

THE WEEK.

Third Year.
Vol. III., No. 3.

Toronto, Thursday, December 17th, 1885.

\$3 00 per Annum.
Single Copies, 10 Cents.

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PARTYISM.

IF anything were needed to convince one of the evils of partyism, the attitude of the Canadian political parties toward the Riel question would supply it. Prior to the execution, one of them wavered and hesitated in the face of a plain duty—the other shirked an honest expression of opinion, with the evident and despicable object of making party capital out of the Government's decision, were it right or wrong. Now that the penalty of treason has been paid, the party which had no opinion to express declares one strongly, and urges the extraordinary doctrine that our criminal law must be variously administered. The party which hesitated to perform a duty daily magnifies the excitement in Quebec, with a view to wresting from the Liberals their Ontario following. Between the contending factions race prejudices have been stirred up and religious fanaticism has been excited. A Confederation which seemed to be ready to put forth the first strong shoots of national existence is threatened with dissolution, and the work of eighteen years is overthrown in as many days. Every man who is fired with a single spark of patriotism must lament such a condition of things.

When there is little before the country—when the tariff for the time being works smoothly, and our granaries are full, partyism furnishes a not unpleasant excitement. Niagara is an interesting spectacle when its seething waters hurl themselves against one another and roll noisily over their precipice; but when humanity is seen battling with them, when the little boat that put off gaily from the shore is caught in the relentless current—is drawn faster and faster toward the brink, and is hurled pitilessly to destruction—the Niagara of sunny days and rainbow tints becomes a destroying monster to be shunned as life is valued.

The figure is not exaggerated. I ask you for one moment to look at the articles of the Reform press to-day. I ask you to turn your eyes upon the spectacle presented by men who, believing thoroughly in the justice of the sentence pronounced upon Louis Riel, deliberately appeal to the worst prejudices of simple and suspicious men—deliberately set race against race—deliberately pursue a policy which, if successful, could only result either in the rending of Confederation or in a bloody civil war; and all this that their party may obtain an election triumph, and that they may procure election spoils! It is enough to make a man doubt the sanity of his race.

But perhaps the worst feature of it is that, so widespread is the partyism that has produced this state of things, there is actually no means of appealing to the better judgment of the people. The press, with a few notable exceptions, is arrayed either on one side or the other. Whether one section speaks true or false, the message only reaches half the community, and, be a leading article honest or perfidious, it is practically without influence outside of its own party. Neither honesty nor perfidy increases the number of its readers, and it appeals only to those who are prepared to treat its utterances as dogmatical. Then, too, the views of the political papers are so evidently prompted by party interest that, when a grave crisis arises, and the more thoughtful of the editors endeavour to speak seriously, the old fable of the boy and the wolf finds a new application, and the burning words fall upon listless ears and unresponsive hearts.

At such a time the men who have permitted themselves to be ranked as partisans find their messages unheeded and their thunders unnoticed.

Happily in the very excess of party contention and the very universality of partyism there is ground for hope. The thinking men on both sides must become disgusted with a system in which adherence is pledged to undisclosed measures and a leader is blindly followed whithersoever he may lead—by which citizens obtain distorted views of the opinions of their fellow-citizens and prejudices are carefully fostered—and under which the real condition of things is misrepresented and the ascertainment of truth rendered almost impossible. But it will not do to wait complacently for such a revulsion of feeling. Those to whom the evils of partyism are patent must bestir themselves. Something more manly and more productive of good to the community than mere melancholy railing at the age and its evils, the system and its supporters, must be attempted. Those who feel strongly must face the question stoutly.

In this country, as was admitted by one of our leading political journals the other day, there is practically no difference in principle between the parties. That called Conservative might, at the present time, better be termed Experimental; while the so-called Reform party confines itself to professions of morality. Notwithstanding this fact, however, each man in the community must needs be either a Conservative or a Reformer, and long before our boys have the faintest conception of the nature of the Constitution under which they live, they have declared themselves as supporters of one side or the other, and have "discussed" the questions of the day from their party's standpoint. Emerging from this boyhood of bias they enter a manhood of blind party allegiance, and to their dying day the majority of them obtain their views of what is going on in, and what is best for, their country from a press which is occupied in presenting, as Solonic, the measures of one set of statesmen, and in aspersing the characters and belittling the theories of another set, equally as worthy either in their measures or their morals. We do not attach much blame to the toymaker who, with the same brush, makes one doll a villain and the other a judge; but we wonder at the gullibility of the children who are deceived by his handiwork.

Should a young man declare that he has not made up his mind which side to choose he is looked upon with something akin to contempt. He is reproached with being "on the fence," and is twitted with a lack of manliness. "Why does he not come out on one side or the other?" say the partisans, when all the time the only man among them is he who refuses to degrade his intellect by neglecting its use.

General, however, as is the lack of any kind of preparation for the privilege of the franchise, the time of its first exercise is the time when appeals to the reason are most sure of a hearing and an effect. At this time, then, let something be urged in favour of freedom of opinion. Let those who feel the evil that partyism has done, and the ill that it is doing, speak out. Let them declare to the young men about them that the field of thought is not necessarily confined to the opinions advocated by the political parties of the country, and that reform is not limited to the party platforms. Let them laugh to scorn the idea that one side embraces all that is good and the other all that is evil. Let them urge those upon whose integrity and intelligence the future of the country rests to pledge themselves to neither party; but to maintain inviolate through life their right to vote as they think and to advocate what they believe. Let societies be formed in every town and village—call them Canadian clubs if you will—where the questions affecting the welfare of that country may be discussed freely, and let the sole condition of membership be the renunciation of partyism of every shape and form. If such a course be adopted, partyism will not cease, but the servility of the party press, the extravagances of party leaders, the self-seeking of party politicians—in short, the evils of the party system—will be awed, checked, neutralized, and counter-balanced by the ever-shifting ballast of righteous independent opinion.

An independent press is a pre-requisite to the formation of such a healthy public opinion: and, even as ballast, to be effective, must be controlled and rightly placed, so the mass of independent men must be directed by an independent press so to marshal themselves that the gallant barque, "The Canada," may safely weather the storms which beset her, and, in spite of prophets of evil, demagogues, economic theorists, speculative thinkers, men without hope and men without fear, ride securely, with an ever-increasing

load of passengers and freight, to the destiny among the nations for which God intended her.

How best an independent press may be encouraged I cannot now discuss. In what way influence may most readily be brought to bear upon our young men must be answered by the thoughtful members of each community. In the meantime I am certain of this—that the time has come when the English-speaking people of Canada should lay aside party prejudices, however dearly cherished, and should consider seriously, as men who have a common hope for their country, a common and great danger.

CYRIL.

BRITISH ELECTIONS.

THE British elections have been watched by me with the feelings of one who is an Englishman first, a Liberal afterwards. The best chance of saving the Government from the dictation of Irish rebels appeared to be a decisive victory of the Liberal Party. In that party, it is true, there was an untrustworthy element. Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Charles Dilke were not less ready to tamper with Disunion for the sake of the Irish vote than Lord Randolph Churchill and his section. But the party as a whole might possibly have been kept in the right path; and, had it gained a clear majority, it would not have been in bondage to Mr. Parnell. Of a clear Conservative majority there never was the slightest chance. I must own that I felt strongly the character of the means by which the Conservatives had acquired power, and the baseness of their conduct both to Earl Spencer and to the loyal population of Ireland, the only security for whose lives and property was the Crimes Act. For an honourable and respectable Conservative Government, at the present crisis, there might be much to be said: it would give the nation time for reflection as well as prevent Dismemberment. But a Tory-Rowdy Government, steered by Lord Randolph Churchill, is a Government of profligate intrigue, hypocritical demagogism, and, in its ultimate tendency, of revolution.

What I wished, however, I did not expect. It was pretty certain that the Liberal majority would be reduced. A great commercial nation is not yet ready for the doctrine that all property is to pay ransom to a proletariat of plunder. The raising of the Disestablishment issue had evidently done the Liberals harm. The Irish vote which Parnell had ordered to the Tory side is strong in some thirty constituencies. But besides all this, the pendulum now swings at each election, especially in the Metropolitan boroughs, the name of which is fickleness. How Hodge would vote was doubtful: he has showed unexpected independence, and has partly redeemed the day for the Liberal cause. The influence of the landowners in the counties has probably received a fatal blow.

Still the Liberal Party is not strong enough to govern in face of the Tories and Parnellites combined. It contains utterly rotten elements, crotcheteers, mere mischief-makers, and Labour Candidates whose Trade Union is their only country. In truth, it is two parties, a Liberal and a Radical; the first faithful to liberty, the second socialistic; the first loyal, the second disposed to court the alliance of rebellion.

To the Liberal Party, Mr. Gladstone truly says, Ireland owes all the measures of reform and justice which she has received, including Catholic Emancipation, which was a Liberal measure adopted at the eleventh hour by the Tories. Such being the case, Mr. Gladstone is surprised that the Irish should have turned against the Liberals. But this only proves that he knows nothing of the character of the Irish, or of that of the priests and demagogues who lead them. With his policy of surrender and soft words he has taken the wrong road to the Irish heart, and the natural consequences are that he is overwhelmed with ferocious abuse, that his Government is overthrown, and that his life has to be guarded against the Irish knife.

It has been stated that English employers are dismissing Irish workmen. Who can blame them? Why should England, of all nations, be expected to cherish in her bosom people who eat her bread, receive her charity at their need, enjoy all her privileges, and yet hate her, curse her, conspire against her, and seek her ruin? Boycotting is a game at which more than one can play.

Parnell has gained his immediate object. But his power is much overstated. It depends wholly on the weakness and baseness of the leaders of rival factions. He has not an ounce of military force: a single brigade of troops would scatter all the powers of his League to the four winds. The Loyalists of the North, in spite of the disparity of numbers, would beat him if their hands were not tied behind them. His eighty Janissaries are not elected by a free vote, but under the pressure of a terrorist organization supplied with foreign funds. He could not stand another election, so that a dissolution would be his overthrow. If the leaders of faction

were to make a treasonable agreement with him, bartering away the Irish Crown, and the Queen with the advice of her Privy Council were to exercise her right of veto, the patriotism of the nation would rally round her and Parnell would find himself powerless. Should he attempt to wreck the House of Commons by obstruction, the House has only to suspend and in the last resort expel him.

Still it cannot be denied that the situation is one of extreme danger. Government is broken up, and it is difficult to tell how Parliament can discharge its functions. It may be doubted whether England has been in such peril since the mutiny at the Nore. In truth, the present crisis, if less alarming in aspect, is worse in kind, since it arises from a total collapse of public character. Lord Salisbury has placed himself on a singular pinnacle of honour. He is, I suppose, the first British Minister who has held office by the grace of an avowed enemy of the country. He dares not protect life and property in Ireland, because if he did the rebel leader who has made him would unmake him. It is idle to pretend that he was not a party to the understanding between Lord Randolph Churchill and the Parnellites, or to the disgraceful concessions by which Parnell's support was bought. He must now wish that he had kept the path of honour, supporting the Executive in its struggle against murderous disaffection, and refusing to tamper with rebellion. He would have gained just as much in the elections, and his position would now be powerful and independent. Why cannot a Most Noble Marquis, with a princely revenue, do what has been done by the humblest soldier whose blood has dyed the sands of the Soudan?

We are told that Mr. Gladstone wishes to come back into power, and to settle the Irish question before he resigns himself to "long-coveted repose." Ignorant of the Irish people, with whom he has hardly ever come into contact, he fomented by his policy a rebellion which he has persistently refused to view and treat as what it really is. In the face of this rebellion he has plunged the nation into a political revolution by a blind extension of the franchise, without safeguards and without any general revision of the Constitution, at the same time immensely strengthening the rebel vote. The result might have been anticipated by the commonest forecast. But the strong point of this great and admirable man seems to be not so much forecast as oratorical presentation. He appears even unconscious of the calamities which his policy has entailed, and in the midst of the wreck sits down to write an essay about the Dawn of Religious Worship. To Mr. Gladstone's marvellous gifts, rare virtues, and splendid services every one must pay homage. Yet of all Ministers who ever ruled England not one has brought more disaster and humiliation on the country. Mr. Gladstone's passion for settling everything before he leaves the scene is now the most dangerous part of the situation.

The best chance of saving the nation from dismemberment, and Parliament from confusion, appears to be a junction, on patriotic grounds, of the moderate Liberals with the moderate Conservatives, throwing off on one side Mr. Chamberlain and on the other side Lord Randolph Churchill. To something of this kind it must come if the country is to be rescued from its peril.

All honour to the brave Loyalists who, deserted and heavily discouraged by both the parties, have made so gallant a fight in the North of Ireland. On them, at all events, amidst all the imbecility and treason, the eyes of all men of their race throughout the world can rest with pride. Let them stand firm and trust that there is patriotism still in the heart of the nation, and that it will come to the front at last.

Mr. Parnell in his election ukase exempted from his general proscription certain British Liberals who had shown "unswerving fealty" to the cause of the mortal enemies of their own country. The distinction had been well earned. Those on whom it was bestowed had laboured from the beginning to foster and abet the rebellion, to cut the sinews of national existence, and to thwart the Executive Government in upholding the law. They had with dexterous pen presented the case between England and Ireland in a form utterly misleading, with a total omission of justice to their own country, and had done all in their power to set foreign opinion against the land which had the honour to count them among its citizens. But the most acceptable of all their services no doubt was the vilification of struggling Loyalism in the North of Ireland, by which they strove to estrange the heart of England from it, and to prepare the way for its betrayal. To move the abolition of the Crimes Act, and thus to launch murder, outrage, and terror again upon Ireland, was a proceeding which cool philosophy might approve, and which the practised man of letters might have made to look beautiful by the magic of his pen. May the order of merit so justly bestowed on unswerving fealty by Mr. Parnell long mark for the homage of every patriotic heart the breasts upon which his hand has placed it!

The new Parliament has been described by the *London Times* as a

menagerie. It is very largely composed of raw and apparently inferior, as well as discordant, elements. Soon it will be seen whether a factions and distracted crowd elected on the demagogic principle can form a deliberative assembly and govern the country.

Such, once more, is the party system. By faction the first of nations, after a thousand years of noble effort, has been brought to such a pass that it is put up to Dutch auction by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and Lord Randolph Churchill; while Messrs. Parnell, Healy, Sexton, and Biggar set their feet upon the Power which has coped with the world in arms.

GOLDWIN SMITH.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

BRITISH OPINION.

LONDON, November 20, 1885.

ALL other topics fade for the moment into insignificance by the side of the Parliamentary elections. I will, therefore, commence my letter with some observations on this subject, and even though the elections should be concluded before these remarks appear in print, I indulge the hope that at the worst a posthumous interest may attach to what I am about to say. As a Liberal whose lot is cast in a stratum of society that ranges from tolerably exalted circles to the region of villadom, I find that I occupy, politically speaking, a painfully isolated position. I seldom meet with a fellow-Liberal, and when I do meet with one it is no easy matter to extract from him a public and courageous confession of his faith. Nor is it only at the present crisis, when everyone is expected to exhibit a sharply defined creed, that I have been struck by this phenomenon; I have been aware of its existence during the last few years of comparatively tranquil political life. Speaking at a dinner given in Lord Rosebery's honour during the past week, Mr. Gladstone remarked that the preponderance of Peers opposed to the Liberal cause gave rise to serious reflection in his breast; and so I too feel considerable uneasiness at finding myself in a continual minority at dinner-tables and in drawing-rooms. From the days when Mr. Disraeli sought to discredit Mr. Gladstone's first administration by saying that the names of at least half the members of his Cabinet were not known in "society," down to the present time, the Liberal Party has been, and most undoubtedly still remains, the "Unfashionable Party."

These reflections cannot be wholly disregarded in any attempt to gauge the probable result of the approaching elections.

Readers of the *Spectator* of last week may take their choice between the Moderate and Immoderate views, as they are there laid down, and, in all probability, the calculations upon which the writer of these articles bases his views are to a certain extent reliable. But is the writer of the "Moderate and Immoderate View" aware of the hopeless minority in which day after day I, and such as I, find ourselves? And—sadder thought still—has he taken account of the havoc made by the advanced Radical creed among the ranks of those who have never hitherto bowed the knee to Baal, or laid their offerings upon a Tory altar?

Let me quote from the letters of three such men. The first one is a clergyman of the Established Church. He writes: "Chamberlain and his crew are fast turning me into a mouldy old Conservative." The second, a Scotchman, reports after a six weeks' holiday among his own kith and kin in the North of Scotland, that he is "fairly frightened by the violent language and the wildly destructive programme of the candidates and the supporters of the candidates in his electorate." The third writes as follows: "How are you feeling under this agony of agitation? What is to become of poor England—still more of our honoured Church? Such an outburst of burning and irrational socialism is most appalling. Are the souls of the majority of Englishmen revolutionized and irrationalized? We have a socialist candidate for O. For the first time I shall actually vote for a Conservative. That party has become, for the most part, truly Liberal. The Liberals have passed on to violent socialism—of all doctrines the most irrational and the most disastrous. What has done this? Not, I believe, actual wrongs, caused by our present constitution—there are such, but they are not the real parents of pure communism—but the penny press goading up unlimited cupidity on every side. It is the terrible tale of the French Revolution, only France had a pure despotism previously." I ventured to reply that for myself I relied with confidence on the calm common-sense of the English nation. My friend made answer as follows: "As a rule I cherish the same faith as you do in the good sense of the English people. Still, there will spring up at times ambitions, covetousnesses, jealousies, resentments—and those passions may easily, under circumstances, inflict blows on a constitution which has been the growth of ages, and irretrievably revolutionize its quality. But your calmness may be the more correct feeling than my uneasiness. I strongly hope that it is."

It is not improbable that the type of electors represented by my three correspondents will constitute a numerous class. Whether or no they will be overborne by the "unknown factor"—the newly enfranchised—remains an open question. The most skilful and energetic political campaigners speak with hesitation of the attitude of the agricultural labourer, and they do so with reason, for the agricultural labourer preserves a dogged and obstinate silence as to what he will do when he passes into the polling booth.

The "Church in danger" cry will undoubtedly exercise a strong, though it may only be a passive, influence on many electors, and there is a general feeling that Mr. Gladstone's exhortation not to make Disestablishment a test question comes too late. In a vast number of constituencies, indeed, Disestablishment has already been made a test question, and candidates have been selected mainly with reference to this article of the political creed. But I hope to write more fully on the Church question in another letter.

ALL right-thinking persons felt relieved when the "Stead case" came to an end. The propriety of the verdict is not questioned, nor, for the most part, is the pureness of Mr. Stead's motive disputed. There will, however, always be a strong divergence of opinion on the abstract question of the wisdom, from a philanthropic point of view, of Mr. Stead's action. Men competent to form a sound opinion do not hesitate to say that more good than harm will result from his revelations; and they point in support of their view to the list of subscribers to the "Stead Defence Fund," and ask if the men whose names are found there are not a sufficient guarantee for the goodness of Mr. Stead's cause. Others there are who attribute his action to vanity, to a desire for notoriety, and to similar base motives.

THE English public generally is puzzled to know why the Balkan States are tearing at each other's throats. The intricacies of race, and the many jarring elements which exist in these unhappy provinces, are very partially understood here. There is consequently a disposition to take a short cut to the solution of the problem, attributing the present lamentable struggle between Serbia and Bulgaria, first, to the innate greed and depravity of the two nations, and, next, to the hidden influence of Russia. Russia is pretty generally credited with a not wholly disinterested opposition to the formation of a strong Bulgaria.

Meantime English sympathy ranges itself—rightly or wrongly—on the side of the Bulgarians. There is no real foundation for charging the present Government with "Battenbergism," an accusation which was formulated against them in certain journals while the Conference was still sitting at Constantinople.

EXHIBITIONS of paintings form now as over a great attraction in London, and Canadians intending to visit this country may be glad to have a few notes under this heading.

ART AND THE DRAMA IN ENGLAND.

In Messrs. Tooth and Son's galleries the points of contrast and divergence between modern English and Continental Art may be well studied. Mr. McLean's exhibition in the Haymarket owes its chief strength to works by Italian masters. The collection of Carl Haag's water colours at the Goupil Gallery is a very large one, over two hundred works being exhibited, which extend in date of production over forty years. Great interest is manifested in the forthcoming collection of Sir John Millais's works, promised us by Sir Coutts Lindsay in the Grosvenor Gallery. Fortunate owners have responded very generously to his call, and a most comprehensive and powerful exhibition will be the result.

Of theatrical matters there is little to record. Melodrama reigns supreme at certain theatres, and "Human Nature," "Hoodman Blind," and the resuscitated "Colleen Bawn" attract good houses. There is, however, little that is artistic or worthy of remark about such productions, relying as they do on the scenic painter and stage carpenter's resources for their action.

"Mayfair," at the St. James's, has been the only "event" of the season, and Mr. Pinero can hardly be congratulated on his adaptation. For years, English managers and play wrights have steered clear of Sardou's "Maison Neuve," and their reticence is quite understandable; such thin ice would suffer from the moral glare of London footlights. Mr. and Mrs. Kendal make the most of the hopelessly vulgar characters Mr. Pinero has presented them with, and act like the true artists they are. The only sympathetic part, the warm-hearted old stock-broker, "Uncle Nick," is played with extreme cleverness, pathos, and breadth by Mr. Hare, who, indeed, went far to save the piece from failure the first night; but it is plain to see the play is not regarded with approval, and a long run cannot be predicted for it.

Gounod's new oratorio, "Mors et Vita," has been twice splendidly performed at the Albert Hall; the music is of a more romantic class than one usually associates religious themes with; his extraordinary wealth of orchestration is as marked as ever. Some of the solos were expressly

arranged for Madame Albani, and were admirably adapted to her pure devotional style. This lady has acquired a very lasting popularity in the English musical world during the last few years; her conscientiousness as an artist, as well as her blameless domestic life, has gained her numerous friends and admirers from the highest to the lowest. For the last three autumns Lord Fife has lent her one of his Aberdeenshire houses, and while there she has been the recipient of many marks of favour and esteem from the Queen, frequently singing before her at Balmoral, and quite recently she was honoured by a personal visit from Her Majesty. One feels in writing of a Canadian to Canadians that these little details will not be uninteresting.

The Monday and Saturday Popular Concerts have again commenced at the St. James's Hall, and fully maintain their high prestige. For the last twenty-five years—thanks to the unceasing care and sound judgment of Mr. Arthur Chappell—these reunions have done very much to cultivate the taste for high class and classical music that is now so widely established in this country. A most favourable impression was made at the last Monday Pop. by a young English pianist, Miss Davies, a pupil of the renowned and esteemed Madame Schuman.

AN election tale will, perhaps, be a suitable ending to my letter. An enthusiastic Primrose League lady, canvassing a sturdy tenant of her father's: "Of course, Stephen, you will vote the right way." "Well, Miss, I be going to vote the same as the Squire." "Oh, then, that's all right, and I may enter you in my book as a Conservative vote." "I don't say that, Miss; I say I be going to vote the same as Squire." "But that means Conservative, for you know father is one, and if you vote the same as he does you must vote as a Conservative." "No, Miss, t'ain't exactly that way; I votes the same as Squire, certainly: Squire he votes as he likes, and I means to follow him and vote as I likes."

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, December 12, 1885.

It was on the 8th of January, 1790, that President Washington, in rich attire and with great state, proceeded to the temporary legislative hall in New York to discharge, for the first time in our constitutional history, the duty laid upon the Executive, that "he shall, from time to time, give to the Congress information of the state of the Union and commend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." Conformably to English procedure, the two Houses were convened jointly to hear the Republican counterpart of a speech from the throne, and so closely was the chosen precedent followed that a short address to "Gentlemen of the House of Representatives" was introduced at the conventional place in the speech at large.

The exclusion of the President from any initiative in legislation has practically operated to deprive the recommendations of his annual address of much direct force, especially since the time when Jefferson converted the presidential speech into a written message; yet the public have somehow contrived to maintain a lively interest in "The Message," distinctively so-called, and the annals of the press afford many examples of early enterprise in catering to the popular appetite for it.

Circumstances both of a political and personal nature had united to create unusual expectation and desire in respect of the first annual message of President Cleveland, and not even the sudden and contemporaneous death of the greatest of millionaires could wholly displace it during the allotted two or three days that appertain to a modern incident. Let it be said, as by the way, that the large space momentarily occupied in the public mind by the late Mr. Vanderbilt is not so much to be attributed to a bare, unreasoning worship of millions of money as to hopes and fears engendered by the extent to which the social fabric of the United States is interwoven with speculation in stocks and shares.

But the message!—it were idle to mince words about it—it is inordinately long, and its importance is measurably obscured by platitudes and trivialities. Industry and patience are excellent things in their way, but discrimination and a due sense of proportion are indispensable to the composition of an effective state paper.

There are indications that the dull, dead level of mediocrity which characterizes so much of the paper is due to a generous desire on the part of the President to make a good showing for his Secretary of State, his chief rival for the Presidential nomination in 1884, and a man of eminently respectable character and attainments, who by usage is excluded from the function of making a report upon the operations of his department. But this does not help us to forget that certain of Mr. Cleveland's predecessors had to make the same liberal provision for such Secretaries of the Depart-

ment of State as Messrs. Webster, Marcy, Cass, and Seward, and were fortunate enough to discharge the obligation with more success.

The weak side of the constitutional arrangement which separates the President from the work of legislation is conspicuously shown in this first message of President Cleveland. For example, the state of the laws concerning agriculture, the public lands, trade with American countries, naturalization, copyright, the Mormons, the Chinese, the Indians, and offences against the revenue, are pronounced unsatisfactory; but the President has evidently not cast his thoughts into the form of amendatory statutes, and, as to some of the alleged defects, the critic naively confesses that he does not know the limits or effects of the existing laws. It must be evident that suggestions so crudely evolved can be of little aid to those charged with the responsibilities of legislation, and the Congress has perhaps been less censurable than appears on the surface in habitually ignoring the annual message these many years past, after paying it the formal compliment of referring its several topics to a multitude of committees.

On the vital question of the tariff Mr. Cleveland has performed the acrobatic feat esteemed of politicians everywhere, and known here by the euphonious name of "a straddle." There is a little buncombe about an old Argentine claim against the United States and the rights of Americans in the Caroline Islands; also an untenable contention of the right of Americans of obnoxious creeds to reside in Turkey—all of which may safely be set down to the credit of the Secretary of State. There is a shade of hypocrisy in expressing regret that Germany and Austria, in the supposed interest of home industry, continue to exclude American pork from their markets, the message failing to point out a distinction between prohibitory duties and absolute prohibition of importation upon any terms.

It is a pleasure to turn from the palpable defects of the message to its points of merit. First in interest to Canadians is the recommendation of a just, rational, and comprehensive settlement of the question of the Fisheries, coupled with an intimation that there can be no such settlement without recognition of the whole group of relations naturally resulting from the contiguity and intercourse of the two peoples. The silver coinage question is treated with courage, strength, and wisdom. Equally strong are the utterances respecting civil service reform, and peculiarly happy and quotable are the sentences that speak of "an immense army of claimants for office to lay siege to the patronage of Government, engrossing the time of public officers with their importunities, spreading abroad the contagion of their disappointment, and filling the air with the tumult of their discontent." This is a hit from the shoulder at the judges and colonels who swarm in and pollute the hotel lobbies at Washington, and Canadians will have no difficulty in fitting the cap upon the heads of some who haunt the public resorts at Ottawa.

The odious tax on sugar, levied for the benefit of a handful of planters in Louisiana, is condemned in language a little less direct than is desirable; but our public men are afraid to call a spade a spade when touching our cherished "ism," however remotely. Those who fear the consequences of our steady growth in population will find comfort in what President Cleveland has to say against entangling ourselves in foreign alliances and enterprises, and in his admission of the strictly international and neutral character of any form of transit across Central America.

The direct recommendation for the abolition of the barbarous duties levied on imported works of art will make the position of our art students abroad more tolerable. Canadians will appreciate the exception made in favour of neighbouring countries in the disapproval expressed of reciprocity treaties.

The Indians come in for just and rational treatment, and the progress made in enlightening public sentiment and in improving the Indians themselves promises a final result of civilization and absorption, rather than the frontier remedy of extermination. The patriotic topic of a navy is considered from the defensive standpoint, the only rational position so long as our own laws exclude us from direct engagement in foreign commerce and navigation.

On the whole, then, and in spite of its prolixity and partial feebleness, the message is an acceptable and encouraging manifesto from a source to which we have grown accustomed to look for pure and manly conduct and speech. The peroration is a truly eloquent reminder of the claims of public spirit and public duty, and I venture to quote it in part, in the hope that it may find its way to other hearts than those of American Congressmen and in other days than our own:—"I commend to the wise care and thoughtful attention of Congress the needs, the welfare, and the aspirations of an intelligent and generous nation. To subordinate these to the narrow advantages of partisanship, or the accomplishment of selfish aims, is to violate the people's trust and betray the people's interests."

NOTES FROM QUEBEC.

PUBLIC attention in "the ancient capital," and indeed all over the Province of Quebec, is concentrated just now on the formation of what French-Canadian politicians are pleased to call a "National Party." Of course it is not a "National Party" in the sense of being a party having the best interests of the Dominion at heart, and seeking by legitimate political methods to promote them; on the contrary, it will be distinctly and professedly an *imperium in imperio*, having as its chief axiomatic principle that a part is very much greater than the whole. The new party, if it should ever attain any degree of vitality, must, from the very nature of things, place itself in antagonism to all the progressive and liberal instincts of the Dominion, and it requires but little political sagacity to gauge the measure of success that is likely to follow the promulgation of this new French gospel of retrogression. For many years past the English-speaking minority have had nothing so persistently dinned into their ears as "our laws, our religion, and our language," and feeling that peace was best for all men, and that the continent was quite large enough for both nationalities, English-speaking people, under the gentle pressure of "our laws, our religion, and our language," have been steadily seeking other regions where they would not be handicapped either by French-Canadian apathy or prejudice. It is safe to say that not one English-speaking person in ten looks upon the Province of Quebec as the future home of his family, and the young men are steadily leaving us. If you ask why is this the answer is simple. Every opening in this Province, good, bad, or indifferent, is filled by a French-Canadian, so that if our young men were ever so anxious to remain there is nothing for them to do. Now, what is sought to be attained by a "National Party" is first of all to hold the Province of Quebec exclusively for the French-Canadians, and secondly, to use their political influence to dominate the other Provinces, and to fill all Government offices with men of like aims.

If a national propagandism of this character is sustained by strong religious prejudices, it practically amounts to a conspiracy which would have to be treated like any other conspiracy against the Commonwealth,—that is, of course, on the assumption that a Commonwealth exists; but manifestly a successful French-Canadian National Party would prove the death of the Commonwealth; and therefore the success of the "National Party" would free the English-speaking elements of Confederation from an ill-assorted alliance which ought never to have been entered into, and which is less needed to-day by the English than it ever was. There are educated and thoughtful French-Canadians, not numerous we admit, who see "the end from the beginning," and who are zealously labouring to stem the torrent of folly that is sweeping their compatriots along to swift disaster. The most prominent figure in this devoted band is Mr. I. Israel Tarte, a journalist of eminence, and a writer of conspicuous ability; he represents the best side of a bad case, but he does it in language of studied moderation, and presses his constitutional rights so firmly from behind the British flag that you feel half disposed to forgive the folly against which he, in company with Mr. Joly, protests, and wholly inclined to wish that his fellow-countrymen were endowed with a measure of his thoughtfulness.

Mr. Tarte is too keen an observer of current events, and too much of a student, to believe that the *parti nationale* could accomplish any good for his fellow-countrymen, and he therefore addresses himself to the task of showing that the French-Canadians of this Province have treated the English minority with great consideration and unexampled liberality. With this object in view he wrote a letter to the *Mail*, and that I may put him fairly on record I shall be obliged to give a somewhat lengthy extract, my apology being that the matter is one of considerable interest at the present. Generally, I would say that Mr. Tarte's statements will not bear investigation—certainly they will not bear investigation in detail, as I shall presently show. Mr. Tarte says:—

"We see here what cannot be seen in any of the other Provinces: counties exclusively French and Catholic returning members of Parliament who are English Protestants. Our English fellow-citizens form about a fifth of the population of the Province; yet of the six Ministers which constitute the Provincial Cabinet, two, Messrs. Lynch and Robertson, are representatives of the English Protestant element. The Irish have one representative in the person of Mr. Flynn, and the French-Canadians have but three representatives. That is to say, that the English speaking population, which is composed of about 250,000 souls, has as many representatives in the Cabinet as have the French-Canadians who number 1,250,000.

"Does this look like exclusion? If we were disposed to establish what you are pleased to call the supremacy of our race, would we act in such a liberal manner?"

"The same proportion exists in the distribution of public offices. I take the liberty of laying before you, in your own language, these lines which I wrote some time ago:

"In the following fifteen departments of the Civil Service:

- "The Legislative Council;
- "The Legislative Assembly;
- "The Clerk of the Crown in Chancery;
- "The Law Clerk;
- "The Lieutenant-Governor;
- "The Provincial Secretary;
- "The Registrar;
- "The Attorney-General;
- "The Treasurer;
- "The Accountant;
- "Crown Lands Department;
- "Department of Agriculture;
- "Department of Public Instruction;
- "Railways;
- "Inspection of Public Offices;—

"In those fifteen branches of the Civil Service the salaries of the French-Canadian employes amount to \$110,450, while the salaries of the employes of English origin amount to \$42,750; that is to say, that our fellow citizens of British origin draw very near the half of the sum paid to the officers of French-Canadian extraction."

"Are those facts and figures of a kind to convince you that, in protesting against the action of the Government, we had in view the maintenance of that supposed system of domination over the English, and the desire of establishing what the *Mail* calls the *tyranny of the minority*?"

Mr. Tarte draws a marked distinction when he says that "counties exclusively French and Catholic return members of Parliament who are English Protestants." I may therefore accept "English Protestants" as "the minority"; but I shall make three columns, and, without giving undue prominence to gentlemen who might not care to have their names discussed in this controversy, I shall merely note them by the salaries paid, so that at a glance your readers may see that the liberality spoken of by Mr. Tarte has but slight foundation in fact, and hardly any when it is remembered that most of the "minority" appointments were made long before the present "exclusive movement" had originated among the French-Canadians of this Province. I have endeavoured to be as accurate as possible in the accompanying lists, but it is not always easy to collect definite information scattered through many books; however, so far as I am able to judge, the results are perfectly reliable. In the meantime I will select the four following important departments from Mr. Tarte's list, and ask him to show that there is a Protestant in any one of them, viz.:—Attorney-General's Office; Public Works; Provincial Secretary's Office; Railways.

	FRENCH.	PROTESTANT.	IRISH AND ENGLISH R.C.
House of Assembly	\$19,850 00	\$1,250 00*	\$3,900 00
Attorney General's Office	4,900 00		
Treasury Department	8 0 00	7,850 00	2,600 00
Audit Department	6,150 00		3,650 00
Agriculture and Public Works	16,300 00		1,600 00
Legislative Council	8,250 00	800 00	1,200 00
Clerk of the Crown in Chancery	800 00		
Law Clerk	2,500 00	600 00	
Lieutenant-Governor's Office	175 00	1,000 00	1,250 00
Executive Council	2,800 00		
Provincial Secretary	7,700 00		1,200 00
Provincial Registrar	2,800 00		
Crown Lands	29,840 00	5,700 00	1,000 00
Agents and other Outside Employes	20,350 00	4,800 00	1,250 00
Education Department	13,250 00	4,150 00	
Railway Department	2,800 00		800 00

[To save space we are compelled to print only the totals.—Ed.]

These figures, selected from "the Blue Books," tell their own tale, and no amount of special pleading on the part of Mr. Tarte will disturb their damaging evidence. Occasionally an English name is to be found in the lists, but it does not follow that the possessor is an Englishman. Take the case of Mr. Premier Ross as an example; there is no more ardent Frenchman than Mr. Ross, and few more highly esteemed by the English-speaking minority. But the state of things that prevails in the Provincial Government prevails all over the Province where the majority is French. "No English need apply" is rigidly carried out in every municipality. Let Mr. Tarte look at Montreal and its perpetual French mayor, notwithstanding the fact that the burden of the taxes are paid by Protestants, and then let him ask us to credit his fellow-countrymen with liberality. If all that has been said does not produce conviction, then turn to the Superior and Circuit Courts of Montreal, where there are some thirty-six persons employed in various positions of the public service. Out of these the Protestant minority is represented by two, at an aggregate salary of \$1,800. It is not travelling outside the record to say that three-fourths of the business transacted in these courts belongs to Protestant clients. Mr. Tarte was not well advised when he set up these pleas on behalf of the liberal treatment which is being meted out to the minority in this Province. The Protestants of Lower Canada are tolerably well satisfied that they have nothing to lose by a disruption of existing political arrangements, and they will certainly not be the ones to stand in its way.

NEMO.

* For obvious reasons I have not included the Speaker's salary in this.

The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE.

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In an answer to the Government Memorandum on Riel, Mr. Girouard has formulated the complaint of his French-Canadian compatriots; and, we cannot but think, a weaker case was never presented for public judgment. His contention is, in substance, that a criminal, in order to save himself from due punishment, has only, when no other loophole of escape remains open, to offer to submit to justice; that when a jury recommends to mercy, this recommendation, as part of the verdict, must not be set aside; that the Indian massacres, being legitimate from the point of view of the Indians, we must, to estimate the degree of their guilt, descend to their level of civilization; that Riel and the insurgents did not commit high treason, but were guilty at the most of a riot when they took up arms, as is proved by their design to capture General Middleton, and hold him as a hostage to assist them in making better terms with the Government; and, finally, that the man who organized the rebellion, carried it on for months, and wrote its history, was insane. To any candid mind these propositions carry their own refutation. But there is one argument advanced by Mr. Girouard about which there may be some difference of opinion. It is that an official enquiry, not a confidential one, should have been made by Government into Riel's alleged insanity. But we all know what this would have resulted in. Both sides would have been represented on the Commission, contrary opinions would have been expressed, and each opinion would have been as valueless as the other. To any one whose judgment may be at any time disturbed as to the criminality of the accused in such cases, we commend the following excerpt from an article by Baron Bramwell in the *Nineteenth Century* for December:—

"It is said and contended that medical men, especially those who have experience in dealing with insane persons, have a special right to give opinions when a question of insanity is raised; that it is a question for experts, and that they are experts. I wholly deny it. I have heard Lord Campbell, the Chief Justice, say the same, and object to a question, 'Was the man sane?' saying that is for the jury to answer. Insanity is no more a question for an expert than lameness. Is the man lame? is he mad? are equally questions of fact, to be judged of as a matter of fact. . . . If the man walks lame, I could not help thinking so, even if a Paget said he was not; it would in such a case turn out that we saw differently, or meant different things by lameness. There may be a corresponding difference as to insanity. But it is not for the medical man to lay down the law on this subject, and say what is madness. I will not pretend to say or define what is; nor would I lameness. But I say it is a question for ordinary persons, and not for experts; and so is the question whether it exists in any particular case."

In an interview lately had by a *Herald* reporter with Mr. Brydges, Hudson's Bay Land Commissioner, the fact came out that although the crop in Manitoba has been a good one, "a certain amount has been damaged by early frost. At least one-half of the crop will turn out first-class; but the balance is slightly frosted." If we mistake not, this is the third season in succession that early frosts have done damage to the crops there. Manitoba is going through the experience of Ontario in the early days of settlement, when similar destruction of the crops by frost was of frequent occurrence. The sturdy pioneers here soon learned, however, by experience the proper time to sow and the best kinds of seed to use; but in Manitoba the farmers now are at the disadvantage of either having to go beyond this knowledge by finding out a hard wheat like "Red Fyfe" that will ripen earlier than that; or to take to a softer kind like "Golden Drop," that has the desirable quality of ripening earlier, but that sells at a lower price. In this connexion it is as well to observe that the price of wheat in Manitoba ranges from 63 to 67 cents; butter 8 to 10 cents; live cattle 3 to 3½ cents—prices which do not appear to leave much margin for diminution, even if mixed farming be more generally adopted. In view of the uncertainties of the situation, it would seem scarcely wise for Ontario farmers to remove just now to Manitoba in the expectation of bettering their condition.

To judge from the reason given for the appointment of Mr. George E. Foster as Minister of Marine and Fisheries—"because he belongs to the Baptist denomination, which from its numerical strength in the Dominion is entitled to one representative in the Cabinet"—judging from this, the

members of the Government are selected not on account of their fitness for office but as representatives of religious bodies. This is a new method of welding together Church and State; and if it goes on we shall soon have the edifying spectacle of a Ministry of the Crown composed of ministers of the gospel. But the present appointment appears to be double-edged. It is apparently designed to attach not only a religious society to the Government but also a moral one. Sir John seemingly thinks some of his colleagues or their constituents may be accused of taking their water a little too weak; and he therefore makes all right in the eyes of the righteous by a recruit from the temperance platform. Not men of brains and capacity are needed to carry on the Government, but delegates from classes that control votes.

THE first Message of President Cleveland is interesting as the first official utterance of the chief of a party that has been out of office for over a quarter of a century. Since the last representative of that party held the Presidential office the country has gone through a great war, and a new fiscal policy, designed originally to provide for the extraordinary expenditures incurred by that war, has grown into a thoroughly rooted system of Protection. How immovably fixed it has become may be seen by the tenderness with which the President, head of the party opposed to it by tradition, now touches it. Although the revenues of the Government are in excess of its actual needs, he does not recommend that the Protective system which produced that result be abandoned. On the contrary, he recognizes that the large protected vested interests—the huge monopolies—must not be disturbed, adding, rather curiously, that the question of Free Trade is not involved in the amount of excess of taxation raised, and deprecating any general discussion of the wisdom or expediency of a Protective system. This surely is a remarkable utterance. It looks very much as if the President were not unwilling to relax a little in principle, for the sake of other considerations. No doubt any sudden change, or project of change, in the fiscal policy of the country would greatly disturb trade; but surely the nation is not committed immovably to Protection; and if it be intended at all to set sail in a different direction, this would seem to be a fit time, with the favouring circumstance of a Free Trade ship's company aboard to do it. But, however, it must be remembered that a President's Message to Congress is not of the authoritative nature of the Queen's Speech to Parliament. The Message is suggestive merely; and as the Executive, whose programme it is, stands outside the Legislature, and has, therefore, no part in its discussion, Congress has acquired the habit of wholly ignoring its recommendations.

BOUND up as Canada is by such close commercial ties with the Union, any indication of a change in its fiscal policy would be of importance to us, who, following in our huge neighbour's wake, have but recently drifted into the sea of Protection. For it is clear that if the States should adopt a policy of Free Trade, or readjust their tariff for revenue purposes only, Canada had best do so likewise; and if the President had shown a tendency to push Free Trade to the front, it might be felt that a step was gained toward a closer commercial union between the two peoples. But in fact his utterance, although cautious and non-committal, must, considering his circumstances, be taken as a decided set-back to Free Trade, and therefore a discouragement to Commercial Union. For we take it that while by the high-protective system the cost of manufactures is so enhanced that they are normally shut out from all foreign markets, it would be unwise for Canada to unbar her door and let them in. A chief result of Protection is to produce a local glut of commodities; to dispose of the surplus part of which, in order that the price of the rest may be maintained, a sacrifice market is, in the absence of a legitimate foreign market, highly desirable. And such a sacrifice market would Canada become. The American manufacturer for fifty-five million home-consumers can well afford to supply four or five million other consumers with commodities at even below cost, if by so doing he can relieve the home market and so maintain prices. For it is the presence or absence of this surplus, perhaps inconsiderable in quantity, that regulates the price of the whole. But what would relieve the American manufacturer would ruin the Canadian. With foreign goods selling below cost, however much the consumer might profit—and to profit at all he must be in no way concerned in producing similar commodities—the Canadian manufacturer, with his whole staff of labour, would have nothing left for it but to emigrate.

Now that an agreement with France respecting the Newfoundland fisheries has been arrived at by England, as is reported to be the case, it is to be hoped that a lasting settlement of the similar question between Canada and the States may be concluded. The President's recommenda-

tion that committees be appointed to deal with the whole subject is satisfactory: to avert ill-feeling between the two peoples, some settlement must be made; but to avert ill-feeling among our own people, the settlement this time, whether its terms be arranged by England or by Canada, must be in the direction of benefitting the trade of the Maritime Provinces. As the President rightly says, the fishery interests are intimately related to other general questions dependent upon contiguity and intercourse. The older Provinces of Canada are building up themselves by Protection; but this by a natural law is done at the expense in part of the Maritime Provinces, to whom Protection, by killing foreign trade, is hurtful. Cut off as they are from the rest of Canada, their natural development would be in the direction of trade with the United States seaboard, which a Reciprocity Treaty would give them. But, while the President appears to have recognized this—while, too, conceding that any reduction of taxation should be made in the direction of an abolition of duties on the necessaries of life—he appears to consider that reciprocity treaties with foreign countries are dangerous, as being likely to hamper the action of his own Government, in an emergency. And taking account of the whole tenor of this part of his Message, we are inclined to think that unless Reciprocity be indissolubly wedded with the Fishery Treaty, it will receive scant courtesy at the hands of the U. S. Government. Possibly even if united both may be rejected; but certainly separate the one will be taken and the other left.

THE President is tainted with the heresy of special protection to Labour, which, he says, should be considered in dealing with the tariff; and, touching the Chinese question, he attempts to strengthen a weak case by a reference to the legislation of Canada on the same subject. But, in fact, the legislation of both countries in that respect is faulty. To speak of Canada alone, we know that throughout the country there are many possible sources of wealth that cannot be developed by white labour. Along the northern shore of Lake Superior, in the Rocky Mountains, and in British Columbia, there are vast stores of minerals of so low a quality that their production and conversion into a merchantable shape by white labour will not pay. In the same way in Nova Scotia, large fields of coal lie unutilized because the seams dip at such an angle that they soon go beyond the depth at which the coal can be profitably extracted by white labour. Then why not employ Chinese? It is surely better in both cases to get the mineral out of the earth, even if a large part of the money spent in labour is carried out of the country—if only the smallest balance remains. Some of the money must go into circulation; the mineral is more useful active in manufactures than lying idle in the bowels of the earth; and if but a trifle of surplus remains, it is so much added to the wealth of the country. If coal mining in Nova Scotia cannot be developed by white labour without taxing every ton necessarily imported from the States by Ontario, then it would be better, and fairer to Ontario, to use the cheaper Chinese labour, and do away with the duty.

THERE is something inexpressibly touching in a Scott Act meeting. Anxious mothers, wives, sisters, are usually there, their minds filled with the peril of some near relative that has wandered from their side; and they are dimly groping after any means that seem to offer help. But all that is offered by the speaker—by the whole system of quack morality he represents—is an Act of Parliament which shall make it illegal for houses of entertainment to sell liquor. Prevent the sale it cannot, for while there is the smallest demand for an article—in this case an article that gratifies a natural appetite—the demand will be supplied. The Scott Act offers no preventive to the excessive indulgence of this appetite, it imposes no moral restraint on the unfortunate victim, and it affords no consolation to those that fly to it for some aid or comfort. Not moral but legislative prohibition is the stone it offers for bread; as though the man that can resist the entreaties and tears of wife, mother, or sister, and the influence of the distress he brings on them or his children, can be brought right by an Act of Parliament that nobody has the least moral regard for. But the situation has its humour as well as its pathos. Besides those who deserve our warmest sympathy—and among them we include a very large class who, as we believe, mistakenly look on the Scott Act as an excellent means to a laudable end—there is another class—the grimmest and most determined of Prohibitionists, and the very people who make Prohibition impossible. For a lifetime they have been attacking the digestive apparatus of those about them with puddings, pies, and bread as hard as their own features. The victims of their bad cookery suffer from chronic dyspepsia; and in a perpetual state of thirst they are warned off the only article of drink that might do them good, and deluged with leather-producing tea or coffee like diluted brick-dust. Is it wonder they prefer any fate to such diet and drink? They turn away in disgust from the alternative water-

trough, and their torturers turn to the Scott Act lecturer; while he, instead of showing them where the fault really lies, trades on, by parading, the frailties of their own relatives, hurls stale indignation at all who would assist them in a rational manner, sheds tears that have flown on a hundred platforms, and breaks down with emotion several weeks old.

It is almost a truism that words, however full of meaning to the utterer, can convey to each one only what he is capable of receiving. No one can learn from another more than the words used expresses to him, or can be made to express. The name God, for instance, conveys to a man that has explored the depths of human nature—explored all science—whose mental vision can carry him into a protoplasm or to the farthest planet,—that sacred name conveys to such a man a far deeper meaning than it does to one who cannot read, to whom the stars of heaven are but mere points of light in the night overhead. So it seems to be with the word Prohibition, only in this case the effect is reversed. To us it appears to be an unfit and utterly inefficient means of furthering the cause of temperance; but a reverend lecturer, speaking on it the other night, declared that all who are combating it are fighting against God. If this means, as it seems to do, that the two are in some sort analogous, what a degradation of the idea of God does the utterance argue. Is not the religion of the ignorant savage, whose heart melts as he falls down before his ugly fetish, a quite respectable religion beside this idolatry for an Act of Parliament? The "Canada Temperance Act of 1878" seems to have taken the place of the New Testament with these people. These two do not and cannot stand side by side; for being utterly opposed in principle the one must yield, as it appears it has yielded, to the other. In every line of the New Testament is taught the lesson that every faculty and virtue of the individual should be fostered and developed. If our life on this planet means anything it is that we have light given us here that we may grow out of the material state of existence in which we are dependent on material things, obstructed by material obstacles, into a self-reliant spiritual manhood. And any law or habit that dwarfs that development or curtails its operation, as Prohibition does, must always be enervating and vicious. Prohibition, and the whole system of morality that underlies it, is a distinct slip backward in the march of man heavenward. It is, in brief, to substitute the restraints of the old Jewish Law for the freedom conferred on man by Christianity—to substitute a lower form of religion for a higher, ceremonial and outward cleanliness for inward purity, formalism for virtue.

M. BELLAMY has ascertained that a spiral of copper heated to dull red and plunged into a mixture of acetylene and air becomes incandescent, assuming a brightness comparable with that of platinum in hydrogen. The incandescence lasts several seconds, and ends generally with a detonation of the gaseous mixture. A spiral of iron behaves itself very similarly.

MR. OTTO FAHNEIJELM, of Sweden, says the *Science Monthly*, has invented a suitable combination of a suitable substance and flame for producing light from an incandescent solid. The flame of water-gas has intense heating power. An ordinary fan-tail burner is used, the flame from which passes between two rows of vertical teeth composed of magnesia, baked and ground and moulded, with starch, under high pressure. The teeth when heated become beautifully luminous, and the light shows colours correctly, and can be used for photography.

AN instrument for ascertaining the distances of accessible and of inaccessible objects has been invented by Dr. Luigi Cerbotani, of Verona. The apparatus consists of a pair of telescopes mounted on a stand, and fixed on a tripod for use. The telescopes are both brought to bear on the object, and a reading of their angular position is then taken from a graduated scale on the instrument, which compared with a set of printed tables gives the distance; the necessity for laying down a base-line as usual being thus dispensed with. Distances can also be measured between distant objects, and a rough plan of the country observed can be sketched. In the same way the distances of ships at sea can be determined.

LORD BROUGHAM, in his criticism of the "Hours of Idleness," told Byron that a pibroch no more meant a bagpipe than a duet meant a fiddle. The French delight in committing the same error as that perpetrated by the noble poet. Victor Hugo, in his grand description of Waterloo in "Les Misérables," draws a graphic picture of the cuirassiers charging the square on the pibroch was slain. M. Franosis Coppée has so confounded song and instrument in his "Jacobites," but only in the stage directions. In Act I, scene vii., Charles Edward is supposed to enter *précédé de pibrochs et de tambours*; which is much the same as if we made a Frenchman come on the stage preceded by dead marches and drums.

M. LAPON has found that when a trace of digitalin is treated with a mixture of sulphuric acid and alcohol (equal parts), the addition of a drop of perchloride of iron causes the appearance of a beautiful greenish-blue colour.

ACCORDING to the San Francisco *Argonaut*, the success of every modern emotional actress depends entirely upon the realism with which she simulates fainting. Until Mdme. Bernhardt's day even the greatest tragedy queen was satisfied with staggering to the centre of the stage, scowling fiercely, exclaiming "This is too much!" turning half round, and falling forward on her hands. But Mdme. Bernhardt introduced a novelty. She gasped, fell half-way against a sofa, and thence tumbled to the ground. For a week Paris talked of the actress's astounding genius. Thereupon Mrs. Bernard Beere, unwilling to be outdone, fell at full length upon a sofa, rolled over with her head towards the audience, and reached the carpet on her back. London was delighted. Miss Fanny Davenport invented the next development. After having seen both Mdme. Bernhardt and Mrs. Bernard Beere, she fell across a sofa, and thence wriggled spasmodically to the floor. Mrs. Langtry devised a further improvement. She fell sideways upon a sofa, hung there artistically for nearly a minute, and then slipped gradually to the stage. The English provinces were electrified. But the new American Juliet, Miss Margaret Mather, is not contented with any of these methods. In the balcony scene, when she faints, she rolls down three steps and arrives on *terra firma* with a thud. This proceeding is admitted by American critics to be superior to anything that has been previously attempted. The *Argonaut* expects, however, that some other tragic actress will now mount a ladder and faint realistically from the tenth rung.

TWO OF EARTH'S CREATURES.

Two of earth's creatures: I saw them meet
And pass each other below in the street.
She turned away that she should not see
Such loathsomeness and misery;
And he, looking after, said: "Is it fair
To see the difference 'twixt me and her?"

So near they were—and as they went
There shone in her eyes her heart's content;
Guarded and watched with a loving care,
From a babe she had grown a maiden fair.

He—ah! she shuddered and drew her skirt
Away, for fear it should touch such dirt.
Ragged and filthy, fearful and grim;
But not half so black as the soul within:
Tainted with sin of deed and thought,
Believing in nothing and caring for naught.

Oh, scorn him not; were you ever tried?
When but six years old his mother died,
And he—he grew and wanted food
And had to get whatever he could;
So it began, and day by day
His heart grew harder and darker his way.

One all hardened and tainted with sin,
The other one pure, without and within.
She had never been tempted at all—
Were she tempted, might she not fall?
How can we judge—how can we say
How they will stand at the Judgment Day!

FERRARS.

BOOK NOTICES.

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES; Founded mainly on the materials collected by the Philological Society. Edited by James A. H. Murray, LL.D., sometime President of the Philological Society, with the assistance of many scholars and men of science. Part I., A-ANT. Part II., ANT-BATTEN. Each pp. 352. Oxford: Clarendon Press. New York: Macmillan and Company. Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchison.

A closer examination of this great work, mentioned by us a fortnight ago, confirms the judgment we then expressed that it is indeed "a peerless work." It is one that reaches a very high level of excellence, and all English-speaking people should feel a deep interest in it—as a storehouse of English words and English ideas, many of which, the one and the other, are growing obsolete. As we said before, its aim is "to furnish an adequate account of the meaning, origin, and history of English words now in general use, or known to have been in use at any time during the last seven hundred years." The two parts already published have been annuals; but the staff originally employed having been greatly enlarged, it is confidently hoped that henceforth it will be possible to issue the parts

(of which there will be twenty-four) at intervals of six months only. As a specimen of the work, we copy from the Dictionary part of the examples under the good old word *Albeit*—a word that is very undeservedly falling into disuse:—

I.—Even though it be (that); admitting (that) c 1460 FORTESCUE, *Abs. & Lim. Mon.* (1714) 30. *Albeit* that the Frenche Kyng's Revenuz be . . . much greater. 1603 KNOLLE'S *Hist. Turkes* (1621) 1150 *Albeit* that a great number of them were slain, yet fell they out again." 1862 C. STRETTON *Chequered Life* i. 125. From that day to this we have never met—*albeit* that he has had my best wishes.

II.—*That* omitted: Even though it be that; even though, although, though. c 1385 CHAUCER *Ley G. Wom.* 1359, I may well leese a word on you, or letter, *Albeit* I shal be never the better. c 1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 530, He had gret fere, *Albut* thaw hit ner no nede. 1532 MORE *Confut. Tindale Wkz.* 1557, 688/2, All bee it he coude not saye naye. 1611 SHAKS. *Cymb.* II. iii. 61. A worthy Fellow, *Albeit* he comes on angry purpose now. 1805 SOUTHEY, *Naïve in W. i.* Wks. v. 8, I shall live to see the day, *Albeit* the number of my years well nigh be full. 1878 LEVER *Jack Hinton*, xxvi. 184, Their voices, too, *albeit* the accent was provincial, were soft and musical.

III.—In *centr. clause*: Even though, even if, although, 1795 SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* I. 365, And I am well content to dwell in peace, *Albeit* inglorious. 1847 THACKERAY *Van. Fair* xix (1879) i. 198, When a certain (*albeit* uncertain) morrow is in view. 1853 KANE *Grinnel Exp.* xxvii. (1856) 225, The sun, *albeit* from a lowly altitude, shone out in full brightness.

PHYSICAL EXPRESSION: ITS MODES AND PRINCIPLES. By Francis Warner, M.D., Lond., F.R.C.P. With fifty-one illustrations. (The International Scientific Series.) New York: D. Appleton and Company.

This work, the outcome of observations made on children and adults, must be, as the introductory chapter suggests, of some—we should say of very great—social use. It traces very fully the various methods of physical expression in man and animals—in the human face, the head, the eyes, the hands, and by posture of the limbs, as indicative of, not necessarily vitality, but the expression of nutrition. A chapter on Art-criticism not merely illustrates the principles and arguments used throughout the work, but must be most useful to all in any way concerned in the artistic representation of human life. The book is fully illustrated, and has a copious index.

THE IDEA OF GOD AS AFFECTED BY MODERN KNOWLEDGE. By John Fiske. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

This essay is worthy of a more exhaustive review than we can give it in this place. It is a book to be meditated over: no one can rise from even a cursory perusal of it without feeling that through it the human idea of God is carried to a higher plane. As we learn from the preface, the essay is intended as a sequel to the author's "Destiny of Man"—the two taken together containing the outline of the author's theory of religion. That theory is, as we gather, based on the doctrine of evolution, and is the assertion of the principle of Cosmic Theism against Anthropomorphic. He draws a clear contrast between the two systems and their ethical effects: the first teaching that God is immanent in the world, while the other implies that he stands apart from it. The effects of this latter form of belief is seen, not only in the peculiar morality of the Latin Church, where it was planted by Augustine, but also among Protestants (who have inherited it from Rome), in a debased form of Christianity, and, logically, in infidelity. The conflict between the two systems of thought is really what is misunderstood as a conflict between Religion and Science. Banish the lower form of belief, and the conflict ceases—the seeming antagonism between Science and Theology vanishes; for the higher theology is in perfect harmony with the facts of Science.

THE STORY OF GREECE. By Prof. James G. Harrison. ("The Story of the Nations" Series.) New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: Williamson & Company.

In this volume Messrs. Putnam's Sons publish the first of a series of Stories of the Nations which is intended to include Egypt, Chaldea, Greece, Rome, the Jews, Carthage, Gaul, Byzantium, Early Britain, the Goths, the Normans, the Saracens, Spain, Germany, the Italian Republics, Holland, Norway. The whole will form an excellent historical library. The plan of the writers is to enter into the real life of these peoples, and to bring them before the reader as they actually lived, laboured, and struggled, as they studied and wrote, and as they amused themselves. In the volume before us this design has been most satisfactorily carried out, and we have consequently a very full picture of Greek life, told in an easy and attractive style. It is eminently a book for boys and young men; no better could be placed in their hands. It is fully illustrated with cuts and maps, and is printed in large and readable type.

THE GHOST OF A DOG. A Christmas Story in Four Acts; with a Prologue and Epilogue. By J. A. Phillips. Ottawa: A. S. Woodburn.

Mr. Phillips has given us here a very interesting story. It is related in a jovial company on Christmas Eve, and this setting of prologue and epilogue is by no means the least attractive part of the narrative. The literary method of the work throughout is exceedingly effective, and, ending tragically, it is a thoroughly orthodox Christmas story. We congratulate the author on this achievement for Canadian literature.

BAD TIMES: An essay on the present depression of Trade, tracing it to its source in enormous foreign loans, excessive war expenditure, the increase of speculation and of millionaires, and the depopulation of the rural districts; with suggested remedies. By Alfred Russel Wallace, LL.D. London and New York: Macmillan & Co.

The title of this little book is so comprehensive that we need scarcely outline the argument of the author. He has very accurately appreciated

the tendency of the agents he enumerates to produce bad times: and the causes of the present depression he rightly holds to lie, not, as is often asserted, in a deficiency of gold currency—for credit, not gold, is now the currency of the commercial world—but in the accumulation of capital in few hands, in swollen national debts, and in general immorality. To use his own words:

In every case in which we have traced out the efficient causes of the present depression, we have found it to originate in customs, laws, or modes of action which are ethically unsound, if not positively immoral. Wars and excessive war armaments, loans to despots or for war purposes, the accumulation of vast wealth by individuals, excessive speculation and adulteration of manufactured goods, and lastly our bad land system.

The remedy he finds in the adoption of a better land system in England, the attracting of population back from the town to the country, and generally by applying the teachings of a higher morality to our commerce and manufactures, to our laws and customs, and to our dealings with other nationalities. The book should be studied by all economists.

THE PUNISHMENT AND PREVENTION OF CRIME. By Col. Sir Edmund F. Du Cane. (The "English Citizen" Series.) London and New York: Macmillan and Company. Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchison.

This is the latest of a series of books on the rights and responsibilities of the English citizen. It is a complete storehouse of information on the subject it treats of, giving a comprehensive survey of the punishment of crime, from the cruelty of mediæval punishments, through the gaol horrors of the last century, to the more humane system of the present day; it shows the economic value of reformatories and industrial schools, and suggests the best means of reforming criminals. These last chapters should be carefully studied by all interested in the amelioration of the condition of the "lapsed masses."

THE POEMS OF HENRY ABBEY. New, revised, and enlarged edition. Kingston, New York: Henry Abbey.

The fact of the name of the author of these poems appearing also as publisher is likely to make the reader a little suspicious of their quality, especially as the volume is very nicely printed. But, although perhaps rendered hypercritical in this account, we have found the contents to be decked out in a by no means unbecoming dress. The poems are mostly narrative, but Mr. Abbey's lips have been touched with the sacred fire. A rugged simplicity that is very pleasing pervades the volume; the whole collection gives an impression of Gothic strength combined with harmony that must be very refreshing to a taste accustomed to the flabbiness of much current poetry. We quote, as a haphazard specimen of Mr. Abbey's style, the following stanza, taken from "Karagwe" [a negro]:—

His buyer was the planter Dalton Earl,
Of Valley Earl, an owner of broad lands,
Whose wife, in some cold daybreak of the past,
Had tarried with the night;
But parting, left him of their love a child.
He named it Coraline; by sad waves tossed,
She was a spray of coral fair to see!
Found on the shore where death's impatient deep
Hems in the narrow continent of life.

CHARLES DARWIN. By Grant Allen. ("English Worthies" Series. Edited by Andrew Lang.) New York: D. Appleton and Company.

Merely as an attempt to correct some popular misconceptions in regard to Darwinism this book is worthy of all praise:

In the public mind (says Mr. Allen) Darwin is perhaps most commonly regarded as the discoverer and founder of the evolution hypothesis. It is believed that he was the first propounder of the theory which supposes all plant and animal forms to be the result, not of special creation, but of slow modification in pre-existent organisms. It is further, and more particularly, believed that he was the first propounder of the theory which supposes the descent of man to be traceable from a remote and more or less monkey-like ancestor; as a matter of fact, Darwin was not the originator of either of these two cardinal ideas. . . . The grand idea which he did really originate was not the idea of descent with modification, but the idea of natural selection—the survival of the fittest.

But the grand interest to us is the picture it affords of the beautiful human life of this "English Worthy." For this we must refer the reader to the volume itself, where at page 174 he will find a passage too long for transcription, indeed, but not too long for perusal and re-perusal.

THE VANITY AND INSANITY OF GENIUS. By Kate Sanborn. New York: George J. Coombes.

We last week gave a few sample excerpts from this excellent little book; and now beg to most heartily recommend it to our readers. It is brimful of the pathos and humour that makes out human life—especially the life of such as rise above mental mediocrity: it emphasizes the truth that the greater the talent or genius one has the nearer does he approach that terrible brink of insanity that is not far from any—except the stupid.

LECTURES INTRODUCTORY TO THE STUDY OF THE LAW OF THE CONSTITUTION. By A. V. Dicey, B.C.L. London and New York: Macmillan and Company. Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchison.

This treatise we should judge to be indispensable to constitutional lawyers, statesmen, and public men. As its title implies, it is intended to be introductory to the study of the law of the constitution: a manual to enable students to study with benefit, in Blackstone and other treatises of a like nature, those topics which, taken together, make up the Constitutional Law of England. The author with a practical hand sweeps away the cobwebbery of legal fiction that involves Blackstone and his fellows, and points out clearly, in contradiction to them, that Sovereignty in England does not lie,

and has not for many years lain, with the Crown. It lies now with the people—but only, however, as represented in Parliament—and the Executive of England is placed in the hands of a committee called the Cabinet. This evolution of the British Constitution the author constantly illustrates by comparison between it and the constitutionalism on the one hand of the United States, and on the other of the French Republic. The Constitution of the Dominion, he sees, is a mere copy of the American model; and he well remarks:—

The preamble to the British North America Act 1867 asserts with official mendacity that the Provinces of the present Dominion have expressed their desire to be united into one Dominion 'with a Constitution similar to that of the United Kingdom.' If preambles were intended to express the truth, for the word *Kingdom* ought to have been substituted *States* since it is clear that the Constitution of the Dominion is modelled on that of the Union. The Constitution is the law of the land; it cannot be changed either by the Dominion or by the Provincial Parliaments; it can be altered only by the sovereign power of the British Parliament. Nor does this arise from the Canadian Dominion being a dependency. Victoria is, like Canada, a colony; but the Victorian Parliament can with the assent of the Crown do what the Canadian Parliament cannot do—change the colonial Constitution. Throughout the Dominion, therefore, the Constitution is in the strictest sense the immutable law of the land. Under this case again, you have, as you would expect, the distribution of powers among bodies of co-ordinate authority; though undoubtedly the powers bestowed on the Dominion Government and Parliament are greater when compared with the powers reserved to the Provinces than are the powers which the Constitution of the United States gives to the Federal Government. In nothing is this more noticeable than in the authority given to or assumed by the Dominion Government to disallow Provincial Acts which are illegal or unconstitutional. This right was possibly given with a view to obviate altogether the necessity for invoking the law courts as interpreters of the Constitution; the founders of the Confederation appear in fact to have believed that 'the care taken to define the respective powers of the several legislative bodies in the Dominion would prevent any troublesome or dangerous conflict of authority arising between the Central and Local Governments.' The futility, however, of a hope grounded on a misconception of the nature of federalism is proved by the existence of two thick volumes of reports filled with cases on the constitutionality of legislative enactments, and by a long list of decisions as to the respective powers possessed by the Dominion and by the Provincial Parliaments; judgments given by the Supreme Court of the Dominion, namely, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In Canada, as in the United States, the courts inevitably become the interpreters of the Constitution.

The author displays great legal acumen; his book contains a large number of valuable illustrative historical references; and it has a copious index.

FOUR FEET, TWO FEET, AND NO FEET; or, Furry and Feathery Pets; and How they Live. Edited by Laura E. Richards. Boston: Estes and Lauriat.

A seasonable children's book, a portion of which has already appeared in "Our Little Ones." It contains one hundred and fifty stories and two hundred and fifty illustrations, all very well done, so that in it the youngsters may form a lasting acquaintance with their young friends of the lower animal kingdom.

THE MASTER OF THE MINE. By Robert Buchanan. New York: D. Appleton and Company.

A deeply interesting story. The characters are well drawn; they are concerned, as the title implies, with rural and mining life in England; and many a fine moral lesson is taught in a pleasant way through the lives they led.

REPRESENTATIVE ESSAYS. From "Prose Masterpieces." New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

A collection of twelve essays from the English classics, prepared for the use of students and teachers. The selection is a good one and includes such masterpieces as "Sweetness and Light"; by Matthew Arnold. "On History"; by Carlyle. "Race and Language"; by Edward A. Freeman. "Kin beyond Sea"; by Gladstone. A capital book for youth.

THE EVE OF ST. AGNES. By John Keats. Illustrated by Edmund H. Garrett, under the supervision of Geo. T. Andrew. Boston: Estes and Lauriat.

This is a handsome reproduction of Keats' glowing flesh-tint poem. It is finely illustrated by over twenty engravings, the whole being printed on thick plate paper.

FOILED. By a Lawyer. Chicago: Clarke and Longley.

A well-told legal story with a pleasant setting of domestic life. The character of the foiled one is very skilfully drawn: her step-daughter and intended victim—the heroine of the tale—is an ideal woman from whom we are sorry to part.

COUNTRY LIFE IN CANADA FIFTY YEARS AGO. Personal recollections and reminiscences of a Sexagenarian. By Canniff Haight. Toronto: Hunter, Rose and Company.

Part of the contents of this book has already been published in the *Canadian Monthly* and *Methodist Magazine*, and perhaps is familiar to our readers; but it will be hard if they cannot still find much to amuse them in the volume. The story relates the ordinary incidents of pioneer life in a new country, enlivened, however, by anecdotes of sport and the shrewd observations of an acute mind. The book is filled with descriptive accounts of scenes and events; and this makes it a very realistic picture. It has two supplementary chapters on Sketches of Early History and Random Recollections of Early Days; and to all having a regard for the men that made Canada what it is to-day—as who does not—we cordially recommend it.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

We have received the following books and publications:—

THE EVE OF ST. AGNES. By John Keats. Illustrated by Edmund H. Garrett, under the supervision of Geo. T. Andrew. Boston: Estes and Lauriat.

FOUR FEET, TWO FEET, AND NO FEET. Stories of Animals, Fishes, and Birds, for the Little Folks. Edited by Laura E. Richards. Fully illustrated. Boston: Estes and Lauriat.

LIBRARY MAGAZINE. December. New York: J. B. Alden.

THE GHOST OF A DOG: A Christmas Story. By J. A. Phillips. Ottawa: A. S. Woodburn.

MUSICAL HERALD. December. Boston: Franklin Square.

UNITED SERVICE MAGAZINE. December. New York: J. H. S. Hamersley.

WIDE AWAKE. December. Boston: D. Lothrop and Co.

STATE FUNERALS. By Charles F. Benjamin, Washington, D. C.

POEMS OF HENRY ABBEY. New, Revised, and Enlarged Edition. Kingston, New York: Henry Abbey.

MUSIC:—"Remember Me." Song. Words by Hugh Conway. Music by Jules de Sivrai. "Life's Romance." Song. Words by Frederick E. Weatherley. Music by Milton Wellings. "Do Not Forget." Song. Words by Cotsford Dick. Music by Milton Wellings. "Five o'Clock Tea." Song. Words by Knight Summers. Music by Henry Potent. "Chelsea China Polka." By Otto Roeder. "Tabby Polka." By P. Bucalossi. Toronto: The Anglo-Canadian Music Publishers' Association.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

JEBB'S Life of Bentley, in the "English Men of Letters" series, has been translated into German.

PROF. HUXLEY will contribute to the *Nineteenth Century* a reply to Mr. Gladstone's article in the last month's number.

THE concluding volume of the "Autobiography of Prince Metternich" is passing through the press. It is expected that the volume will be ready for issue early in the New Year.

KEGAN, PAUL, TRENCH AND CO. have published, on parchment paper, specimens of English prose style from Malory to Macaulay, with an introductory essay by George Shaftesbury.

SANSKRIT is made easy for beginners by the publication of a translated text of the Nala, with notes and a transliterated glossary. It is edited by Hermann Camillo Kellner, and published by Brockhaus, of Leipzig.

It is declared to be impossible to publish the posthumous novel of Colonel Frederick Burnaby, who was killed in the Sudan, because no one has been able to decipher the manuscript. It has been examined by handwriting experts, but nothing can be made of it.

M. MOULIN, an ex-Advocate-General of France, lately deceased, got together in the course of his life a complete collection of the autographs of the "Immortals" from the foundation of the Academy to the present day. The collection is unique, and is bequeathed to the Academy by M. Moulin's will.

WE understand that Prof. Charles Eliot Norton has edited and placed in the hand of Messrs. Macmillan and Co. for publication a collection of hitherto unpublished letters written by Carlyle to his family and friends. The collection will comprise a series of letters to Mr. Browning, and the very important series of letters to Goethe recently referred to in these columns.

A SET of twenty etchings by American artists is being issued by Messrs. Putnam's Sons. The selection consists chiefly of studies made direct from nature. Some of the specimens by such masters of their art as Moran, Parrish, Ferris, and Smillie are admirable, and show that the etcher's art is not neglected by the American artists. A description and biographical text accompanies the plates.

MR. HOWELLS, the novelist, tells a good story about his own writings. After he had published "The Lady of the Aroostook," he received a letter from an unknown friend, an old salt, who knew whereof he spoke; and in this letter Mr. Howells was informed that if he allowed the *Aroostook* to go out to sea in the rig he had given her, she would be lost before she had fairly cleared the harbour. This frank nautical criticism was recognized by Mr. Howells, and in the next edition the vessel sailed forth under her proper rig.

THE remains of a remarkable "missing link" between birds and reptiles have been discovered by the scientists. A photograph of one of these strange creatures has recently been made especially for the *Century* from the slab preserved in the British Museum; and a careful engraving therefrom, with other curious illustrations, will appear in an article in the *January Century*, entitled "Feathered Forms of Other Days." The author of the article has made a picture "restoration" of the missing link, with its lizard's body, wings of a bird, and long reptilian tail. The same article will contain pictures of the dodo and other extinct birds.

THE publishers of the *Current* announce that, by a recent sale, this leading Western weekly becomes the property of George W. Wiggs, Esq., a Chicago capitalist, and that its entire management will be intrusted to Alva E. Davis, Esq., a publisher of experience and wide acquaintance and interests. The editorial direction will remain in the hands of Gustavus C. Matthews, formerly of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and the *Indianapolis News* (who has been an associate editor from the founding of the paper in 1833), and of John McGovern, late of the *Chicago Tribune*, who assumed the duties of an associate editor of the *Current* in July, 1884.

MR. W. D. HOWELLS will occupy the "Editor's Study" in *Harper's*—the new editorial department absorbing the *Literary Record*—for the first time in the January number. As Mr. Curtis has entertained *Harper's* readers for years from the "Easy Chair" with his chats about social matters, and Mr. Warner, for the past two years, has spread before them a pleasant *causerie* of humour, so Mr. Howells will talk chattily to them about books and matters of literature in general. Mr. Curtis himself, in his New Year's greeting, rises from the "Easy Chair" to open for the general reader "the door which admits him to the 'Editor's Study'"—a room which he has not seen before; an apartment designed for his delight, as the "Easy Chair" is intended for his repose; a retreat in which his wakefulness will be as refreshing as his slumbers in the "Chair." "The *genius loci* who welcomes him," he adds, pleasantly, "is not one whom the guest has ignorantly worshipped but whose fine and penetrating power has at once charmed his fancy and touched his character and refined his life."

MUSIC.

TORONTO MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

PUBLIC interest in the Monday Popular Concerts shows no signs of decrease. The fifth concert on Monday evening was attended by a large and appreciative audience of over twelve hundred people. The programme was of a lighter character than that of the previous concert, the vocal selections consisting of English ballads, and the instrumental numbers of short and tuneful excerpts from popular string quartettes and solos for the violin and violoncello. The artistic singing of Miss Henrietta Beebe was a rich musical treat. The lady has a full-toned voice of a very sympathetic quality, and sings with charming expression and taste. It is to be regretted that the same cannot be said of Mr. J. M. Sherlock, the tenor, whose singing did not reach the standard of the average Toronto amateur. His method is singularly raw, and it is evident that he has not the most elementary ideas of artistic singing, or of voice production. Herr Ludwig Corell won a second triumph this season by his excellent playing of Goltermann's "Concerto" and "Romance." He produces a good, sonorous tone, and excels in the *cantabile* style. The performances of the string quartette and of Herr Jacobsen were, as usual, very satisfactory. This concert is noteworthy for the fact that at it was taken for the first time in Canada a *plébiscite* of the audience as to the attractions of the instrumental concerted numbers given at the previous concerts, it being understood that the two selections getting the highest number of votes would be repeated at the next concert. The experiment was undertaken to obtain the genuine opinion of the audience of the works produced at these concerts. The highest number of votes was recorded for Mozart's clarinet quintette, Tschai-kowsky's *andante*, op. 11, and Cherubini's "Scherzo." These pieces will therefore be repeated at the next concert, January 11.—*Clef*.

OWING to the success of the Organ Recital and Sacred Concert given in the Bond Street Congregational Church some three weeks ago, it has been decided to give another entertainment of the same character, but with a different programme, on Monday evening next, December 21. The artistes are Dr. Davies, solo organist; Laura McLaren, violinist; George Thorpe, tenor; J. F. Thomson, baritone; Agnes Corlett-Thomson, soprano; J. G. Lawson, accompanist. The programme contains twelve numbers, including the overtures, "Fra Diavolo" and "La Donna del Lago"; vocal trio from "Attila," vocal solo, "La Serenata," Grand Fugue (St. Ann's), Grand March, "Charles et Olga," and others.

HAMILTON NOTES.

R. THOMAS STERLE has been appointed choirmaster of All Saints' Church. Mrs. Wyllie fills his place at the Church of Ascension.

A string quartette has been formed here with these members: D. MacDuff, first violin; C. J. Dixon, second violin; J. Chittenden, viola; L. H. Parker, cello.

Mr. Aldous has resumed rehearsals with his Hamilton Orchestral Club, and is preparing for another concert.

Mrs. Frank Mackelcan has been asked to sing the contralto solos in the "Rose of Sharon" at the performance at Toronto.

The Philharmonic Society is now on a sound financial basis for the season's work, and it is a credit to the executive of the Society that this is so. The officers and many of the ladies worked hard to secure subscriptions, and it is pleasant to be able to record their success.

The concert given in St. Paul's Church school-room on Tuesday, Dec. 8, was attended by a small audience, comprising, however, many of the real musicians of the city. So far as could be learned, it was given to bring out Miss Ella Ryckman, a Hamilton mezzo-soprano, who has returned from the Boston Conservatory, where she studied singing. The promoters of the concert prepared, perhaps, the finest programme of the season, and it is possible that Miss Ryckman suffered somewhat from inevitable comparisons. Her voice has gained in compass and strength in the higher register, but is more metallic than formerly. She has not yet acquired that repose of manner which gives full control of voice, and consequently her singing is often laboured and her phrasing spoiled by injudicious breathing. The lady is ambitious and intelligent, and is a very popular singer of whom much may be expected. The artistic success of the evening was the singing of Miss Clara Barnes, a Buffalo contralto, possessing a voice of delicious quality which she uses with a most artistic method, especially as regards enunciation. Mr. Wodell, a local baritone, pleased by his singing of Schubert's "Wanderer"; Herr Jacobsen, of Toronto, played violin solos; Mrs. Walkinshaw, of St. Catharines, played piano solos and some of the accompaniments; and Mr. Pearce, of this city, played others of the accompaniments. It was a delightful concert to all; but the promoters must have lost considerable money.—*C Major*.

[The following letter has been sent us in reference to the mention of Mr. J. E. P. Aldous's name in the music column of THE WEEK of the 26th ult. We publish it to remove any impression contrary to the purport of the letter that may possibly, but erroneously, be gathered from our notice.—ED.]

DEAR MR. ALDOUS,—Allow me to say that on the occasions you have so kindly conducted for me, when I have been absent from my post in the Hamilton Philharmonic Society, your work was not only satisfactory to myself, but was spoken highly of by officers and members of the Society alike.

Toronto, Nov. 30, 1885.

F. H. TORRINGTON.

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From the Mail (Can.) Dec. 15.
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Many attempts have been made to discover a cure for this distressing disease by the use of inhalants and other ingenious devices, but none of these treatments can do a particle of good until the parasites are either destroyed or removed from the mucous tissue.
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Oakland, Ont., Canada, March 17, '85.

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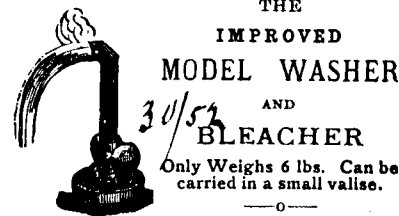
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