousand happy fancies whispereth.
 We see the coming bloom in dropping showers,
 The swelling buds, our leafy summer bowers,
 And woods awakening from the seeming death;
 "Winter is past and gone," their fragrance saith.—
 All day the birds salute the sunny hours!

About our feet the shy sweet blossoms show
 Their tender tints, and cups of stainless white—
 The shed-bush wreathes the woods with living snow,
 The whip-poor-will prates late into the balmy night,
 O'er greening fields dart swallows, skimming low,
 And robins flute their carols of delight!

FIDELIS

* * *
Art Notes.

IN looking over an old volume of *Punch* I am reminded that in writing my notes on the illustrators of that periodical I omitted to mention a very clever ex-member of the staff who seems to have gone over to the ranks of the serious illustrated weeklies. I refer to Corbould. For a number of years he represented the sporting interests in *Punch*; and his pictures of the fox hunting fraternity were spirited, amusing, and true to life. He drew with accuracy and spirit both the man and the mount; and as a draughtsman of the latter he may be depended on to make a truthful likeness be it hack, hunter, or pony.

Fox-hunting has had its votaries in England and in Ireland for a number of years the exact limit of which I am unable to state, but my mind is inclined somehow to associate the life of the prince of sports with the growth of British ascendancy. Whyte Melville used to say that the hunting field was the best training school in the world for brain, nerve, and hand; and that the qualities of judgment, courage, and skill were as necessary in the hunting as in the battle field. And the number of military stars who have shone with equal resplendency in both would go far to prove the truth of the contention. But this is the serious aspect of the pastime; Corbould deals only with the humorous.

When Leech pictured the comedies of the chase he was inclined to caricature the horse and his rider; but Corbould seldom indulges in grotesque exaggeration. It is true that he often selects the comic types—the Cockney amateurs, the alderman in pink, the heavy swell, etc.; but each of these is delineated without malice; and more than justice is done to the horse, which, in Corbould's hands, can go for a fifteen mile run and look little the worse for it; and, as to his breeding, that is always beyond dispute. Corbould's cover-side pictures are very acceptable to the horse man; and I suspect that, like Orchardson, the artist rides to hounds himself—indeed, his intimate knowledge of equine matters would be impossible otherwise. His drawings trace the changes in the costume of the lady-riders; and, so far as it is subject to change, that of the men as well. He knows all about bits, saddles and other accoutrements: he understands the points in a hound; and he is versed in the etiquette of the meet and the field. He has immortalized the little boy, who, mounted on his fat Shetland, gives a lead over the fence for the encouragement of the timid squire.

But as a humorist Corbould cannot be said to have risen to great heights; and his jokes are not written on the memory like the good things by Keene. Corbould was useful mainly as a caterer to the sporting tastes of a section of the people who are made content by the picture of a good horse, or by the illustration of any incident of the hunting-field which will recall to the spectator's mind similar occurrences in his own experience, or which will serve him as a peg on which to hang a story of his own. This tendency to dilate on the glories of the field is stronger perhaps with the fox-hunter than with any other class of sportsmen. A company of golfers will devote a fairly large proportion of their talk to the discussion of the details of their game; and a couple of bicyclists will, verbally, out do the records of their cyclometer; but for undeviating loyalty to one topic give me fox-hunters. But their subject has a dramatic quality which is beyond that of perhaps any other sport; and I can forgive a man his minute attention to details of local topo-

graphy, weather, the scent, names of hounds, and perfections of his own mare if he gives me a graphic picture of the run.

E. WYLY GRIER.

* * *
Concerning Magnets.

ACCORDING to Plato, Socrates, his master, poked a good deal of quiet fun at the persons who came to converse with him. Such a person was Ion, the rhapsodist, who professed to know Homer better than any other man, living or dead. The latest translator of the dialogues of the head of the Academy thus renders the piece of ironical flattery he puts into Socrates' lips in connection with the professional reciter: "The gift which you possess of speaking excellently about Homer is not an art, but, as I was just saying, an inspiration; there is a divinity moving you, like that contained in the stone which Euripides calls a magnet, but which is commonly known as the stone of Heradea. This stone not only attracts iron rings, but also imparts to them a similar power of attracting other rings; and sometimes you may see a number of pieces of iron and rings suspended from one another so as to form quite a long chain: and all of them derive their power of suspension from the original stone." Tennyson and Browning, and even Longfellow and Whittier, have magnetized more worthy admirers than Homer had in poor, conceited Ion. Canada has not yet produced a poetic magnet of any great attractive power upon the minds of readers or upon the money in their pockets. But this essay, thank providence, is not concerning poets; its writer has sense enough to know where he is safe, and to stay there.

One of the ancient names of Baron Munchausen was Nicander, who, in the second century, B.C., combined physic with poetry, and dedicated his work to an Attalus, King of Pergamus in Asia Minor. He told the story that a certain shepherd belonging to Mount Ida, perhaps as far back in the past as CEnone, having strayed southwards, incautiously placed his hob-nailed shoes, with his feet inside them, on a black rock, to which they tenaciously adhered. When he essayed to pry himself loose with his iron-shod staff, that also became immovable. Whether he remains there to this day, or escaped by leaving shoes and staff behind, is not related; but his name was Magnes, and the stone, and the town which arose near it, were called "Magnet" and "Magnesia" in his honour. Another deposit of loadstone was also found in ancient days in the neighbourhood of Magnesia in Thessaly, but this second place of that name has no record of a shepherd with hob-nailed shoes. Early recollections of Magnesia invest it with no attractive properties, but the reverse, but then, in youthful days, one has not yet become a man of blood and iron suitable for attraction.

The omniscient Pliny, of course, has much to say concerning loadstones and magnets. To him it was a marvelous thing that a lifeless stone should be endowed with sense and hands, and that, at its bidding, hard iron should be invested with feet and intelligence; which is quite a poetical speech for Pliny. Yet he exhibits an utter lack of gallantry, such as would better have fitted Cato the Censor, in distinguishing magnets as of the two sexes, the female, he has the impudent audacity to say, having little power of attraction. He lived the life of a bachelor with his widowed sister and his nephew, Pliny the younger. The senior is also the authority for the story that the death of Ptolemy Philadelphus hindered Timochares the architect from completing a vaulted roof made of loadstone, in a temple of Alexandria dedicated to Ptolemy's sister and Queen, Arsinoe. The intention was that the lady's statue, having the iron head permanently attracted to the centre of the dome, should give her the appearance of being suspended in the air. By similar means it is fabled that Mahomet's coffin was hung between earth and heaven in Medina. The fair Arsinoe's attraction by the head is the reverse of that of Magnes who was enchained by the feet, showing that there is more than one way in which magnetic power may be exercised.

Long before the polarity of the magnet was discovered and applied in the East, whence, it is supposed, Arabian adventurers brought the compass into Europe in a rough form, loadstone and magnetized iron must have played an

important part in the mysterious movements without hands performed by ancient fakirs before the ignorant and credulous. There is something very uncanny in the jumping and turning about, ever running along, of needles and larger pieces of metal, in obedience to an invisible and certainly not directly connected force. But it is only in the imagination of the Arabian story teller that such movements have taken place on a large scale, when the mountain of loadstone extracted the iron from Sindbad the sailor's ship and left it a wreck. It is painful to think what the result would be, should the iron-clad channel squadron some day sight that mountain, and rush to meet it with a velocity greater than that of steam. What if the north and south poles should turn out to be magnetic mountains, extracting the nails from wooden ships of arctic and antarctic explorers, depriving them of their tools and arms, and even making their knives fly out of sheaths and pockets to strike, with a *feu de joie* of sharp and rapacious thuds upon the stormy wall of the earth's axis! The world never knows what its next great attraction is going to be, nor how large. It is a pity to allow an Arab of Bagdad to surpass with his mere imagination the confident expectations of modern western science.

During our Canadian winter, every dweller in a comfortable carpeted city house, with furnace in full blast, becomes a human electrical machine, and with little motion can give off from the tips of his fingers, reports and shocks that begger those from the back-stroked fur of the domestic cat. But you may cut your food with a knife made of magnetic iron, sleep with a loadstone under your pillow, hang a horse shoe magnet over your office door, drink extract of iron, beef, and wine, and carry a compass instead of a watch in your fob or waistcoat pocket, without being a magnetizer. It is insinuated that the little woman who called herself the Human Magnet, and whom many strong men in certain positions could not move nor lift, while she could move and lift them, was a fraud. She claimed to be naturally magnetized, having been born so, and many intelligent people who had witnessed her performances admitted the claim. But the sceptic came along and proposed conditions that the magnet would not submit to: therefore, she departed under a cloud, but not of magnetism. This was very discouraging. It was once thought that tables on which many palms rested danced by animal magnetism, and that heavy men, six feet long, and stout in proportion, could be raised from a similar table by the digits of four or six weak women and faith in the same physical property. Physical science will have none of it, and relegates it to psychology. Some psychologists say it is will-power or hypnotic suggestion; others, like Mr. Black's Chonnie in *Far Lochaber*, say "it iss the duvvel." What is to be done in such a case? Call for a commission of experts.

There are physically magnetic men and women in the world, but they don't magnetize iron except in the shape of railways. They don't ever magnetize silver; they leave that in the United States' treasury vaults, until bimetalism is an accomplished fact. But they magnetize gold. It comes gliding, jumping, running after them. They all say they hate it, like Baron Rothschild, but the magnetic influence is so strong that they cannot part with it; it sticks to their personality as did the hob-nails of Magnes to the rock. This rule is by no means universal. A somewhat wise man once said that you may form an idea of God's opinion of money by the kind of men He gives it to. But, in point of fact, He often gives it to very good men, as witness, the endowments of our religious, benevolent, and educational institutions. The spirit of religion, charity, and learning is in their cases, more potently magnetic than their own personal attraction, which is a great tribute to the worth of even gilded humanity. There is something in every man, says Francis Barrett, student in chemistry and occult philosophy, who published a handsome quarto full of nonsense in 1801, by which he can transmute base metals into gold. The occult lunatic does not say what it is, and, though he deals largely with magnetism in an occult, that is to say, incomprehensible manner, he does not bring his human philosopher's stone under that head. It is, therefore, still a mystery wherein lies the gold-attracting power of mortals.

The most attractive power known to us on this earth, since Sir Isaac Newton saw the apple fall, is the earth itself, possessing the attraction of gravity. Metaphysically, gravity does not attract; it repels the cheerful, and horrifies the frivolous. There is much truth in part of the motto of our

Canadian Grip, "The gravest man is the fool." And yet it is a very wonderful thing that men, thought to be wise, have been endeavouring for ages to draw their fellows to Christianity by means of his kind of gravity. What is more remarkable is that they have attracted. Tertullian attracted Cyprian, Albert the Great led Thomas Aquinas, Calvin drew Beza; and French Huguenots, English Puritans, and Scotch Covenanters, sincerely but forbiddingly pious, magnetized the young and light-hearted to prison, and torture, and scaffold, and stake. What an enormous under-current of real drawing power must have been in the living truth, of which they were mournful mummies, to accomplish such extraordinary results! By every law of science and chance they should have failed. On the other hand, had their constancy and purity been allied with the charity, the cheerfulness, the joy of their Master's creed and life, what a greater power they would have been in a wicked world!

Human magnetisms vary. One poet writes dithyrambics to Pleasure, and another an ode to Melancholy. One fair maid goes miles to listen to the Reverend Cheerful Chubby, and another travels leagues to enjoy the prelections of the Reverend Tearful Doldrums. There is no accounting for tastes, especially for bad tastes, whether vulgar or morbid. People attract, too, by different poles. the parliamentary orator, Pyro Technics, fills the house whenever it is known that he is going to speak, but, in private, nobody wants to have anything to do with him, he is such a selfish bear. Hail Fellows, the Independent Whip, is universally beloved until he gets on his feet to make a motion, when the words of Ben Gaultier apply to him:

"A song, a song from Brougham!
He sang, and straightway found himself
Alone within the room."

A universally magnetic man or woman is of necessity a humbug. The pie-man, accounting for the variety of his wares by that of popular taste, remarked: "Some likes apples and some likes ingins." Now, no human being can be at the same time, or within four and twenty hours, an apple and an onion, without being a humbug of the humbugs. Even as a made-up character, one need not say hypocrite, he must make his selection of a role and stick by it while the play is on, though a section of the audience should indulge in cat-calls and hisses.

Among those who, within comparatively recent years, have honoured Canada with their presence and their labours, Lord Dufferin and Sir John Macdonald added to many excellences the properties of universal magnets in public and in private life, and they were as conscious of the fact as Phineas T. Barnum. The present occupants of the viceregal throne, while delightfully attractive, and more abundant in hospitality and deeds of kind consideration to all classes, are not concerned because occasionally a few people find their magnetic pole repellent to them. Until the millennium come, negative poles will be found necessary in social and public life as well as the positive, and positive as well as the negative. Also there are wooden and woollen and base-metal objects that no magnet in this world or in the next will attract. Even those who are drawn to Government House are led in different ways, the members of the Royal Society by the head, like Arsinoe, and the guests of the Historical Fancy Ball by the feet, like Magnes.

It is worth while to be attractive in some good way, to cultivate a magnetic atmosphere that shall radiate far from you. Personal appearance will help towards it, and charm of manner; reputation and attainments, with the evidence at least of the latter, will increase the drawing power; but the one great thing needful is self-forgetfulness, in sympathy with the thoughts and aspirations, the feelings and the wants of others. It is worth while being well loved, even if, in the process, one runs the risk of being well hated, too. What an immense power the human magnet unconsciously wields for you; and, alas, what a power for evil lies, in many an outwardly fair but inwardly dark loadstone mass, to shipwreck the unwary mariners attracted by it upon life's sea! Yet, happily there is no durable bond in vice: it is a kingdom divided against itself. Far otherwise is it with the true magnetism. Pleasant it is in this life to have a friend in every town; but who shall tell the joy of him who goes forth alone into the spirit world, when the attracted on earth's pathway, severed for a time by death, shall close round again to welcome their magnet home!

The Theatre Hat.

The Ohio Legislature has passed a law forbidding women to wear large hats at the theatres of Cincinnati. — *Press Dispatch.*]

Happy, happy Cincinnati! this, indeed, is gleeful news
That we lately in the papers have been able to peruse:
That you've risen in your anger—whilst poor we have only
fumed—

And the cart-wheel hat of fashion in your theatres have doomed.

Yes, henceforward, as we gather, when you go to see a play,
No vast disk of straw or velvet will be flapping in your way;
No outrageous tufts of feathers, and no Brobdignagian bows
In your eyes will now be hobbling, or embarrassing your nose!

The bold actions of the hero will no more for you be blurred
By a nodding bunch of grasses or a wired and wobbly bird;
And you will not have, henceforward, for the heroine to hunt
Through a crowded bed of flowers on the lady's head in front!
— London Frith.

* * *
Music.

THE Caledonian Choir (Mr. T. Cringan, Conductor), assisted by the English baritone, Mr. Watkin Mills, Mr. George Fox, violinist, Miss Agnes Forbes, soprano, and Mrs. (Agnes Knox) Black, elocutionist, gave a concert in Massey Hall on Tuesday evening last to an audience of delighted hearers, judging from the number of encores and other external expressions of approval and satisfaction. The choir numbered about 35 voices, and, under the modest direction of Mr. Cringan, sang, with much taste and evenness of tone, several part songs, including "The Land o' the Leal," "You Stole My Love," "The Sands of Dee," and Barnaby's "Sweet and Low." These showed careful preparation, and in the details of phrasing and tonal effects generally, reflected highly to the credit of the Choir, and the efficient leader, Mr. Cringan. The soloists were all exceedingly good. Mr. Mills sang with all his distinct features of excellence, wonderful sustaining power, beautiful enunciation, and clearness of execution generally. It would be hazardous to say which of his numbers were the most successful, as everything he sings is remarkable for its richness and purity of style. The Handel air, "Honour and Arms," was a noble piece of dignified vocalization, and his rendition of "The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomon" will long remain a pleasant memory. Mr. Fox was in his element, for he played with unusual brilliancy and poetic expression. His numbers were Godard's "Adagio Pathetique," Woniawski's "Valse Capriccio," and Hille's Hungarian Rhapsody. Miss Forbes has a very musical voice, and it is, moreover, well cultivated. Her singing of several songs, with Tosti's "Good-Bye" as an encore, were delightfully fresh and *naive*. Mrs. Black achieved also a distinct success, and gave much pleasure to those interested in clever readings. Mrs. Blight played the accompaniments admirably, evincing much musical judgment and skill.

W. O. FORSYTH.

Last Monday evening the Klingensfeld String Quartette, assisted by Mrs. Klingensfeld, gave a very successful concert in St. George's Hall. The principal numbers played by the Quartette were Menuetto and Finale, Op. 59, No. 3, Beethoven, part of a quartette in G by Haydn, and a delicate and decidedly taking little movement by Gillet entitled "The Mill." The playing of the Quartette has improved noticeably in breadth, accuracy, and finish since the commencement of the season; and indeed it is not going too far to assert that this organization has now become one of the most important factors in the musical life of Toronto. The movements by Haydn and Gillet were perhaps the best in point of rendition, the difficult Beethoven Finale being a little uncertain at times. Mrs. Klingensfeld contributed several vocal solos, being heard to particular advantage in a group of German folk songs, which were received by the audience with evident favour. Mr. Klingensfeld played the 2nd and 3rd movements from Mendelssohn's ever youthful violin concerto in a manner that calls for much praise. His reading of the work is refined and spirited and free from all exaggeration. He was most heartily recalled at the close of the solo. Mr. Paul Hahn—Toronto's most promising cellist—played the familiar slow movement from Golter-

mann's concerto in A minor, displaying a broad, rich tone and a vigorous style. All the soloists were encored.

On the 23rd ult. the third quarterly concert of the Toronto Conservatory of Music was given in Association Hall. A large audience was present, and the liberal applause bestowed was a sufficient testimony of the enjoyment which the performance gave. Some idea of the length and variety of the programme may be gained from the following list of performers:—Piano, Mr. Dorsey A. Chapman, Miss Edith White, Miss Franziska Heinrich, and Mr. Napier Durand; violin, Miss Laura Acheson, Miss Eva Stonier, and Miss Annie McMahon; vocal, Miss Alice McCarron, Mrs. G. Galloway, Mrs. G. B. Miller, Mr. W. Franklin Hayes, Miss Ethel Lazier, Miss Marie Wheler, Miss Therese Wegener, Miss Gertie Black and Mr. H. C. Johnson; organ, Miss Emma Wells. The Conservatory School of Elocution was represented by Miss Blanche Lehigh and Mrs. W. J. Ross.

The concert given on the 21st ult. in St. George's Hall by Mrs. D. L. Gordon does not require extended notice, since the programme was strictly popular—in the usual acceptance of that term—the least insignificant composers represented being Meyerbeer and Bohm, and not one of the eleven numbers being of interest from a musical standpoint. Mrs. Gordon possesses an agreeable soprano voice as well as other attributes which are necessary for a public singer, yet she does not at present place her accomplishments in a very favourable light owing chiefly to her habit of "scooping" when a high note has to be reached, and to her not infrequent deviations from the correct pitch—defects which might be removed with a little care. Mr. F. X. Mercier, "primo tenore assoluto," was the other soloist of the evening. He sang in a vigorous style but with a very thick pronunciation—at least in his English songs. A small orchestra led by Mr. John Bayley performed several numbers, giving quite a festive air to the occasion.

The Church of the Redeemer Choir and Orchestra Concert on May 5th, in Association Hall, promises to be both a musical and financial success. Large numbers of tickets have been disposed of, and the preparation of the programme is being pushed vigorously under the direction of Mr. Walter H. Robinson. The Cantata "May Day," by Macfarren, is the principal number on the programme. Orchestral selections and vocal and instrumental solos make up the balance of the programme. The plan is open at Nordheimer's. The concert is to commence at 8 p.m.

The eighth and last organ recital of the fourth series given by Mr. W. E. Fairclough in All Saints' Church, will take place to-morrow afternoon at four o'clock. Mr. Fred. W. Lee will be the vocalist. C. E. SAUNDERS.

* * *
Some epigrammatic sayings of Louis Napoleon are repeated in a recent English book: On being asked at the Army and Navy Club, "Shall you not find it difficult to rule the French?" "Oh, no," he replied, "nothing is more easy. Just give them a war every four years." After reading one of the scurrilous attacks upon him by Victor Hugo, he quietly remarked: "'Napoleon le Petit,' par Victor Hugo, le Grand!" On being reproached by a subordinate and rapacious member of the Bonaparte race, in the insolent words, "You have nothing of the emperor about you," he replied, "Alas, I have his family." Again, on being asked how it came to pass that he was so merciful to the sacerdotal party, which had not befriended him in the earlier part of his career, he answered: "Revenge is a dish that ought to be eaten cold."

An American millionaire, accustomed to purchase anything he wanted, tried to obtain from an Oxford gardener the secret of the beautiful lawns which make the pride of England. "Tell me, my good man, how you manage it," he said, condescendingly, putting his hand significantly into his pocket. "It is werry simple, sir," replied the gardener; "you cuts it as close as ever you can cut, and you rolls it and cuts it for six hundred years."

The Prelude.

The April grasses rock and rise
 Beneath the winds soft lullabies.
 The sun burns to a ruddier fire,
 And 'wakening nature tunes her lyre,
 All the first faint whisperings
 Tell when her fingers sweep the strings.
 To swell to chorus full and strong
 Of lilting brook and wood birds song.

Across the barren fields there goes
 Ceres half forgetful of her woes,
 And smiles to see beneath her feet
 Pale shimmering spears of corn and wheat.
 'Wakening now by wood and fen,
 The mountain spirits come again,
 The Psyche butterflies stray
 Among the jeweled fields of May,
 Or restless flit across the plain
 To search for missing love again.

Borne on the breezes faint and sweet
 The sounds that tell where waters meet,
 The odours of some far off clime,
 The tinkle of some fairy chime.
 These sounds and lights and shades subdued
 All, all are summer's sweet prelude.

Toronto.

WYNDOM BROWNE.

* * *
Werekha.MEMOIR OF THE FORESTS OF RUSSIA AND THEIR PRODUCTS
CONTINUED.

The Red Spruce fir (*Pinus picea*: Lin. *Pinus abies* du Roi). This is the European spruce (*Picea Europæa*), which Ledebour distinguishes from the *Picea obovata*, which extends on this side and beyond the Oural, and is, in reality, only a variety of the *Picea Europæa*. The northern limit of growth of the spruce is the same as that of the other Conifere. Its southern limits coincide with those of the pine; but in consequence of the destruction of the forests it has pushed back to the North in many places. Its Southern limit, like that of the pine, commences on the West in the government of Volhynia. Steering towards the East it cuts the government of Kien, and the northern part of Tehernigow, enters into Kharkon, turns like the pine into Toula, crosses Riazan, Tambow, and Saraton, and scarcely touches Penza; then bends by the Volga and the Kama towards Oufa, then straight to the East to the chain of the Oural mountains.

The spruce is generally consumed in the interior of the country. Girders, joists, and rafters are exported in considerable quantities, and some boards, by Baltic and Black seaports. In the interior of the country, in many districts, spruce is used in place of pine, for building purposes, and, although it does not possess the solidity of pine, it is used by the middle classes because it is 35% cheaper. Spruce, like pine, is used in considerable quantities in the manufacture of laths and battens, and shingles. The roots, forming almost a right angle with the trunk of the tree, are made use of, in considerable quantities, as knees in the construction of river boats. For this purpose the trees are rooted up without being cut. In some localities the stumps, the roots, and also the trunk, are mixed with those of pine for the extraction of resin; but this medley considerably alters the quality of the product, and the tar obtained is used for greasing the wheels of the peasants' carts. It is not so very long ago that, for the purpose of extracting tar from spruce, it has been treated, in some localities, in the same manner as pine. This process is the same as that introduced under the administration of Colbert in 1658 by Swedish instructors in the Landes of France, for the gemmage and fabrication of tar from the maritime pine.

For the purposes of fuel spruce was used as well as pine, but being less valuable than pine, it was about 3% cheaper where it was cut in the woods. Spruce bark, in the northern governments, takes the place of lime-tree bark for the sheathing of wagons and sledges; as a material for tanning, the bark is largely used in localities where willow or other trees richer in tan are scarce. Large forests are frequently entirely composed of this species of tree, especially in moist and argillaceous soils, but it is often mixed with other kinds of wood, as pine, birch, poplar, and in the north with the white spruce of Siberia. Spruce is exploited in the same

order of cutting as pine. Siberian spruce (*Abies-Sibirica*), Ledeb (*Abies Pictita*), Forbes, forms forests mixed with common spruce, and pure, grand, massive forests, in some places, in the north and north-east, and beyond the Oural. Technically, the Siberian fir is equal in value to the European or silver fir, and is exploited in a similar manner, in the true light of economic forestry. The European fir (*Abies taxifolia*, or *A. pectinata*) flourishes in the western governments near the Carpathian mountains.

The Siberian Larch (*Larix Sibirica*) extends over the north-east part of Russia in Europe, and farther in an eastern direction. Its limits to the west and south are denoted by a line commencing a little west of the Bay of Onega, on the White Sea, thence south to the district of Kargopol in the government of Olonets, and easterly across Kostroma to the district of Séménovsk in the government of Nijni-Novgorod: then turns the government of Kazan (where it is only found in isolated patches), cuts the government of Viatka, and heads towards the Oural, by the northern district of Oufa. Over this expanse of country, almost entirely covered by forests, the supplies of larch are very considerable. Larch is dispatched abroad by the mouths of the Petchora and Mezene, and in the same way to Cronstadt for the uses of the Russian fleet. At present the use of larch is very limited, attributable, in part, to the difficulty of procuring it from ports situated on the northern ocean. But the remarkable solidity of the wood of this species, its flexibility, the large dimensions of the trees, and the important fact that the wood of the larch is rarely attacked by insects, all lead to the supposition that as time goes on the larch will not occupy the last place among woods for naval construction. During recent years the Minister of Marine has taken from the forests of Arkhangel, 100,000 feet, or 2,832 cubic meters of larch annually. The larch in these northern regions grows very slowly, the soil being shale and the sub-soil stony. This is why, if timber of large dimensions is required, these forests can only be exploited at the age of 180 to 200 years. But when larch grows in a marly soil or a calcareous sub-soil its vegetation is much more rapid, and the quality of its wood superior.

The birch (*Betula alba*) is one of the most prevalent forest trees in Russia. Mixed with pine, Norway spruce, silver fir of Siberia, *Pinus cembra* (called also the cedar of the north), birch reaches almost to the limit of northern forest vegetation. It is found on the south at the 45° of north latitude. Isolated trees are found farther south, or groves arising from artificial cultivation. The tree grows in small quantity in the Crimea and the Caucasus, on the northern slopes of mountains, where pine and spruce are usually found. Sometimes it forms forests unmixed with other varieties, sometimes it is mixed with pine, and occasionally with spruce and poplar. Its principal use consists in the manufacture of small pieces of carpentry, as a material in carriage-making, and as firewood, for which purpose it is highly appreciated in Russia. The exterior bark yields by dry distillation the empyreumatic oil of birch, called pure "Diogott;" it is also used for tanning leather, particularly the kind known as Russian leather. The bark used for this purpose is stripped either from felled or standing trees; in the last case the operation is not essentially injurious to the trees, if carefully done without deterioration of the inner bark. In five or eight years the bark is renewed and can be taken from the tree again. Birch bark is also employed in making utensils of different kinds used by the peasantry instead of boxes, baskets and basins for dry articles as well as to hold liquids. In the northern districts, where the linden is not abundant, birch takes the place of the latter in the manufacture of "Lapti," a kind of shoe or slipper made of bark for the peasantry. Although birch bark lasts longer, and is less subject to decay, yet in drying it becomes brittle, and slippers made of it are less solid than those made from the linden or the willow.

Birch is exploited or felled as coppice, and high forest, in revolutions of 30 to 60 years. In forests composed of birch and coniferous trees, the first are exploited in two cuttings, whilst the conifers are cut only once if intended to be used for purposes of construction.

The linden-tree, lime-tree (*Tilia parvifolia*). Commencing in the most southerly countries of Russia, the lime-tree is found as far as Saint-Petersburg and Lake Onéga. Setting out from there, its northern limits cut the governments of Olonetz and Vologda by the districts of Solvithegodsk and

Oustysyolsk, traverse Perm and skip over the Oural, about the 58° of north latitude. Great masses of linden are found in the governments of Viatka, Kostroma, Nyni-Novgorod, Kazan, Penza and Tamboro, and the north-west. Forests composed entirely of trees of this species are rarely found; it is usually mixed with oak, birch, poplar and other broad-leaved species, and different kinds of shrubs. The wood is not of any special value. It is used by carpenters, turners and sculptors, and in construction, where other woods cannot be obtained. Its principal value consists in its inner bark, which, taken from trees from five to ten years old, is used in making slippers and plaiting baskets. When twenty years old or more, the bark is macerated and divided into fine ribbon-like filaments which are made into mats and cords and cables up to a certain point, instead of hemp, and cheaper. The whole bark, when pressed, is used for sheathing wagons and sledges, making boxes and roofing houses.

The Poplar (*Populus tremula*) grows throughout the whole of Russia to the 63° of north latitude. It is not much esteemed, especially where better kinds of wood can be procured, but it propagates easily and grows quickly. It is considered incongruous when growing in woods composed of more valuable species, such as pine, birch, and oak, because it is prejudicial to their propagation. Its principal use is for firewood, but even for this it occupies the lowest rank, as well among conifers as the broad-leaved species. Poplar of the best quality, at least half a meter in diameter at the root, is used for making small toys and knick-knacks and utensils turned in the lathe, painted and varnished like Chinese wooden-ware. In the sparsely wooded districts of the South, poplar is used in construction, and if very dry before it is worked, it yields but little in solidity to spruce and even to pine. In our own time poplar has acquired much importance as a material for the manufacture of paper pulp, being considered most suitable for this purpose on account of the flexibility, lightness, and whiteness of its wood. Poplar bark is used occasionally for the fabrication of tar, and is, frequently, for this purpose, mixed with birch bark; but if the product obtained from this mixture is cheaper, it is also of inferior quality. Sabots, or wooden shoes, are made from poplar in the north-west of Russia, perhaps not so solid as those made in France from beech, but much lighter, and, consequently, more comfortable; it is also used to make shingles for the roofs of houses, of one foot in length and four inches wide. Poplar for firewood is exploited by cuttings of 30 and not more than 60 years old. Poplar wood for working should have attained the age of 90 or even 100 years. Felling should not go beyond this age, because at 90 years the heart-wood is frequently rotten.

The oak (*Quercus pedunculata*) is found over the whole of Russia, excepting the northern districts. The northern limits commence in the government of Livonia, about the 58° of north latitude, thence a little to the south, traversing Novogorod, and passing Tver, they run towards the east, pass round the government of Moscow, cut those of Jaroslaw, Kostroma, Viatka and Oufa, and heading towards the frontier of Russia in Asia, cross it near the 53° of latitude. The largest oak forests are found in the governments of Kazan, Simbirsk, Nijni-Novgorod, Minsk, Mohilew, Volhynia and other western localities, and also in the Baltic provinces. In certain localities close massive woods are found composed entirely of this species of tree, but it is also found mixed with other varieties of broad leaved trees, and sometimes with pine. This oak attains enormous dimensions; its trunks are straight and its wood distinguished by its excellent quality, and the most precious of all the trees in Russia. The price has increased considerably, since oak forests belonging to individuals in the western governments have been greatly exhausted by excessive cutting. Besides the considerable use that is made of this wood in the interior of the country, there is a large foreign trade particularly with England by the Baltic ports, and with France by the Black Sea. In the docks of London and the market places of Marseille one may see oak coming from the western parts of Russia every year. These giants sometimes re-visit their country again, not in their rough state, but in the shape of vessels' keels, cable bitts, quarter decks, prows, ribs, side-planks, and other parts of ships. Oak wood is also exported in the form of wainscot-logs, used in England for carpentry, and staves for cooperage. In the interior it is also used in ship-building, carriage making, and the manufacture of many small articles. In the south, being cheaper, it is used for

railway sleepers. Bark from young trees is used in the tanneries, where it is preferred to willow bark and all other kinds, as it contains 16° of tanning material, whilst willow contains scarcely 7°, and spruce still less.

Many other woods are found in Russia besides those already mentioned, as the beech, for example, forming entire groves, but only in the more southerly countries of Podolia, Bessarabia, and the Crimea; the horn-beam, in the south-west, and some parts of the north-west; many species of willow are found everywhere; in the southerly governments of Kherson, Ekaterinoslaw, and Bessarabia they form entire forests along the inundated banks of rivers, as the Danube and the Dniester. Ash, maple, elm, cedar, white and black alder, poplar, walnut, and many varieties of shrubs are used for many purposes in those districts where other woods do not abound. Winter oak (*Quercus Robur*) is found to the west on an irregular line traced between Kovno, through Mohilew and Kien to Kischinew; and the *Quercus pubescens* in the Crimea and the mountains of the Caucasus. The limit of the horn-beam (*Carpinus Betulus*) to the north-east runs from Riga to Vitebsk, and thence, almost in a straight line, to the mouth of the Don. The beech (*Fagus Sylvatica*) extends along the frontiers of Austrian Galicia, and a straight line by the side of Moldavia; in the Crimea and the Caucasian mountains it forms very thick and magnificent forests.

Toronto.

A. KIRKWOOD.

Parisian Affairs.

IT is claimed that the secret of Free Masonry is well kept, because no secret exists. The proceedings of the interviews between the Kaiser and his allies have not been divulged for somewhat the same reason. The guesses all along the line tend to see in the meetings only pose regarding the gingerbread of the Triple Alliance, slightly worn off owing to the rough handling of Italy by Menelek. The Triple, like the Dual Alliance, has no intention to break the world's peace. Even England has been declared to be "an out and outer to be let alone," since she is quite resolved to secure that herself. "Are her hands free?" inquire the quidnuncs. "Has Germany's dream of possessing Cape Colony and its *et ceteras*; to swallow up Boers, Dutch, and English in detail, or, at one swoop, become an empty dream, or part of her concrete hinterland?" President Kruger's visit to England—that will not jeopardize the existence of the British Empire, is as unfixed in date as that of the evacuation of the Nile valley by the teacher of nations how to live.

The French hope against hope that the British will in time see the errors of their way and quit Egypt, despite the fresh work cut out for them at Dongola and Suakim—and that may occupy them till the arrival of the millenium. The pursuit of knowledge under difficulties is only a flea bite compared with laying down rails in the teeth of such iconoclasts as Osman Digna and his light-brigades. But time works wonders when in company with patience and perseverance. The financial combination to purchase all Egyptian bonds at par, offered by those holders who have no faith in the prosperous administration of the country, is sound. The English employing a few millions to win back the Soudan and thus uphold the sanctity of the integrity of the Ottoman empire by their new scheme, leaves no protecting to be done by the French syndicate, while it can well result in Britain's taking over the whole Egyptian debt and paying the interest on the bonds, or, if preferred, buying in the scrip. That is just the project that would have caught on with Lord Beaconsfield.

Never did Paris witness so many removals on quarter day as those which have just taken place. After allowing for the ugly rush to the suburbs for the summer, the changes were largely to seek cheaper apartments; those on the fifth story are so run on that they are positively unobtainable. Landlords cannot obtain tenants for the other stories; high rents forbid; they can hold out for a long time, as, if unoccupied, the rooms pay no taxes. The recast income tax bill aims to suppress that exemption. Quarter day is harvest time for thieves; the house porter, who collects the rents, is shadowed, and if the attempt be feasible it will be made by robbers. Oftentimes the porter is mysteriously behind in the cash balance. Thus a woman

concierge, after counting all her money, found a deficiency corresponding exactly to the rent of a tenant. She concluded he had not paid, so called on him again for the rent. He listened with a stoical grin to the second demand, and produced his receipt for his rent duly paid. The janitress then fell back upon that woman's weapon, tears; but the tenant was an old bird. She then accused him of hypnotising her and during her deep sleep abstracting the receipt. She alleged to the commissary of police she was easily hypnotised and offered to be tested before the Academy of Medicine. It is not too much to say that in all France and Navarre you could not find a soul to believe that a Paris concierge could be mesmerized. Shop lifting is on the increase in Paris and the industry is largely confined to the well-dressed classes. But if the thieves be expert their catchers are more so. An *élégante* having made a tour of inspection of a leading shop and smiling thanks to the shop men who replied to all her questions duly left and walked to a dashing tilbury yoked to a fast trotting horse, that had for driver a gentleman got up regardless of expense. As he was giving her his hand to help her to her seat, the head detective of the shop, which has its own corps of secret police, raised his hat and politely begged the lady to return to the shop—or rather to its searching room. A scene ensued; the driver took in the situation and whipped the horse into a lightning pace. He was pursued till a policeman drew a sea serpent wine cart across the street, pulled up the bolter, and arrested him for "furious driving." He arrived at the police station, where the lady soon joined him, after being *accouché* of several bottles of perfume, lace, ribbons, silk, etc. The driver, in addition to some railway scrip and a few watches, had a roll of 1,000 frs. in gold. The commissary placed that sum on his desk to remit to a poor cashier, from whose double-chained portfolio it had been subjected to painless extraction. In the twinkling of an eye that sum had disappeared and had not since been heard of.

Burns lamented that we had not the gift to see ourselves as others see us. That old but harmless beau, the Prince de Sagan, who declares he has no enemy in the world but his separated princess wife, the richest lady in France, has seen himself as M. Hermant, the dramatist and satirist, has depicted the hero of the new play *La Meute*. M. Hermant accepted a challenge while declaring both before and after the duel the Prince never was utilized for the play. The Prince is short-sighted and had a pair of specially made spectacles to adjust his pistol. Two shots were exchanged by each side. Of course no harm was done, nor would be, had both parties the magnifying glass which will bring the moon in 1900 to within two yards of our planet. It is best in life for a man to have the pluck and turn the adder's ear to the rubs of life, and to be the first to laugh at the jokes cracked at his expense, or the personalities retailed. And it would be well if an author, when dealing with even type-creations, wrote as if he was speaking before them in life. After all the personalities of literature are short-lived, and when effluxion of time covers them with dust it is surprising how one laughs at what once blistered. The buffooneries of Aristophanes did not kill Socrates; the personalities of the writers under the First Republic where are they now? Even Rochefort, who is a monopolist in the vituperative and the personal, effects no more than temporarily annoying his victims. But as to his writings turning aside the course of events they never possessed that potentiality.

The Reading infanticides attract much attention in France; could the women lay their hands on the *Ogresse* Dyer her doom would be terrible. In France there are baby farmers known as "angel makers," but they are difficult to convict, as it is next to impossible to smuggle a birth or a decease from the lynx eyes of the registrars. It must not be concluded that baby massacres are unknown in France; only "cussed wickedness or crass ignorance" can urge a mother to destroy her infant. The private fondling hospital will take charge of it, even guaranteeing its restoration—identity secured by a medal with a number and fastened to leg and arm, and the nuns will receive the little strangers, guard the secret well. An unmarried mother can make her *accouchement* in any of the private lying-in hospitals, but at the same time owned by diplomed midwives who have to take out a government license. Here the

patient is not bound to make herself known, and what confessions she may make to the midwife the latter cannot reveal them, under penalty of a smart fine and imprisonment. Only the judges can release her from the bond of secrecy in case of criminal proceedings. The mother is not even bound to give a name to or register her child. The midwife in this case replaces her. But between 150 and 200 corpses of infants, mostly new born, are annually brought to the morgue, whose death and parentage are unknown.

Where infant murder—for really it is but that—exists, is in the institution of professional nurses in the country, to whom Parisian families, and with the very best intention, entrust their little ones to be reared till about three years of age. The nurses arrive in Paris, assemble at stated offices, where mothers come to seek their services and arrange for payment, which is effected through the local Mayor's hands. When in charge of the peasantry, the local government physician, sanitary inspectors, and the national school teachers are bound to exercise a surveillance over the babies known as *nourrissons*. No peasant can have in charge more than two of the latter. In addition to private families giving their babes thus out, the Municipal Council has to provide the same assistance for its city abandoned babies. It is the feeding bottle that has largely to be relied upon. A nurse has to have a *livret* or personal pass book, wherein the names of the children entrusted to her are entered, how long she has had charge of them, and the medical officer's periodical observations on the rearing of the child. If the nurse's book reveals too many deaths that will be a subject of judicial investigation. The only motive a nurse can have to practise foul play against a *nourrisson* is the temptation to receive presents from the parents, chiefly in cash, on being given the infant. Parents may visit their infants occasionally and "remember the nurse"; others do not visit at all. Public opinion, since some years, has been directed to the evils of placing "little Parisians" out to nurse in the departments; result: the mortality has been reduced from sixty to thirteen per cent.

The Bourse du Travail has been re-opened and is now subjected to severe police inspection and regulations; it is not likely that the Labour Exchange will for the future degenerate into something like an anarcho-Socialist hall, where wild speakers could bespatter and rail upon whom they pleased. The institution is eminently helpful and the working classes will drift into discovering its practical usefulness. The underground story is devoted to all unemployed who seriously desire to obtain work. They receive an identity ticket from the bureau that represents their calling, and in addition their offer is posted up in the bureau of their Guild as well as on a general tableau. No fees are charged. About 300 professions are provided with office accommodation; gas, firing, rent free, with presses for their records, and *salles* in which to hold their shop meetings. No politics tolerated. A government officer has now charge of the conduct of the building.

A fresh series of letters from Renan to his sister has appeared; they date from 1848, and bear the impressions of that revolutionary period. These letters will lower not raise the character of Renan, while fully bearing out the poverty of his character as a man, and the hollowness of his writings and the absence of everything practical in his "isms." He will be remembered simply as a "stylist," and nothing is more evanescent than style devoid of flesh and bone and of concrete facts. During the revolution he knew how to protect his skin; he had not the courage of a mouse. He confides to his sister his inmost thoughts and resolutions; he will not shoulder a rifle in the interest of any party, no matter how just and righteous may be their programme. He arrives at that safe conclusion on philosophical grounds; the first gutter child encountered can fire a musket, but the philosophers are the *rara avis*. In opinions he was resolved never to quit the realm of theories and to avoid their practical application as if a plague. And he acted on that unplucky system all his life—hence a failure; he has leagued only words, not ideas, to mankind. Now we want ideas, facts, actualities; these are the current coin and the aims of existence. He also recommends to conceal your own opinions, but to agree with those of other persons. In a word, be guided by St. Paul: "Be all things to all men." Now Paul was a sound divine. Z.

Paris, April 18th, 1896.

Weismannism*

Recent Fiction.*

TOWARDS the end of his life Romanes devoted himself to preserving Darwinism proper from what he considered its improper development at the hands of Wallace in England and Weismann in Germany. Darwin himself did not believe that Natural Selection was the sole cause of organic evolution. Wallace seemed to think that other causes might be dispensed with. Weismann's researches in Germany tended to support Wallace and it was to an examination of Weismann's doctrines that Romanes devoted his last work in this field. Weismann's teaching, for our purpose, may be summarized under two heads: (1) His doctrine of heredity, based upon his postulate of the perpetual continuity of germ-plasm, and (2) his doctrine of evolution based upon his postulate of the absolute stability of germ-plasm. At least this, till quite recently, was the teaching of Weismann. But his works on *Amphimixis* (1891) and *Germ-plasm* (1893) have, so far, modified his characteristic positions that he tends more and more towards pure Darwinism. In fact Romanes regards Weismann's peculiar doctrine of evolution as now abandoned. This leaves his doctrine of heredity, in a modified form, stronger than it was before, though in Romanes opinion it must be modified still further. In any case the upshot of this whole controversy seems likely to result in still further enhancing Darwin's reputation for carefulness and insight. While to Weismann belongs the glory of having greatly aided in the discovery of the causes which tend to make the forces of heredity so strong compared with the action of environment. Of course Weismann's change of view with regard to the continuity and stability of the germ-plasm must have an important bearing on the question, always now associated with his name, as to the transmission or non-transmission of "acquired characters."

The volume before us is well printed and furnished with a most useful glossary as well as an index. It contains Romanes' criticism on Weismann's theories as they were put forward prior to the publication of *Amphimixis* and *Germ-plasm*. Romanes has left this criticism unaltered, preferring to add to it his views upon Weismann's change of front. This addition is given in chapter five, to which reference has been made above. Useful appendices are also added on Germ-plasm and Telegony. The form in which Romanes has left his criticism is most useful as it enables the reader to follow the course of Weismann's development.

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BRIEFER NOTICE.

The Jewish Scriptures: the Books of the Old Testament in the Light of their Origin and History. By Amos Kidder Fiske. Price \$1.50. (New York: Scribners, 1896.)—In trying to think for what class this well-written book was written we have come to the conclusion that it will suit those who want a merely naturalistic account of the history of the Israelites without any special reasons being given for taking this view of the subject. The writer says he means to "present the history and literature of the ancient Hebrews, as contained in the Old Testament, in a clear, concise, and candid way, accepting the benefit of the light revealed by modern research and learning, and applying the same calm judgment to which we are accustomed in dealing with the productions of other ancient peoples." This is all very well, and we think the book very well fulfils this purpose; but then a great many of us consider that the ancient Hebrews has a quite exceptional history, and that it would be unscientific as well as irreverent to assume that it could be treated in precisely the same manner as the history of Greece or Rome. Granting, however, Mr Fiske's principle and methods we find the work well done. The proportions are well preserved, the parts are well organized, and the exposition is lucid. The book consists of two parts, the first historical, the second literary. The first gives what the author calls the background of the Jewish Scriptures, the second is on the books of the Old Testament; and the result is a very good exposition of the subject on the basis of the "higher criticism."

* "An Examination of Weismann," By George John Romanes, F.R.S. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company. 1896.

"COMEDIES of Courtship," by Anthony Hope, and published in Bell's Indian and Colonial Library, takes rank, to our mind, after the famous "Dolly Dialogues," and that because the greater part of the stories contained in the collection return to the style of the latter work. Of course we only need to be reminded of "The Prisoner of Zenda" and the "Chronicles of Count Antonio" to admit their merit as tales of stirring adventure; but there are others who are doing at least equally good work in that department, where as the exquisite cleverness of Anthony Hope's dialogue, seasoned to the taste of an unregenerate public with just a dash of wickedness, is as yet without a rival.

The longest story of the collection, "The Wheel of Love," is blessed with a plot of bewildering intricacy; "The Lady of the Pool" has many situations of fine humour; and "Duke Deodonato" reminds us of "The Lady and the Tiger." But our favourites are "The Philosopher in the Apple Orchard" and "The Curate of Poltons" than which the author has produced nothing better. The situation in the former is something like this: The Philosopher, one lonely spring morning, is seated under an apple tree, dissecting a treatise on ontology. A pretty girl, in love with him, approaches with the desperate intention of leading him to a declaration of his sentiments which nothing but his being engrossed in metaphysics has hitherto hindered. After with difficulty attracting his attention and gaining the promise of its continuance for a strictly limited period she submits for his solution a dilemma which, she says, has been suggested by a novel. A girl is in love with a man whom nothing but preoccupation prevents from being in love with her. On the other hand another man is in love with the same girl, but her feelings for him are merely sisterly. What is she to do? The Philosopher scents a psychological problem and is all interest. A line or two will perhaps suggest the mode of his enquiry:

"Suppose, then, that one of these men was, oh, awfully in love with the girl, and—and proposed, you know—"

"A moment!" said the philosopher, opening a note book. "Let me take down his proposition. What was it?"

Again:

"She—she—she'd think it better than the whole world if—if she could be anything to him, you know."

"You mean become his wife?"

"Well, of course I do—at least I suppose I do."

"You spoke rather vaguely, you know."

The obvious solution does not suggest itself to him and he gives up the problem in despair and in doing so condemns himself to eternal bachelorhood.

"The Curate of Polton's" is in much the same happy vein and contributed largely to our enjoyment of the book.

"The odd things do not live," said Dr. Johnson, talking of books, and it would be well if every reviewer would have this reassuring dictum carved on his writing table. The writer on books is apt to take too seriously the passing aberration of the moment. For a year or two he told us sad stories of a future filled with analytical tales and New Women; and those of us who were cultivating a taste for current literature shuddered at the thought of the unhappy old age we were preparing for ourselves! And then, when the whole horizon looked grey, Kipling and Hope began to prove that Romance still lived; and now, on this side of the water, a youth of twenty-three writes a little story that shows him kin to Hawthorne, and makes it evident that neither to Howells nor Mary Wilkins has the last word been entrusted! Stephen Crane has absorbed the spirit of modern warfare, and reproduced it in "The Red Badge of Courage" in a manner absolutely unique. This statement we are aware is a strong one, the usual statement in fact of the reviewer, and yet we feel confident no one can read the book without feeling he has come across a masterpiece. There are only two other novels that can be compared with it. Tolstoi's

* "Comedies of Courtship." By Anthony Hope. London and Bombay: George Bell and Sons. 1896.

"The Red Badge of Courage" By Stephen Crane. New York: Appleton & Co.

"The Trumpet Major." By Thomas Hardy. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. 1896.

"Disturbing Elements," By Mabel C. Richenough. London: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co. 1896.

"Maureen's Fairing and Other Stories" By Jane Barlow. Price 75 cents. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co. 1895.

"The Redemption of the Brahman." A Novel. By Richard Garbe. Price 25 cents. Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co. 1896.

La Guerre et la Paix and Zola's *La Débâcle*. We must remember that nothing is more modern than modern warfare. The adoption of long range weapons of precision, and the development of rapidity in firing, have brought totally new factors into play on the battle field, and have developed absolutely new sensations and experiences in the soldier of to-day. After all, it is not death but life that is "the Great Perhaps." We all vaguely expect to play many parts before we leave this stage: to see ourselves in many situations, besides the familiar role we know so well, and the inward query ever is "What would it feel like?" "How would I act?" There are few documents in the case, as yet, to tell us how a soldier feels on a modern battle field. Zola gives us a nauseating catalogue of the horrors of war that we feel may be scientifically, but that we are sure are not humanly, true; while Tolstoi paints vivid pictures but spends too much time in trying to prove his own theories of life. To Stephen Crane belongs the distinction of having first told us what civilized warfare means to the average man. The story is a short one—a little over two hundred pages—and it deals with the incidents of two days heavy fighting during the Civil War. It tells the experiences of a young private, his acts and emotions, and as we read we feel the author has, for the first time, given articulate voice to the agonies and hopes and fears that were born during those years of blood and that ever since have lived, dumb and expressionless, in the hearts of thousands of men.

Henry Fleming "had dreamt of battles all his life, of vague and bloody conflicts that had thrilled him with their sweep of fire. His busy mind had drawn for him large pictures, extravagant in colour, lurid with breathless deeds.

"One night as he lay in bed the winds had carried to him the clanging of the church bell as some enthusiast jerked the rope frantically to tell the twisted news of a great battle. This voice of the people rejoicing in the night had made him shiver in a prolonged ecstasy of excitement

"Later he had gone down to his mother's room and had spoken thus: 'Ma, I'm going to enlist.'

"'Harry, don't you be a fool,' his mother had replied. She had then covered her face with the quilt. There was an end to the matter for that night."

But the next morning he did enlist, and now for some months his regiment had been in camp, and the army had done little but "sit still and try to keep warm." The belief in the reality of a battle had faded from his mind. He grew to look upon himself as "part of a vast blue demonstration" and to spend his leisure time in looking after his personal comfort and exchanging chaff with the only foes he had seen—the pickets along the opposite river bank. This peaceful existence is interrupted by the news that the next day the troops are to engage, and as he lay in his bunk a serious problem faced him:

"He tried to mathematically prove to himself that he would not run from a battle.

"A little panic fear grew in his mind. As his imagination went forward to a fight he saw hideous possibilities. He contemplated the lurking menaces of the future and failed in an effort to see himself standing stoutly in the midst of them. He sprang from the bunk and began to pace nervously to and fro. 'Good Lord, what's the matter with me?' he said aloud."

In the days that followed—for the battle did not come at once—he tried to find his counterpart among his fellows.

"He occasionally tried to fathom a comrade with seductive sentences but all attempts failed to bring forth any statement which looked in any way like a confession to those doubts which he privately acknowledged in himself. And it was often that he suspected his fellows to be liars.

"'How do you know you won't run when the time comes?' asked the youth. 'Run?' said the loud one, 'run? of course not?' He laughed. 'Well,' continued the youth, 'lots of good-enough men have t'ought they was going to do great things before the fight, but when the time come they skeddaddled.' 'Oh that's all true I s'pose,' replied the other, 'but I'm not going to skeddaddle. The man that bets on my running will loose his money, that's all.' He nodded confidentially."

Then after days of weariness and nights of self-torture the moment arrives.

"One grey morning he was kicked on the leg by the tall soldier, and then, before he was entirely awake he found himself running down a wood road in the midst of men who were panting with the first efforts of speed. From the distance came a sudden spatter of fire. . . . As they climbed the hill on the farther side artillery began to boom; the youth forgot many things as he felt a sudden impulse of curiosity.

"He expected a battle scene.

"There were some little fields girted and squeezed by a forest. Spread over the grass and in among the tree trunks he could see knots and waving lines of skirmishers who were running hither and thither and firing at the landscape. A dark battle line lay upon a sun-struck clearing that gleamed orange colour. A flag fluttered."

The story races through a hundred pages and we follow with breathless attention. Some of the scenes are as realistic as a battle piece by Verestchagin, and Zola himself has not often surpassed the terrible detail of the tall private's death, but the whole is given with an air of reserved strength that speaks volumes for Mr. Crane's art. Neither oaths nor blood bespatter the pages as they would in the writing of a weaker man who was trying to tell the same tale, though, as we read, we feel the wounds described twitch our own nerves and are made to realize the position of the lieutenant who, trying to keep heart in his men, "still continued to curse, but it was now with the air of a man who was using his last box of oaths." The battle engages many troops but we are only told the story of the "raw regiment."

"'Here they come! Here they come!' Gunlocks clicked. Across the smoke-infested fields came a brown swarm of running men who were giving shrill yells. A flag, tilted forward, sped near the front. . . . He got one glance at the foe-swarming field in front of him, and instantly . . . before he was ready to begin—before he had announced to himself that he was about to fight—he threw the obedient, well-balanced rifle into position and fired a first wild shot. Directly he was working at his weapon like an automatic affair."

The first attack is repulsed, the enemy retreat.

"The youth awakened slowly, he came gradually back to a position from which he could regard himself. . . . So it was all over at last! The supreme trial had been passed. The red formidable difficulties of war had been vanquished.!

"But of a sudden cries of amazement broke out along the ranks of the new regiment. 'Here they come ag'in! Here they come ag'in!'"

The man who had sprawled upon the ground started up and said "Gosh." This time the new regiment break and run. Fleming finds himself in the wood, "shambling along with bowed head, his brain in a tumult of agony and despair." He joins a procession of the wounded making their way to the rear and wishes that he, too, had a wound, a red badge of courage, but he leaves them as one after another goads him to madness by asking how he has been hurt. At night fall he rejoins his regiment, and the next day they are called on to take part in a forlorn hope.

"As the regiment swung from its position out into a cleared space the woods and thickets before it awakened. Yellow flames leaped towards it from many directions. The line swung straight for a moment. . . . The men pitching forward insanely had burst into cheerings, mob-like and barbaric, but tuned in strange keys that can arouse the dullard and the stoic. . . . Presently the straining pace ate up the energies of the men. The regiment snorted and blew. Among some stolid trees it began to falter and to hesitate."

The charge falters, and the lieutenant, the youth, and the loud soldier try to rally the regiment.

"In front of the colours three men begin to bawl, 'Come on! Come on!' They danced and gyrated like tortured savages. The flag, obedient to these appeals, bended its glittering form and swept toward them. The men wavered in indecision for a moment, and then with a long wailful cry the dilapidated regiment surged forward and began its new journey. Over the field went the scurrying mass. It was a handful of men splattered into the face of the enemy. . . . The youth ran like a mad man to reach the woods before a bullet could discover him. . . . Within him, as he hurled forward, was born a love, a despairing fondness for this flag that was near him. . . . Because no harm could come to it he endowed it with power. He kept near, as if it could be a saviour of lives, and an imploring cry went from his mind."

It is impossible, by extracts, to show, as Crane does with remarkable skill, how the two days ordeal by Fire changes the morbid braggart,—how his tinsel bravado drops off, his courage develops, and he leaves the battle-field a man.

"Travail and heavy sorrow
Come to the making of man."

War does this for Fleming, and yet, we close the book with a conviction that war, to-day, is an anachronism. We feel it is so, although we remember that war has stood in the past for much that was finest and strongest in Human Nature. But no one can read this story without feeling that the machine-governed, long distance, impersonal fighting of to-day makes for different and lower emotions than were bred in the hearts of men by the hand-to-hand fighting of a hundred years ago. We think of war still with the emotions we have inherited from our forefathers!

The cry to arms may yet sound in our ears—and to the summons there would be no laggard response—but we could wish that the men who on this Continent talk so gaily of war would ponder this book and realize the sickening mechanical Inferno through which a nation now gropes toward "the red badge of courage."

E. G.

"The Trumpet Major," republished in Macmillan's Colonial Library, makes the round dozen of Hardy's works that have appeared in this form. Those who have already read it are aware that while it is inferior in power to some of the other works of the same author it is written in pleasing style and appeals to the large class of readers who enjoy a fresh, wholesome romance free from soul-harrowing incidents. The scene is laid in a village near the south coast of England at the time of the threatened invasion of Napoleon early in the present century. Its interest turns upon the varying fortunes of a soldier, a sailor, and a young country squire in their race for the hand of an attractive English girl. A trace of the writer's pessimistic and, alas! not altogether false view of life is seen in the harum-scarum sailor winning the prize, while his high-souled soldier brother is sent off to die in the Peninsular war.

"Disturbing Elements." This is a very pretty, wholesome story. We have a female villain in it, and she is a Frenchwoman, and she does not say or do anything like what she would probably have said or done in a French novel, and then she is completely defeated. But there are other characters besides hers, and although the end of the story looks sad, it yet offers an outlook for something better. To those who are weary of sensational stories, and society novels, and the new woman, and bad reflections of the detestable French novel, we can recommend this wholesome book. The volume is one of the series known as Macmillan's Colonial Library, and is sold for 75 cents in paper covers.

"Maureen's Fairing and Other Stories." We should prefer to say "sketches" rather than "stories"; for, although these sketches are stories, their merit seldom consists in the story which they tell. As sketches, they are nearly all good, and to those who know and relish Irish language they may have a greater charm than for ordinary English readers. Still some of the stories, such as a "A Formidable Rival," "Mac's Luncheon," and "The Murphys' Supper" are distinctly good, and "Stopped by Signal" is very Irish. As we said before, some of the sketches are probably more entertaining to Irishmen than to mere Saxons. For ourselves, "Maureen's Fairing," "A Cream-coloured Cactus" and some others are distinctly above us.

"The Redemption of the Brahman." We have already noticed, with approval and commendation, this striking story of Indian life, and need now only note that we have here a new and cheaper edition in paper covers.

* * *

Letters to the Editor.

NOT PROVEN.

SIR,—I observe in an editorial paragraph in THE WEEK a somewhat hasty criticism of Sir Richard Cartwright's statement that the Royal Military College was founded on the model of Westpoint. I do not know on what supposed authority you attack this statement, but I can assure you, on what I think unimpeachable authority, that the contradiction is a mistake, and that the Royal Military College was, as a matter of fact, founded on the model of Westpoint, which, at that time, at any rate, was considered to be better equipped and organized than either Sanhurst or Woolwich. Whether the College should have been founded at all is open to question, but certainly it was the business of the Government which founded it to take the very best model possible, wheresoever this was to be found. Sir Richard Cartwright is usually pretty careful as to his facts, and he was not likely to make a mistake in regard to matters with which he is naturally so familiar.

Most people will think that the critics of the Liberals must be pretty hard put to it for proof of the absurd and stale cry of "looking to Washington," if the simple statement of a historical fact over twenty years old is to be taken as "confirmation strong" of such a "weakness!" I thought THE WEEK had a higher regard for its old-time reputation for fairness and freedom from partisanship? And does it mean to imply that we are to ban and boycott everything American,—that we are to deprive ourselves of the advant-

age of adopting their numberless improvements in all directions? If so, what traitorous developments we may find in our railway and tram-cars, our American bicycles, type-writers, sewing machines, printing presses—nay, even in our church bells and organs. Don't let us have one rule in talking politics and another in private life.

FAIR PLAY.

OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

SIR,—In THE WEEK of April 24th Mr. Galt has an article in which he deals somewhat trenchantly with our Ontario System of Education. Mr. Galt has two complaints to enter against it: (1) The system is too costly. (2) It accomplishes too little.

In support of this first contention he gives the total amount expended during the past twenty years on public and high schools, viz., seventy-nine millions of dollars, and if italics mean anything, he affects to be amazed at the magnitude of this amount. A point of very great importance he fails to mention—that this represents the amount expended on the education of nine million pupils, which by simple division gives in round numbers, a cost of nine dollars per pupil per year, an amount which cannot certainly be considered either costly or excessive; and yet with this amount Mr. Galt is dissatisfied because of the lack of "production of scholars and great men." In might occur to other readers that this amount is excessively small for the accomplishment of the purpose Mr. Galt desires. To other readers who believe that "poeta nascitur non fit," the presence or absence of any system of education is immaterial.

The second charge that our system accomplishes too little, Mr. Galt assumes to be proven by two statements: a negative—we have produced no scholars and great men; and a positive—we are a nation of newspaper and novel readers. Whether these are the correct and only measures of what a system of education should or should not accomplish seems open to question. There are many people who think that the development of the executive ability of the boy or girl is a serious and important function of education. Measured in terms of this unit, will Mr. Galt declare that the people of Ontario are in any way inferior to any other people in their ability to initiate and carry through reforms or in their management of their commercial and legislative affairs? That Mr. Galt is quite positive of the value of his standards of measurement also appears doubtful. There is a gleam of consolation in the clause "when we do produce a Gilbert Parker" (the italics are ours) and of regret in "he is compelled to become an exile in order to make a living" on account of "the narrowness of our market even for works of fiction." Mr. Parker is known as a pleasing novelist—but to read novels is an evidence of the failure of our system of education. It is true also that we have a narrow market, only five millions of souls; but surely that is not the fault of our educational system. It gives very many a great deal of pleasure to read THE WEEK, another evidence according to Mr. Galt of the pernicious effects of our system of education. The point I wish to make is, that it is a very difficult thing to say specifically what a system of education should accomplish, and a much more difficult thing to correctly measure its results.

The remedy proposed by Mr. Galt is "to restrict our efforts to public schools only, and by making the course of study more interesting and less pretentious we would impart a more thorough education and would stay the annual expenditure of millions of dollars." How make the course of study more interesting? Mr. Galt would not have music or temperance, algebra, geometry, bookkeeping, physics, or botany, but the plain and simple three R's. If Mr. Galt knows any way of making reading, writing, and arithmetic alone interesting for seven years of school life, he would be indeed a benefactor to thousands of teachers if he would let them know how it is to be done. He also speaks of lopping off millions annually. How many millions? The annual expenditure is four and one-half millions. Taking away the least possible number of millions, we have two and one half millions for the education of four hundred and fifty thousand pupils; about six dollars per head, and for this amount we are to expect a yearly crop of "scholars and great men!" Is it worth while discussing the question further from Mr. Galt's basis?

W. H. JENKINS.

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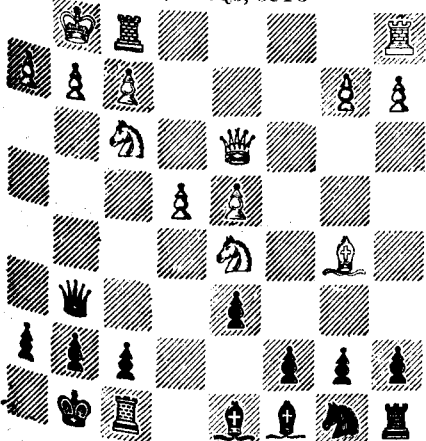
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Chess

Our game 735 was played in March,—

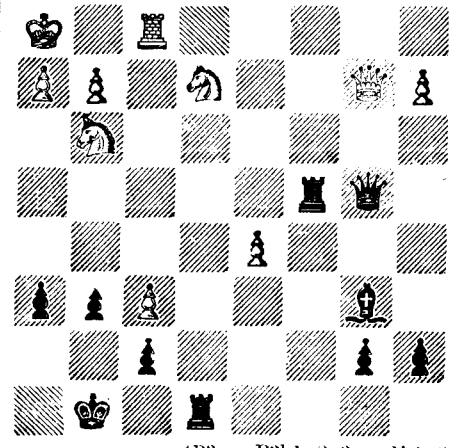
Schiffers	Steinitz	White	Black
1 P K4	P K4	BD	GE
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	SM	rx
3 B Kt5	B B4?	Jo	Rw

- 3... not considered good.
- 4 P B3, Q B3, 5 Castle, KKt K2, 6 P Q4, P x P, 7 B x Kt, Kt x B, 8 P K5, Q Kt3, 9 P x P, B K2, equal game
- 4 Castle Q B3!! AS 8P!
- 4... Reeves' defence.
- 5 Kt B3 seems preferable.
- 6 P B3 KKt K2 tu %G
- 6 anything better here? 24 E4
- 6 B Q4 P x P sW PX
- 7 Lasker plays B x Kt instead. Q Kt3 wG wG
- 7 B Kt5 B x B u4 HZ
- 8 QB x Kt best position for bishop. Castle ju 76
- 9 P x P 10 P Q5 yields good attack. P Q3 11 Kt B3 B B1 u5 G8
- 11 Kt Q5 B B1 u5 G8
- 12 R B1, Q x K P, 13 R x Kt, Q x Q Kt!! 13 xr
- 12 Q Q3 Kt Kt1 13 xr
- 12... threatening a fork of pieces.



- 13 B B4 4N1B1, 1q2p3, ppp2ppp, 1krlbbr)
- 13 B B4 worth a trial. P I 3 ov yx
- 14 Kt B4 14 Kt K3 a better place for knight. Q R3 JN X66
- 15 cleverly maneuvered. Kt Q2 NB r7
- 16 Kt K3 Kt Kt3 BU 7p
- 17 B Kt3 B E2 vm 8y
- 18 QR B1 B Q2 as 77

- 19 P Q5 P QB4 45 kxw
- 20 Kt Q4 P K I t3 M4 YN
- 21... oblivious to deep schemes. QR - I KN lz
- 21 P Kt4 QR - I KN lz
- 21... this decides the game. 4B wv
- 22 Kt Q4 K2 P B5 4B wv
- 22... winning exchange grandly. Kt x B mv pv
- 23 B x P Kt x B mv pv
- 24 Q x Kt, B Kt3 ch, wins queen. B Kt4 sv 7o
- 24 R x Kt B Kt4 sv 7o
- 25 P Kt3 B Kt3 ch km yp!
- 27 thinking to steal a march on black. S11 66y
- 26 KR1 Q Kt2 S11 66y
- 27 Q B2 B x R 3t ov
- 28 P x B R I 2 mv zy
- 29 P K5 P x P DE 6E
- 30 P B5 KR B1 NO Rz
- 31 Q Q2 R x P t2 yv
- 32 P B6 Q B1 OP YR
- 33 Q Kt5 P R3 zW 7766
- 33... giving up pawn to hold attack. WE zH
- 34 Q x P R K1 WE zH
- 35 Q Kt2 QKt5 Ek Rn
- 35... glorious final onslaught.

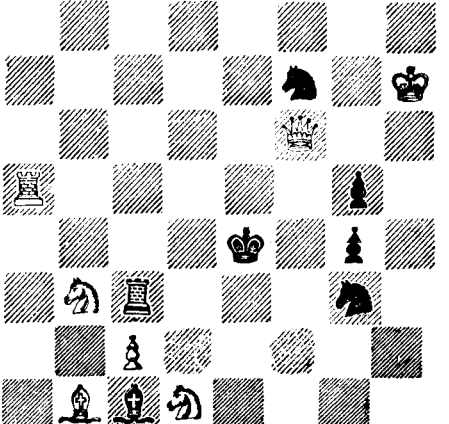


4P3, pp3b1, 2p3pp, 1k3r4

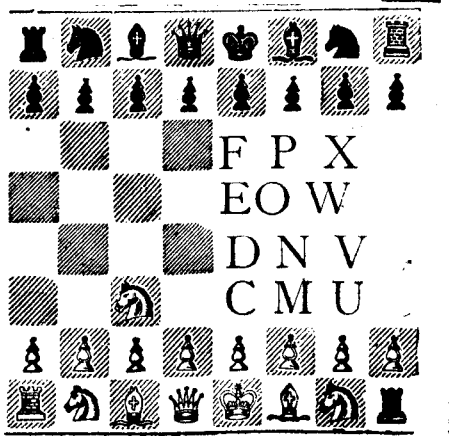
- 36 cannot save the game. ka v44
- 36 Q R1 R R5 2233 nV
- 37 P KR3 Q Kt5 1122 4433+
- 37... threatening mate by R x P ch. T33 HB+
- 38 K R2 R x Pch UB VB+
- 39 P x R R x Ktch UB VB+
- 40 Kt x R Q x Kt ch UB VB+
- 41 (K Kt3, B B2 ch wins) K R1, Q K5ch, 42 KR2, BB2ch, 43 K K1, Q K6 ch, 44 R B2, B Kt3, 45 Q Kt2, K B1, 46 K K2, Q x R ch winning.

DAVIS' TWO-MOVER: NO. 734 B.

7 black - 6 points (8, 5n1K, 5Q2, R5p1.



4k1p1, 1N3n1, 2P5, 1BbN4) 7 white. 735.—White to play and mate in two moves.



Mr. Kidd on the Woman Movement

"What do you think of the modern woman's movement?"
"The movement towards what is called the emancipation of women is merely a part of the general altruistic movement which is taking part in our civilization. It has its motive force in the fund of altruistic feeling which is behind all the great onward movement. It is in the main a healthy social movement, and must not be judged by what a good many of the writers on the opposite side say about it. I would advise anybody who distrusts it to read the series of remarks on the subject from leading women connected with the movement which appeared in a recent number of The Idler. I think they put the case in a very fair light. Nothing could be saner, more healthy, or more sensible, than the views and opinions expressed by the majority of the writers."

"You think the movement is an element for good in social progress?"

"Like every movement of the kind, there is good and evil in it. Anything which tends to interfere detrimentally with woman's place as wife and mother must react injuriously on the community in the long run. On the other hand, one of the most important of the results which is like to be achieved by the movement is the improvement in the tone of public opinion as regards sexual morality. There is no doubt that the position of women under an earlier organization of society has had a great deal to do with the formation of that moral standard according to which there is one law for the woman and another for the man, and according to which—as Thomas Hardy, I think, expresses it—it is always the woman who pays. I think that several recent novels, whatever their faults, have, on the whole, a powerful influence for good, and tend to correct these standards. Women are becoming educated up to their responsibilities, and when men come to know that women expect from them, as a matter of course, just the same standard of conduct as men expect from women, it will eventually mean an influence working almost exclusively for good."

"Would you open all vocations to women?"

"The restrictions placed on women by nature are so obvious and so generally admitted by women themselves, that any artificial restrictions are out of place and uncalled for."

"What do you think is the tendency of modern literature?"

"On the whole I think it is good. The tendency towards scrappiness and sensationalism is only the natural result of a period when, for the first time in our history, the lower masses of the people have begun to read anything. The food provided for their mental palates is, however, suited to their wants, which will doubtless improve as time goes on."

Incidentally speaking of pessimism, Mr. Kidd said that you always find it amongst the upper classes, because, as a matter of fact, the springs of vitality in society are to be found elsewhere.—The New Age.

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Literary Notes.

Last week Messrs. Blackwood & Sons published a new edition of Kinglake's "Eothen," with a portrait and biographical sketch of the author. The book was originally published in 1844. It was reprinted in 1878, and its author died early in 1891.

Mr. E. F. Knight's new book, "Madagascar in War Time: the Experiences of the Times Special Correspondent with the Hovas during the French Invasion of 1895," was published last week by Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co., with a map and numerous illustrations.

A week or two ago in London The Vagabonds flocked to the Holborn Restaurant to do honour to Mr. Linley Sambourne—and to be photographed. Mr. a Becket introduced his colleague on Punch in a witty and charming little speech, and Mr. Sambourne replied with a short but eloquent description of the changes in "black and white" art since he began his career.

Mr. J. M. Barrie has written a pleasant and appreciative letter to Mr. Gabriel Setoun over the publication of the last-named gentleman's new story, "Robert Urquhart." Mr. Barrie is rejoiced at having at last encountered a thoroughly Scotch story without the old dominie in it! "The dominie," said Mr. Barrie, "had such a way of marching into the story as soon as he heard there was one on hand that I think Mr. Setoun must have gone about his work on tiptoe."

Under the caption "Great Occasions of 1896," The Review of Reviews for May masses the preliminary announcements of more than sixty great conventions and other noteworthy gatherings of the coming six months at home and abroad. In many features this prospectus offers a remarkable exhibit of the varied activities of modern humankind—intellectual, moral, and physical. The Review's enterprise in gathering, digesting, and presenting this vast range of useful and interesting information is to be commended.

The new number of The Review of Reviews contains a witty article on M. de Blowitz and Mr. Henry Norman, who are styled "Ambassadors of the People." The London Literary World says that the writer, who can hardly be other than Mr. Stead himself, deals some back-handed hits at The Daily Chronicle's special commissioner, which will probably provoke reprisals. The Americans are bluntly told that they have been gulled by the pretended discovery of secret documents in "the Aberdeen mare's nest," and we are then assured, "nor is there much fear that they will find out the innocent trick that has been played upon them!"

Du Maurier and Felix Moscheles were chums and art students together, and the former first practised his gifts of caricature upon the latter. Moscheles has written for the May Century a paper entitled "In Bohemia with Du Maurier; Recollections of Artist Life in the Fifties." This is illustrated with seventeen sketches by Du Maurier, and contains a number of his letters and poems. At the very beginning of his art studies Du Maurier was threatened with blindness and had to give up painting, but the intimacy between the two men continued. The first real heroine that Du Maurier had, a pretty tobacconist at Mechlin, figures in the reminiscences and sketches.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling has replied to an offer he received from The World, of New York, as follows:

Dear Sir,—Your suggestion that I should write one thousand words for one thousand dollars on the text "Why America Could Not Conquer England," has been laid before me.

It is impossible that I should accept the commission, as it would involve discussing the armed strength of the Empire, a question on which no British subject has any information for sale.—Yours sincerely, R. KIPLING.

The last sentence disposes effectually of the rumour, says the Literary World, that Mr. Kipling intended to become naturalized in the United States, and gives colour perhaps to the later rumour that he is returning to take up his permanent abode in England.

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Personal.

Li-Hung-Chang has reached Odessa, on his way to Moscow to attend the coronation of the Czar.

Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson left Liverpool on Saturday for Canada to inspect the Grand Trunk Railway.

The London Saturday Review says that Lord Rosebery, considering his life uncertain, has chosen Sir Edward Grey as heir to all his Parliamentary dignities and authority.

The Marquis Yamagata, senior marshal of the Japanese army, arrived at Havre on Saturday on his way to attend the Czar's coronation, and was given a very warm welcome.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Sir Donald Smith and Mr. Sandford Fleming will sail for England on May 9th. Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Mr. Fleming will go as the Canadian delegates to the cable conference, while Sir Donald will go to assume his duties as High Commissioner for Canada.

Mr. H. F. McDougall, who was Sir Charles Tupper's colleague for Cape Breton in Parliament, has been appointed Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa; Mr. A. Mackay, ex-M.P., for Hamilton, has been appointed Inspector of Customs at Hamilton; and Mr. Doyle, ex-M.P. (Monck), Collector of Customs at Niagara Falls, subject to his Excellency's approval.

Mr. Ernest Lawson, one of our rising young Canadian artists, recently returned from Paris—is at present engaged in Kingston in painting for Queen's University the portraits of the two lamented medical professors who died recently, Dr. Herbert Saunders and Dr. K. N. Fenwick, both of which promise to be striking pictures, as well as life-like portraits. He is also making a copy of the portrait of the Hon. William Morris, the first chairman of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Lawson, who is only twenty-three, has studied both in New York and Paris, and has already had pictures exhibited in the Salon, with very favourable mention. He intends soon to open a studio in Toronto, where he will, no doubt, be an accession to the growing artistic brotherhood of the Queen City.

* * *

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Personal.

Mr. Charles G. D. Roberts is at present in Fredericton, N.B., his old home.

Mr. T. Arnold Haultain has returned from England, looking exceedingly well.

Mr. Bliss Carman has gone to Paris and to Rome on business connected with his publishers.

The Governor-General proposes extending the hospitalities of Rideau Hall to-morrow to the railway men of Ottawa.

The trial of Jameson and his associates was adjourned until June 11, to permit of the arrival of important witnesses from South Africa.

In an interview recently Mr. J. H. Metcalfe, of Kingston, said that if he was not appointed warden of Kingston penitentiary he would run again for Parliament for Kingston as an Independent candidate.

In the Imperial House of Commons recently Mr. Curzon announced that M. de Staal, the Russian Ambassador at London, had assured him that there was not the slightest foundation for the rumoured treaty between Russia and China.

The four of the leaders of the Johannesburg Reform Committee, three British and one American, who pleaded guilty to high treason, have been sentenced to death. Mr. Chamberlain has sent a very stiff message to President Kruger, saying that the British Government expects a commutation.

* * *

The following from Harper's Weekly well describes a character as common in England as in the United States—the lady, badly equipped for the task, who offers to deliver lectures on literature or literary men:

I do not know what Byron wrote —
No time to read I've had;
But he's the man whose foot was clubbed
And morally was bad.

I've never read up Shakespeare —
I've too much work for that;
But I am quite familiar
With his tendency to "bat."

I don't recall a single bit
Of Mr. Shelley's rhyme,
But he's the man who tried to have
Two spouses at one time.

They say that Pope was pretty good —
I've never seen his work;
But he's the humpbacked fellow
With a tongue just like a dirk.

I've not perused a line of Poe,
But I know what I think:
He is the man than couldn't write
Until he'd had a drink.

And so, you see, upon the whole,
I've really somehow got
A good idea of all the queer
And literary lot.

And while I could not lecture quite
To please the learned mind,
I sort of think I'd captivate
The "Sewing Circle" kind.

So, Dorcas, take notice:
You can help a struggling mate
By subscribing to her lectures
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Freehold Loan & Savings Co.

DIVIDEND NO. 73.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend of 3 per cent. on the Capital Stock of the Company has been declared for the current half-year, payable on and after the First day of June next, at the office of the Company, corner of Victoria and Adelaide streets, Toronto.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 17th to the 31st May, inclusive.

Notice is hereby given that the General Annual Meeting of the Company will be held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, June 2nd, at the office of the Company, for the purpose of receiving the annual report, the election of Directors, etc.

By order of the Board.

S. C. WOOD,

Managing Director.

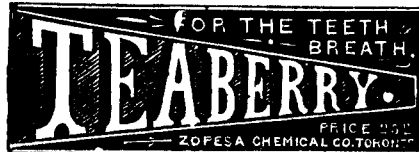
Toronto, 22nd April, 1896.

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Kate "the Cust" as an Elizabethan "New Woman." Arthur S. Way.

The Taming of the Shrew. Dr. W. J. Rolfe.

Shakespeare's Katharine and Ibsen's Nora. E. M. Crowell.

MOLIERE, DRAMATIST. Dr. H. D. Louchard.

CLOWNS AND FOOLS OF SHAKESPEARE'S TIME. H. Ernest Borradale.

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D. Blackley, 80 Bay Street, Toronto, and 17 King Street West, Hamilton.
Henry Barber & Co., Accountants and Assignees, 18 Wellington Street East.
- Architects** { W. A. Langton, Rooms 87-88 Canada Life Building, 46 King Street West.
Curry, Baker & Co., 70 Victoria Street.
Darling, Sproat, & Pearson, The Mail Building.
Beaumont Jarvis, McKinnon Building, Cor. Jordan and Melinda Streets.
J. A. Siddall. Room 42 The Janes Building, 75 Yonge Street
- Booksellers and Publishers** { Copp, Clark Company Limited, 9 Front Street West and 67 Colborne Street.
Selby & Co. Kindergarten and School supplies. 23 Richmond Street West.
The Fleming H. Revell Company, Limited, 140-142 Yonge Street.
Rowsell & Hutchison, 74 King Street East.
- Bookbinders and Printers** { The Brown Brothers, Limited, Bookbinders and Stationers, 64-68 King Street East.
Hunter Rose Printing Company Limited.
- Boots and Shoes** { H. & C. Blachford. "Best general selection Boots and Shoes in City." 83-89 King St. E.
The J. D. King Co., Ltd. 122 and 124 Wellington St. W. Forteau, and Levis, Quebec.
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- Financial** { Canada Permanent Loan & Savings Company, Toronto Street. J. Herbert Mason, President.
The Toronto General Trusts Co. See advt. 2nd page of THE WEEK.
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London & Canadian Loan & Agency Company, Ltd. J. F. Kirk, Manager. 99 and 103 Bay St.
J. C. McGee, 5 Toronto St. Debentures bought and sold. Loans on mortgages at current rates.
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- Teas** { Hereward Spencer & Co., Retail India and Ceylon Tea Merchants, 63½ King Street West.
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