

THE WEEK:

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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THIS day Christendom celebrates the coming of spiritual light and life into the world. In thanksgiving for that event all the churches may unite. Even those who belong to no church, but have renounced, or ceased definitely to hold the Christian faith, may join in celebrating the birth of Humanity; for undoubtedly with the Child whose nativity we commemorate to-day Humanity was born. Never before had there been any belief in the unity of the race, in its common aims, in its common hopes; never before had it been pronounced that all men were made of one blood to dwell together on the earth. Up to this time the law of the world had been tribal division with intertribal enmity and war. The most large-minded of ancient philosophers, and the one who in a single passage has come nearest to Christian philanthropy, yet held that the weaker races were destined by nature to be the slaves of the stronger. Conquest had hitherto been the universal aim, and the conqueror's wreath the highest praise. At the birth of the Founder of Christendom for the first time were proclaimed peace on earth and good will to men. From this epoch dates moral civilization, which is identical with Christendom; for the civilization of Greece and Rome soon passed away, and it was founded on slavery. In the family, as regenerated by Christ and his Apostles, moral civilization has its root. And this is in an especial manner the feast of family affection, at which all who can gather together beneath the central roof, while kindly thoughts and wishes go forth to those who are far away. In a society like ours, where the birds leave the parental nest so young, where families are so much scattered by commerce, and the tie of kinship is apt consequently to be so weak, whatever rekindles the family feelings has a special value. So there are very good and highly philosophic reasons for determining to spend a Merry Christmas.

IN celebrating his fortieth political birthday the rank and file of the party could not deny to Sir John Macdonald the privilege of telling his own story; and when a public man becomes his own historian, we all know what to expect. Sir John showed as much fairness in speaking about the public men by whom he has been or is opposed as could have been expected; and he gave proof of dexterity in drawing together threads of history between which nobody else had suspected any necessary or even remote connection. He gave certain Reformers of Upper and Lower Canada due credit for their early advocacy of Responsible Government—to those of Lower Canada he gave perhaps more than their due—but for Attorney-General Draper he claimed the merit of establishing Responsible Government, in 1843, by resolutions brought forward in the House of Assembly. The year was 1841, and Mr. Baldwin the chief author of the resolutions. Remote and important consequences are traced to the resolves of the British American League, in 1850; we are told to find in those resolutions the germs of Confederation and the National Policy, and to accept as an article of political faith that "the principles which were laid down by the British North American League in that year are the lines on which the Conservative-Liberal Party has moved ever since." The British American League was a screech of despair, uttered by a party

which in 1848 had suffered a crushing defeat at the polls; and its resolves, far from having any statesmanlike foresight, were born of the dire necessity of attracting attention by a platform of startling aspect. If it resolved to favour the British connection, the resolution was no more than a recantation of the Montreal annexation manifesto of the year before. The Legislative union was only nine years old, and there was not then the remotest chance of superseding it by a confederation of British America. Besides, the union proposed by the League was not a Federation at all. The French Canadians had joined the Reformers of Upper Canada, and the two united majorities placed the Tories in a hopeless position. The only possible way to extrication from this position lay in a wider union which should include the Maritime Provinces; and this way was blocked, for without railway connection—and there was not a single locomotive in Canada—a political union was impossible. The wildest talk was indulged in by members of the league. One of the ablest among them, who afterwards became Chancellor of Upper Canada, proposed that the inconvenient French majority of Lower Canada should be got rid of by driving all the French population into the sea. By this, and similar sage proposals, the league covered itself with glory. Its protectionism was a lugubrious lament over the repeal of the British Corn Laws, the members charitably believing that it was the sacred duty of the British artisan patiently to starve for the benefit of the British and colonial agriculturist. Happily for its members, the British American League, its speeches and resolves were soon forgotten. To search among the old ashes of that mock political volcano for anything in the shape of a modern policy would be labour lost. Its platform was broken, scattered and forgotten, instead of being kept in view to direct a party in the way it ought to go. There is no rational connection between the British North American League and anything that is to be found in the political world of to-day. But there is no great harm in Sir John, on his political birthday, trying to imagine that there is a direct connection which settles the supreme question of priority in the advocacy of Confederation.

IT is strange that a man of so much sense as Sir John Macdonald and one at the same time so versatile and buoyant should be so little able as he appears to be to throw off the disagreeable recollections of the past, and that he should even be given to awakening sleeping dogs which his sagacity ought to tell him he had much better let lie. Why cannot he allow the Pacific Railway Scandal to be forgotten? That it was condoned and practically consigned to oblivion, though it would have ruined any public man but himself, is the best proof that he can have of his wonderful popularity and of his hold upon his party and the people. With this reflection he had much better rest content. Yet he is always challenging afresh the moral judgment of the country, which cannot be given in his favour without a total abandonment of principle and a ruinous debasement of the standard of public life. To compare such a transaction to the subscriptions of politicians in England to the Election Fund of the Carlton or Reform Club is preposterous; there is no resemblance whatever between the two cases. Sir Hugh Allan was not a politician, nor did he care a straw for any question between the two parties. His object was purely commercial, and he pursued it like the miracle of moral callousness that he was. We had his letters to his American confederates telling them that in his opinion the most desirable course would be to corrupt the Government through Sir George Cartier; the record of his negotiation with Sir George for the Presidency of the Railway, the Prime Minister taking part by telegram; his undertaking in the form of a letter of even date with the Concession to furnish to each of three members of the Government a large sum to be used in the elections; and his letter to his confederates assuring them that he had obtained from the Government all that he and they could desire. Finally we had the telegrams at the crisis of the election, calling upon Sir Hugh for further payments in consideration of the good thing which he had obtained. A subscriber to the Carlton or Reform Club Fund would be stung to the soul by the slightest suggestion that his subscription was in any way connected with the hope of obtaining a commercial favour from the Government. To say

that the Presidency was sold to Sir Hugh Allan would be harsh; but he was compelled, in consideration of the concession, to pay a great sum to the election expenses of the party from the heads of which he had received it: perhaps the practice of assessing office-holders to the party expenses in the United States is the closest analogy that can be named. Nobody calls for Sir John's "vouchers," or has ever imagined that any part of the money allotted to him by the agreement was used for any purposes than those of the party. On the other hand it is not true that the Opposition "spent money in bribing a man to steal papers from his employer." The papers came into their hands in a much less objectionable way. And now surely this most offensive corpse may be allowed to rest in its grave till the historical Day of Judgment.

WHAT may be called the fighting plank of the platform of the Conservative Convention is the resolution in favour of Protection. The old Boundary Dispute and the Pacific Railway policy are fast passing into history; the reference to the Ontario Conspiracy case is a protest which aims to affect opinion on a party intrigue. The reference of the Boundary Question to the Privy Council, proposed by the Federal Government in 1872, if accepted might not have had the result which the delayed reference brought in 1884. In 1872 there was nothing to refer, the case not having been prepared; and if a reference had been made then there would have been nothing to rely upon but the Quebec Act, which, on investigation, was found not to cover the ground. That the result of the investigation by the commissioners who enquired into the charges of conspiracy to overthrow the Ontario Government was "a complete exoneration of the Dominion Cabinets and the Ontario Opposition" is true. Whether the Canadian Pacific Railway construction ought to have been pushed on with a rapidity that will ensure completion several years before the time allowed by the contract expires is a political question, on which the Convention has endorsed the policy of the Government. Before the general election comes round, in the ordinary course of events, these questions will have been practically closed. Whether the true policy was acted upon in dealing with them will be a matter of opinion. But the protective features of the tariff, which the Convention pledges the Conservative Party to fight for, will remain. It will be strange if the pledge now given does not cause it to fight at a disadvantage. Mr. Tilley thinks there is saving virtue in his having been a protectionist since 1850. But this does not blot out the fact that in 1877 the declared policy of the Government of which he was a member was a re-arrangement of the tariff, without such an increase of duties as would give more revenue than the needs of the Government demanded. Declared protection, with or without a surplus, as the fates may determine, is a complete change of base; and that change the Convention, for weal or woe, has pledged itself to maintain. Weal to the country it cannot bring; that it may prove a messenger of woe to the party is not impossible.

THE experiment of doing without a bankrupt law was entered upon at the suggestion of the commercial organs and with the consent of all who had a right to be heard in the decision. The old law was blamed for an increase of bankruptcies, which were sometimes accompanied with signs of a manifestly fraudulent intent; assets compared to liabilities were often small, and the lawyers and the assignees got a disproportionately large share of what properly belonged to the creditors. So the law was repealed amid shouts of indignation which were succeeded by a momentary feeling of satisfaction. But the satisfaction was not destined to last long. Those who had called loudest for the abolition of the old bankrupt law soon became equally vehement in their demands for a new one. But they were not willing that the debtor should be discharged after he had been relieved of his assets. They insisted that a claim on his future earnings should be retained. When this proposal was made to the government, the right of parliament to pass a new insolvent law became a question; its right to pass a bankrupt law is clear, but is an insolvent law without a discharge clause a bankrupt law? This doubt the Government suggested, and nothing was done. Sir John Macdonald told a deputation of the Toronto Board of Trade last week that personally he was in favour of a bankrupt law, but he doubted whether Parliament, in its present mood, could be induced to re-enact a measure which, a very short time ago, it was called upon to repeal. It is natural that the Boards of Trade, which were the first to feel the ill effects of the repeal of the bankrupt law, should change their opinions with a celerity which Parliament cannot quite equal. Nevertheless, delay in the re-enactment of a bankrupt law would be very injurious to commerce; the commercial credit of Canada is suffering severely in England from the present unsatisfactory state of the law. Some curtailing of credits, in that direction, will do good rather than

harm, but the danger is that, in the absence of the means of discrimination, the reins will be drawn too tight. Credits have been too recklessly dispensed in the past; the anxiety to sell goods has been greater than the care taken to ascertain if they were likely to be paid for; extended credits were, in a measure, forced upon traders of small means, and for the inevitable result the creditor was himself often quite as much to blame as the debtor who had sometimes literally been unable to resist the importunity of the commercial "drummer." When the creditor takes undue risks he cannot complain if he suffers the consequences of his indiscretion. There are certain modes of doing business, fostered by creditors, which lead inevitably to bankruptcy, and when bankruptcy comes, the blame of the catastrophe may fairly be proportioned between debtor and creditor.

THE Fenians in the United States have been holding meetings at which the use of dynamite was openly discussed, and subscriptions have been actually taken up for the destruction of English men, women, and children by that and other instruments of slaughter. The blowing up of ships on the ocean, with all their passengers, is one of the projects over which Fenian imagination has gloated. Now, the deed is done, or the attempt to do it is made; but as it turns out to be a blunder as well as a crime, we are asked to believe that the real agents are the detectives, or, to cap the climax of mendacious extravagance, Mr. Gladstone and Lord Spencer. The plot to blow up London Bridge, like the plot to blow up the Nelson Column in Trafalgar Square, would, if it had taken effect, have resulted in a massacre of scores of persons of all ages and both sexes, who had no more to do with Irish grievances than the bridge or the column itself. The precise quarter from which the outrage on this occasion proceeds may be doubtful, for Fenianism in its extreme form seems to have joined hands with Anarchism and Nihilism in general. All friends of civilization and all civilized governments will soon find themselves constrained to join hands and oppose a united resistance to a universal reign of murder.

IN the Province of Quebec the line is being sharply drawn between the party of the Jesuits and the rest of the clergy with the Archbishop of Quebec at their head. The Jesuits in the frenzy of their zeal scorn to wait an opportunity, and insist on all their rash plans being carried out without delay. In a pamphlet published last summer, entitled "*La Source du mal de l'Epoque au Canada, par un Catholique*," they make open war upon the Archbishop of Quebec, the Seminary of St. Sulpice, the University of Laval and all the individuals who stand in their way. Probably with the hope of influencing the present Papal delegate, they pour coals of fire on the head of his predecessor. The Roman congregations and the Pope himself, to whom appeals are constantly being made, they only spare on the pretence that they are deceived by the false statements of interested parties in Canada. They frankly avow their design to grasp the control of university education, to obtain such an alteration in the Election Law as will exempt the priests from the penalties it denounces against undue influence, to enforce the restoration of the Jesuits' estates, and the abolition of all traces of laicism in the Public and Normal Schools. To this party belong Bishops Bourget and Lafleche and the majority of the priests of the dioceses of Montreal and Three Rivers. Their aim, frankly avowed, is to restore the Province of Quebec to the condition of a Catholic country of the Middle Ages. The Jesuits represent themselves and their party as the subjects of rigorous persecution by the highest ecclesiastical authorities in the land; and while they claim to be the only true Catholics in the country they are met by constant rebuffs at Rome. September 22, 1876, was the day of their greatest triumph. On that day they succeeded in inducing the united episcopate of Quebec to sign a joint letter embodying many of their extreme demands. The scandalous abuse of the power of the priests in the elections that followed led to adverse decisions in the civil courts, and as a consequence to a Roman delegate being sent out. The author of this pamphlet charges Mgr. Conroy with writing a retraction of the joint letter and inducing the bishops by false representations to sign it. The question of demanding the alteration in our Election Law desired by the Jesuits has been decided against them at Rome. From the De Boucherville Government they extracted a promise of \$400,000 in lieu of a restoration of the Jesuits' estates; but even here they blame the archbishop with interfering to prevent the carrying out of the bargain. This interference they charge to the Seminary of Quebec. The alleged wish of the Pope, they say, is constantly and often falsely, used against them. The Bishop of Montreal placed this pamphlet under interdict, and almost every copy disappeared with marvellous celerity. It gives the best exposition of the aims of the Jesuits in Quebec that has ever appeared in print, and it may be taken for granted that many of the priests have taken the best care of their copies since the bishop ordered them to be burnt.

"BYSTANDER" ON CURRENT EVENTS AND OPINIONS.

WHILE our neighbours set aside party to restore by the election of Cleveland integrity and purity to their government, Canada has been called upon to do special homage to the veteran manager of a great party machine. To Sir John Macdonald's social character no one who has been in his company refuses a tribute; nor are the social qualities separable from the other qualities which mark a man as a political leader. Without them, at least only the most towering genius can command allegiance. Enmity itself cannot deny that Sir John has been a most successful head of his party; that he has managed to found its power on an unstable combination of heterogeneous elements which scarcely any hand but his could have held together; that he has kept it in place with little interruption for an extraordinary length of time, and, when it was defeated, has been able to retain his ascendancy over it, to rally its broken forces and to lead it again to victory. Before his triumphal car gaily move to the sound of patriotic hymns a hundred holders of lucrative situations, while thrice the number of holders of promises pace with demurer mien behind. All this implies Parliamentary skill, power of organization, address, tact, patience, energy, elasticity, knowledge of the country and of mankind. Nor has the knowledge of mankind been, under the circumstances, the less available because it has been gathered by a somewhat exclusive observation of one side of human nature; so that, like the veteran diplomatists who were taken in by telling them simple truth, of which they had no experience, Sir John Macdonald's sagacity might be at fault if ever he should encounter disinterestedness in man. Tolerance, credit for which all will concede to our Premier, is at least a negative virtue, and even where its parentage may be open to cavil, it has advantages, particularly in the case of one who has to attract ability into the public service, over the persecuting orthodoxy which, styling itself Liberal, offers you conformity or the sword. In this respect it may be thought that his reign has been practically more favourable to progress than that of some of his rivals might have been. If he has been the political corruptor of others, his bitterest opponents must allow that he has himself been incorrupt; and, though such praise is not the highest, it is something, amidst boundless opportunities and in a moral atmosphere by no means bracing, to have aimed at no sordid prize. There is reason for surmising that even in the distribution of patronage Sir John would have been more patriotic, had not the fell maw of party always ravened for its prey. Speakers at the party feast of course go far beyond this; they laud and magnify without measure, not only the man and the leader, but the system. Colder critics only consider how far the system is the creation of the man and chargeable to his account, how far it was imposed by necessity upon a statesman who had to hold together the members of a league united by no strong bond of material interests, and including Provinces whose delegations haggle with the Government for better terms till the bell has rung for a division. Much has been forgiven to Walpole because he had to deal with the difficulties of a disputed succession; not a little may be forgiven the minister who has had to deal with Canadian Confederation. But we, too, look forward to reform and to better times.

To criticize speeches made at a party Banquet would be a platitude. On such occasions eloquence spurns the ground and soars into regions far above fact and sense. The Latin adage that in wine there is truth had reference to blabbing, not to veracity. Besides, who can undertake to discuss a complete Tory version of the political history of Canada? We must leave the curious to compare it with the Grit version given us the other day at the Banquet of the Conquering Hero, and to make what they can of the result. The Chieftain showed the resources of his constitution, not only by the length and vigour of his speeches, but by keeping his place to the very end. Yet the question of succession must have been present to the thoughtful minds with an interest in the future. Sir Hector Langevin, touching that theme with delicacy, bids us observe with pious thankfulness that Providence always has in store a leader for the Tory Party. The counsels of heaven, however, are at present unrevealed. The child of destiny can hardly be Sir Hector himself. His efficiency as an administrator, which is unquestionable, and his questionable command of Quebec, are fatally countervailed, not only by his peculiar connection with some unfortunate passages of history, but by his ecclesiastical relations. The Orangemen, so long as they are following a Protestant chief in the person of Sir John Macdonald, may be content to wink hard at the fact that he has a large Popish contingent in his camp; but it is more than doubtful whether they would follow a Roman Catholic, and not only a Roman Catholic, but one of the most pronounced type and reputed to enjoy the special favour of the Society of Jesus. To Virtue Sir Leonard Tilley's

name is dear; but she must bewail the declining glory of her favourite's financial policy, and it is understood that Sir Leonard himself is weary of toil, strife and receptions of commercial deputations. For some reason difficult to assign the name of Sir Alexander Campbell is never mentioned in speculations on the succession to the leadership, and that of Mr. Dalton McCarthy is insufficiently known to the people of the Dominion. Mr. Chapleau bears away the palm of after-dinner eloquence, but he is only a rising star. The strongest man of the party in debate, the man to whom in the day of battle the party looks for effective championship of its cause, is evidently Sir Charles Tupper. In the Pacific Railway conflict of last Session his presence was felt to be indispensable, not only on the ground of his acquaintance with the special subject, but on that of his personal force, and it largely contributed to the victory. True, there is a section of the party which does not love or trust him; but necessity is an eloquent pleader and will persuade submission when the alternative is dissolution. Sir Charles' health is said to be doubtful; perhaps his chances of political life may not be better than those of the present incumbent; but if he survives, he will most likely grasp the succession. Such speculations, however, rest altogether on a most uncertain basis. The probability is that the heterogeneous combination, united by no natural bond either of principle or interest, but only by Better Terms and other ties of an equivocal kind, when it ceases to be held together by the master hand which formed it, instead of receiving another leader, either from Providence or from any other quarter, will break up and crumble into dust.

THE only point on which it was at all likely that light would be thrown at the party gathering was the Chieftain's position with regard to Imperial Federation, which, his reported sayings in England, compared with his Home Rule utterances here, had involved in some mystery. With the deftness of one of the Davenport Brothers he slips out of his inconvenient bonds. Not only are these hands always clean, but they are always free, tie them with as many knots as you will. He is not for a Parliamentary or Legislative Federation but for a union by "treaty." A treaty between an Imperial country and its dependency! A treaty between a man and his wife! How can treaty relations possibly exist, except between independent nations? Sir John's explanation adds another cloud of fog to the most nebulous of controversies. In the transports of the festive hour the Chieftain shouldered the musket of his martial days, and pointed it at the traitors who would disturb the existing connection. He must take care that the venerable firelock does not go off through the breech instead of through the muzzle, and singe somebody who with his Protectionist Tariff has been breaking up the commercial unity of the Empire, and declaring for Home Rule to the hilt. He must take care also that he does not hit Mr. Chapleau, who holds it to be "evident to any attentive observer that the next generation will solve the problem of the future mode of existence of our country, either by the political federation of Great Britain and its colonies, or by the peaceful assumption of an independent power by this Dominion." And now let the question sleep till the London Federation Committee brings up its report, an event which no one who was present at the Banquet, except the youthful Chieftain himself, has a chance of living to see. The Schoolman's "chimera buzzing in a vacuum" was hardly a more unprofitable subject of debate. The very attempt to impose on the free colonies the yoke of Federation, as it would at once raise irritating questions respecting the distribution of power, the appointment of burdens, and the fiscal system, would place in jeopardy that bond of affection of which freedom is the best preserver and which is not least cherished by those who look forward most confidently to the day when the measure of freedom shall be complete.

WHEN the heavily burdened ratepayer presumes to criticize municipal administration he is generally told that if anything is wrong the fault is his own and that he ought to show more interest in his own affairs. The Citizens' Municipal Reform Association of Toronto is a response to this appeal. It is formed at a critical juncture of the city affairs for the purpose of stimulating the citizens to do their duty in the municipal elections, and thus pave the way, through an improved composition of the Council, for ulterior measures of reform. That reform is needed, appears to be the almost universal conviction. To impute or suspect corruption without good reason is not right; random accusations of this kind debase instead of raising the tone of public life; but without corruption, or any wilful dereliction of duty, there may be incapacity, want of system, and waste. Moreover, where contracts are numerous and large, interests may form adverse to that of the public and beyond the effectual control of an annually elected and ephemeral government. But it is from the Council itself, in conjunction with the more active-minded of the citizens, that reform

will best proceed. The appeal to the ratepayers to do their duty in the elections ought therefore not to be made in vain. Unfortunately it is far from being needless, since some, even of our wealthiest men, though they have the largest stake in the city, do not always give themselves the trouble to vote. A full vote is generally a good vote: it swamps the personal influence of the ward politicians. Nor is it less necessary to adjure the citizens, if they want a good police, good paving, drainage and water, and do not want confiscation of their property, for once to lay party politics aside and cast their votes in the interest of the city. What has Toryism or Gritism to do with our water supply? If Toronto will act with spirit, she may help to solve for other cities as well as for herself the grand problem of city government. The ideas of Reformers seem to point to a charter. A charter was framed during the mayoralty and under the auspices of Mr. Beaty; but the Government refused to entertain the scheme on the plea that what was good for one city must be good for all, and that it would, therefore, be wrong to legislate exclusively for Toronto. This was hardly a sufficient ground for refusing to try in one case an experiment which, if successful, would have furnished a safe basis for general legislation. But perhaps a better course may be suggested. Power might be given to every city to amend, from time to time, its own municipal constitution by means of by-laws or ordinances proposed by the council and submitted to the popular vote, subject to the authority of the Local Legislature, before which the by-law or ordinance would be laid at the Session next ensuing for approval or disallowance. This would give liberty of experiment within safe limits, and one city would benefit by the results of experiment in another. It is probable that a lengthening of the terms for which members of the council are elected, with overlapping, so as to increase the continuity of government and its power of systematic action, in the manner proposed by Mr. Beaty's charter, would be one of the first reforms introduced under the power.

LIKE the rest of the world, the Secularists have been holding their convention, and they have presented to Canadian Society a series of demands constituting, as it were, their Bill of Rights. All public recognition of the existence of a God is to cease. We are no longer to have chaplains or prayers in Parliament or in any public institution; the Bible is to be no more used, even as a text-book, in public schools; the appointment of religious festivals or fasts by national authority is to be discontinued; judicial oaths are to be abolished; enactments compelling the observance of the Sabbath are to be repealed; purely civil marriage is to be legalized; the enforcement of "Christian" morality is to be henceforth unknown to the law; the political system is to rest on a purely secular basis, no advantage being conceded to Christianity or any other religion. The framers of this manifesto, if they are philosophers, especially if they are evolutionary philosophers, ought to be aware that social progress in any case must be gradual, and that a community, the morality of which, public as well as private, has hitherto been bound up with its religion, can hardly be expected at once to change its fundamental character and virtually declare itself Atheist upon the peremptory summons of a small minority whose discoveries are new and not very well settled even in the minds of the discoverers. That which may be rightly demanded, and which no Christian who has in him the true spirit of his religion will ever hesitate to concede, is the utmost possible measure of individual liberty, together with a perfectly equal measure of all civil rights or advantages. That no political privilege should be granted nor any political disability imposed on the ground of religious belief or disbelief is the dictate alike of natural justice and of the religion of Him who taught His disciples that His kingdom was not of this world. Judicial oaths, in the case of those who believe in a God and feel no scruple about invoking Him on a solemn occasion, are a practical security for the integrity of jurymen and the veracity of witnesses with which we can hardly afford to dispense, at least till Scientific Ethics shall have more definitely replaced religious Ethics in the popular mind; but a conscientious Atheist, as well as a conscientious Quaker, ought undoubtedly to be allowed to affirm. Nor has the community the slightest interest in requiring the profanation of the religious ceremony of marriage by those who have discarded religion; it neither needs nor is justified in exacting anything beyond the authoritative ratification of the legal tie. Before we assent to the abrogation of all laws enforcing "Christian" morality prudence bids us inquire what "Christian" morality includes. This demand comes in somewhat suspicious connection with a demand for divorce courts. The institution of a regular and trustworthy tribunal in place of the irregular and by no means trustworthy jurisdiction of the Senate is a most reasonable proposal, and the reform cannot be long delayed. But a community, the overwhelming majority of whose members believe that the family is the essential basis of civil life,

and that the sanctity of marriage is indispensable to the integrity of the family, has a right to conserve the vital principle of its organization. It has as clearly a right to do this as it has to maintain monogamy itself. To refuse a lax divorce law is not persecution and intolerance, though the indissolubility of marriage is in its origin undoubtedly Christian.

OF the literary merits of Mr. Parkman's "Montcalm and Wolfe," enough, though not too much, has been said. All must allow that it unites in the highest degree skill in narration and brilliancy of description with the fruits of conscientious research. To its somewhat florid style and elaborate cultivation of the picturesque only a severe critic would object: the taste of our age demands them; that of the next age will perhaps revert to something more terse, compressed and classical: to something more compressed indeed it will be absolutely necessary to revert unless life is to be spent in reading histories. But Mr. Parkman's book forms a moral epoch in American literature. His work is not like those of too many of his predecessors, a Fourth of July oration in a narrative form, but a judicial history; and he even dares to be just to England. He dares to award praise, where it is due, to British valour, wisdom, justice and humanity. By so doing he has, of course, given some scandal; and it was not surprising to find a writer in a New York journal exhorting his readers to stick to Longfellow's version of the Acadian affair, as being, if not truth, something more akin than truth to "humanity": that is, more congenial to malignant hatred of England. That Americans were Englishmen in those days is a fact against which the American Anglophobe manages steadfastly to close his mind. Mr. Parkman's work will hardly commend itself at once to a public taste vitiated by a century of falsehood and taught to identify calumny with patriotism; but in time it is likely to do real service as a literary instrument of reconciliation. The conquest of Quebec was our common enterprise. Chatham and Wolfe were common heroes of our still united race. Into the heart of the American, as he reads Mr. Parkman's glowing and stirring narrative, can scarcely fail to steal the consciousness that he had ancestors, and ancestors of whom he has some reason to feel proud. To the comparative neglect among Americans of all historical studies except that of Elijah Pogram's history of the American Revolution, is due in no small measure the strange and ignoble delight which one nation alone among the nations of the earth has hitherto taken in dishonouring its own blood, traducing the grandeur of its origin, and defiling the ashes of its fathers. Mr. Parkman's subject is so much a part of their own annals that it cannot fail to attract American readers, and their Anglophobia must be inveterate and keen indeed if it can separate the British soldier from his Colonial brother-in-arms. At the close of his book Mr. Parkman exhorts his fellow-citizens to "prate less about the enemies of the past and strive more against the enemies of the present." His own historical writings will indirectly, and therefore perhaps most effectually, help to stop the prating about the enemies of the past.

THE result of the Conquest of Quebec is however a lesson to conquerors. That the event would remove a curb from the spirit of independence betrayed by the New England colonies and thus jeopardize British Empire in America, was perceived by some clear-sighted men at the time, though the prophetic letter of Montcalm is not less certainly a fabrication than the prophetic letter of Napoleon respecting the consequences of a rising in Spain. But nobody then divined, or could possibly have anticipated, the effect which an enterprise directed against the power of France was destined to have in preserving and developing a French nationality on this continent. Suppose New France, the population of which at the time of the Conquest was barely a quarter of the present population of Rhode Island, while its development was fatally impeded by subjection to a distant and corrupt despotism, had been left to its own destinies, what would have been the result? The colony would almost certainly have been severed from Old France by the Revolution, and like the French element in Louisiana, or the Dutch and other foreign elements in the Central States, would have been gradually absorbed and assimilated; perhaps it would have been rather roughly ground down into conformity by the growing force of American Englishry; for in those days New England still abhorred Popery, and indeed made the toleration of it by the British Government in Quebec a count in her Revolutionary indictment against England. French nationality with its tutelary Church has been preserved by its subjection to a scrupulous conqueror, in whom philanthropy was somewhat incongruously wedded to ambition, and who felt himself bound by his Liberal professions to protect the conquered in the enjoyment of all their rights and privileges, including that of constitutional opposition to his own rule. Thus we have a

curious survival of the France before the Revolution, in which the basis of the peasant's character remains unchanged, and his political submissiveness is almost as great as ever, though the power over him once shared by the king and the seignior is now vested almost entirely in the priest. Nor is it easy to say what will be the limit of French development, since the priests encourage early marriages, and the women overcome by their fecundity the race which has overcome the men by the sword. In this respect the case of the French of Quebec resembles that of the Irish; perhaps not in this alone: for there can be little doubt that the comparatively feeble race over which the priest rules in the South of Ireland would have been subjugated by the stronger race of immigrants from the North had it not been for the connection with that Imperial Government which Irishmen accuse of compassing their extirpation, but which is at this moment restraining the Orangemen from what, to judge by the result of all past encounters, might prove a career of victory. Let ambition mark that Chatham's most famous enterprise has not only turned out barren of anything except glory, but has had an effect the very opposite of that which was contemplated by its projector. In the days before morality, to which conquest belonged, the conqueror had no scruples, nor did he leave his work half done. In the rough infancy of things, he may have acted as an indispensable force of selection; evolutionary science, at least, will be ready to credit him with the performance of that function: but modern conquest seems in some cases to invert the part, and to preserve that which had better not have been preserved.

MR. C. DAVIS ENGLISH'S tract on the "Philosophy of a Future State" is a severely scientific and somewhat peremptory rejection of all the popular arguments in favour of the Immortality of the Soul. No doubt untenable arguments were put forward and found acceptance, even with intellects so powerful as that of Butler, in the days when science had not yet clearly traced out the connection between the different portions of our complex nature. Nobody would now think of talking about the "indiscernibility" of the soul, or concluding that the soul must survive the body because the reason and the character are not affected by the amputation of a limb, or because power of thought and will is in certain cases manifested, notwithstanding the ravages of local disease, up to the moment of death. There is a very striking passage of Mill arguing for the possible continuance of thought without physical organs; but the idea is at once too recondite and too conjectural to sustain ordinary faith. We exist in consciousness; and that our consciousness is not independent of our physical organism is proved at once by its suspension during sleep or in a swoon. We awaken from sleep; we revive after a swoon; and Butler suggests that there may, for aught we can tell, be the same awakening or revival after death: there may be, but we have no experience to tell us that there will. To contend that the soul is self-existent is, as Mr. English truly says, to contend that it must have existed from eternity, as well as that its existence will never cease. Neither in physical nor metaphysical arguments will any sure anchorage be found. It is on another and less philosophical, but far more substantial, ground that the great mass of mankind, all indeed who ever reflect at all upon their own moral condition and destiny, believe more or less definitely, not perhaps in immortality, which, if the term is taken in its strict sense, introduces questions beyond the possible range of our intelligence, but in a future state. No man probably ever persuaded himself that at the close of life it signified nothing to him whether he had lived well or ill, whether he had done good or evil. Let the good man be as unfortunate as he will, and as nobody can deny that good men often are, he still feels that it will be well with him in the sum of things. Let the bad man be as fortunate as he will through life and enjoy any amount of pleasure that he may, he will at the last, unless morally drugged and stupefied by indulgence, wish that he could die the death of the righteous and that his end could be like theirs. This hope and this fear, however indefinite, are indelible. Why, then, are we not to trust the evidence of our moral nature as much as that of our senses, on which physical science is based? On what does the bodily sense or physical science found its claim to a special prerogative of certainty? This is a question to which, as it concerns the very foundation of their system, we should be glad to see the attention of ultra-physicists turned. We are living just now amidst a rush of physical discovery, which can hardly fail to have a temporary effect on our impressions as to the relative spheres and claims of the physical and the moral. Of one thing, however, Mr. English, and all those of his way of thinking, may rest assured; they will never be able to school man to indifference or contented acquiescence in blank doubt with regard to his own origin and destiny. Suppose the philosopher were suddenly conveyed by some mysterious power to a strange place and there set down, having everything provided for him, but having been told

nothing about the purpose for which he had been brought or his ultimate destination, except that he was soon to be transported elsewhere, would he be able to eat, drink and sleep without conjecturing or trying to make out from the indications of the things about him in what hands he was, with what intention he had been brought thither, and whither he was bound? Would he not anxiously interrogate and scrutinize his environment for a clew to the secret of his situation? The secret, says the Agnostic, is a part of the Unknowable. But on the Theistic hypothesis, which remains yet unconfuted, as the Agnostic by repudiating the name Atheist admits, there must be One at least to whom the secret is known; and by His good pleasure and the extent to which He may see fit to reveal Himself to the conscientious seeker after truth, not by any dogmatic decree of the Evolutionist, the limits of the knowable must be fixed. Even Theists, perhaps, do not always distinctly see how much is implied by the belief in a Living God.

In the *Nineteenth Century* there is a curious paper by Dr. Jessopp, the mediæval archeologist, on the number of people swept off by the pestilence called the Black Death, which appears to have been a variety of the Oriental plague, and which ravaged England in common with the rest of Europe in the reign of Edward III., proclaiming a dread truce in the midst of the great war, and arresting the career of the victor of Creci. Dr. Jessopp has found new and apparently trustworthy data for the circulation in the Diocesan Registry, and the Roll of the Manor Court, of which the first recorded the demises of incumbents, the second the death of all holders of property in the Manor. By his examination of these Dr. Jessopp is led to the conclusion that in the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, which he takes as a specimen district, certainly half, and probably more than half, of the population perished. What a sanitary condition, and what a dietary among the people does this indicate! Yet, this is the period of economic history to which agrarianism has been pointing as the golden age of agricultural labour, and which has been invidiously contrasted with the industrial relations of the present day. It is true, the plague by thinning the labour market caused a rise of wages, which again led to a conflict between employers and employed, and to the insurrection of the Serfs; but if half of us were now to be swept off by the cholera, consequences not less happy might ensue. Nothing can be more certain than that our much-abused age shows, compared with the middle ages or even with much later times, an enormous increase in the number of persons who are well-off, while sanitary improvements, the regular administration of relief, and above all the quickened sense of responsibility on the part of the rich, have made the lot of the poorest more tolerable than it was in former days. With the general growth of population the amount of destitution from various sources, including vice, indolence and disease, has also numerically, though by no means proportionally, increased. This and the keener sensitiveness engendered by education in the breast of poverty are the only facts really corresponding to the perpetual threnody about the rich ever becoming richer and the poor ever becoming poorer. Nor is the gulf between rich and poor, about which it seems Mr. Matthew Arnold has been talking, any more of a reality than the connection between progress and poverty. In the middle ages there was a gulf indeed between the Lord and the Villain. Now, not only is there nothing impassable between the lowest industrial grade and the highest, three-fourths of the fortunes on this continent having been made by men who rose from the ranks, but the interval between the greatest wealth and the greatest poverty, though wide, is filled by innumerable degrees of opulence, among which it is impossible to draw a sharp line. This is no reason for relaxing Christian and philanthropic endeavour to raise the lowly, improve the lot of labour, and bring about a real brotherhood of men, as far and as fast as is permitted by the conditions of the social organism, over the fundamental structure of which we have no control; but it is a reason for not having recourse to dynamite while Christianity and philanthropy are striving to do the work.

A BYSTANDER.

"FOR God's sake, read it, I am in need of bread," said a ragged down-at-the-heel literary tramp to Labouchère, of London *Truth*, who poses as a great critic of literary matters. "Labby" was impatient to be away, and had at first refused to even read the poem, but he did so, and then declared that it was trash, saying: "You can make more money as a rag-picker or sailor than trying to worm your way into journalism, with no ability to back you." "Labby" refused to give the author a pound for the "stuff," but offered him a few shillings in charity. Then the tramp threw off his disguise, and lo! there stood "Labby's" great club crony, Bret Harte, whom he had begged to write a poem for him. He would have been glad then to get the "trash" at any price, but alas! he did not, nor will he ever again get any of Harte's matter.

*AUTHOR OF THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT
RESOLUTIONS.*

SIR John's memory fails him when he attributes to Mr. Draper the introduction of the Responsible Government resolutions. The year was not 1843, but 1841, and Mr. Draper neither moved nor seconded any of the resolutions or amendments; but, as the amendments were all moved by one of his colleagues, he must be held to have shared the credit or responsibility of their introduction. The subject was introduced by Mr. Baldwin, whose first resolution, seconded by D. B. Viger, attributed to the Provincial Parliament the "right to exercise a constitutional influence over the executive departments of the Government," and to legislate "upon all matters which do not, on grounds of absolute necessity, constitutionally belong to the jurisdiction of the Imperial Parliament." On motion of Mr. Harrison, this resolution was so amended as to make the right of local legislation co-extensive with "all matters of internal government." Mr. Baldwin then moved that the head of the Provincial executive, within the limits of his government, is responsible only to the authorities of the empire; and Mr. Harrison again offered an amendment which, in different words, accepted the averment of the original motion, and added "that, nevertheless, the management of our local affairs can only be conducted by him, by and with the assistance, counsel and information of subordinate officers in the Province." Mr. Baldwin, having reached the vital point to which his previous motions were intended to lead, moved that the advisers of the representative of the sovereign, constituting the Provincial administration, "ought always to be men possessed of the public confidence," and to be in opinion and policy in harmony with the representatives of the people. Mr. Harrison accepted the substance of the resolution, which, by something more than a verbal alteration, he made affirm that the Provincial administration "ought to be [composed of] men possessed of the confidence of the representatives of the people." For the amendment there were forty-six votes; against, seven. But when Mr. Baldwin moved that "This House has the constitutional right of holding such advisers practically responsible for every act of the Provincial Government of a local character," Mr. Harrison, on behalf of the Government of which Mr. Draper, as well as himself, was a member, parried this declaration by a motion in amendment "that the people of this Province have a right to expect from such Provincial administration the exertion of their best endeavours that the Imperial authority, within its constitutional limits, shall be exercised in the manner most consistent with their well-understood wishes and interests." The amendment, which might have been ruled out as foreign to the original motion, was, by some strange freak, unanimously adopted. With Mr. Baldwin, who had ceased to be a member of the Government, the Responsible Government resolutions originated. Some of them were accepted by Mr. Draper with verbal alterations; but the last quoted, not the least important, was got rid of by a side-wind. At an earlier date in the same session, Mr. Draper, while recognizing the desirability of harmony between the executive and the people, had declared that his responsibility was due only to the representative of the sovereign. This statement, far from being satisfactory to the Reform members of the House, caused the enquiry to be made, whether the ministry, if it failed to obtain a majority to carry its measures, would resign or have recourse to a dissolution. The answer was that, in the event supposed, one of these alternatives would be taken. The advantage gained by the advocates of Responsible Government was followed up by Mr. Baldwin's resolutions. The part borne by Mr. Draper was confined to accepting, with slight modifications, resolutions which originated with the Opposition. M.

CANADA'S CAPITAL.

THE new world must not be measured and appraised by the rules of the old. Here history is as yet in its infancy, and we are therefore not amenable in certain matters to the principles of criticism and valuation sanctioned and adopted in the old world. Nevertheless, if we have no venerable cathedrals nursing the past in their "dim religious light," no battered towers or ancient senate-halls eloquent with the memories of the mighty and gifted dead, there are yet certain ordinances of nature to whose observance we are amenable as applicable to both hemispheres. We do not build our cities in quagmires or upon mountain tops, and the site of our capital, as well as its buildings, industries and inhabitants, are matters of fair criticism to our visitors—may be of profitable study to ourselves.

The Dominion comprehends an extensive territory, and it may not therefore strike a stranger as surprising that the capital should be so far

afield. Yet if he first explores the great St. Lawrence from Quebec to the Lakes, he can hardly miss thinking that a fitter choice of a city to represent the nation to the outside world might have been made upon the shores of this noble stream. Here, too, he finds cities with principles of growth and greatness which would at once recommend them as centres of national life, and probably the majority of suffrages would be given to Toronto as the fitting capital of the great Anglo-Saxon nation which is spreading from ocean to ocean over this vast northern continent. The selection, however, for reasons unnecessary to discuss here, has been made, and, it is to be presumed, finally made, and Ottawa is the Capital of the Dominion of Canada.

There can be no second opinion upon the unquestionable beauty of Ottawa's Governmental Buildings and the scenic advantages of its site; but perhaps the first thing which strikes an observant visitor is the strange fact that so much boast should be made of the magnitude of an industry the proximate exhaustion of which is by its very nature inevitable, whose character is to a certain point decidedly pernicious to the interests of the land at large. Ottawa's great industry flourishes on the destruction of the forests, and when the destruction is completed the industry must finally collapse. The farmer is the pillar of the commonwealth, and the lumberman is the enemy of the farmer. The sterility resulting from the deforesting of the country will be the only lasting and visible memorial of Ottawa's present prosperity. What other sources of commercial greatness are available to the city on the extinction of the present one, must come from her abundant water-power and the fortunate incident of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Ottawa does not seem to be a city signed by nature or circumstance with the mark of promise. The site is fine if remote, and the accident of remoteness will be modified to some extent by the completion of the great trans-continental railway; but it does not therefore follow that the city will become an objective centre of trade rather than a mere point of transit. The city has grown within the last twenty years, but to look at it one fancies that a good deal of this growth lacks the principle of solid permanency, and the idea is suggested that Ottawa is exceeding her powers of sustenance. Were the lumber industry extinct, as things now are, she would be little more than purveyor to the Civil Service.

There may have been political wisdom in the choice of Ottawa as the seat of Government; but it would still seem that, in a land whose greatness must be the result not of foreign conquest but of domestic growth, it might suggest itself as desirable that the official centre should be within touch of the centre of its commercial activities. On the principle that observation is better than report, Government should work in as close contact as possible with the forces which are building up the greatness of the country, and which, therefore, it is the duty of Ministers to make their constant study. No doubt there are disadvantages in the sitting of the Legislature in the centre of the national life; but possibly the advantages of secluded deliberation are in a great measure counterbalanced by this condition of isolation. A great business centre demands more than mere popular representation in Parliament—it demands, in the interests of the country at large, that it should be known and seen and felt, as well as represented in the Assembly.

As far as can be seen at present, the principal permanent importance which Ottawa seems likely to possess arises from its being the seat of Government. The city is too young as yet to justify us in requiring from it a decided character; but it is not too young to be examined as to the nature and tendency of such development as may be going on. From what has been said it will be inferred that the chief influence at work in the formation of the tone of social life in the capital is official. It is during the first three or four months of the year that Ottawa is to be studied in its character as a Capital. At this time it wears its coat of many colours; the rest of the year its aspect is rather russet. Out of the parliamentary season only the patient and persevering politician, the calculating contractor, or the shadowy and mysterious frequenters of official backstairs, are to be seen. Government House is closed, and the weary Viceroy and his Ministers are alike absent in quest of rest and quiet. From January to May the hotels and other places of refuge are crowded with visitors, who throng from all parts of the Dominion, and even from the States, for "the season." What do they come for? Members of Parliament come to legislate, presumably, and to dine in alphabetical batches at the Government House; and their wives and daughters, as well as other men's wives and daughters, crowd up also to catch and carry away all the direct, reflected, or accidental social glory they can obtain.

The simplicity of taste and character, and the healthy and admirable dignity flowing from competency won by honest industry which make an old world ideal of colonial character, are lamentably absent from Ottawa.

The visitors of the season are not pure gold, nor is the influence they exert a good one. The pitiful scramble, the begging, manœuvring, expostulating, intriguing for Government House "cards"—the exultation of the one party and the indignation and disappointment of the other—are enough to make a Canadian blush who has any pride in his country. What an idea of Canada's capital the Aide-de-Camp at Rideau Hall must obtain from his first laborious and trying season in Ottawa! No doubt when he knows more of the country he thinks more highly of it; but the impression is still inevitable that the least favourable and prepossessing aspect of Canada is seen in its Capital during the parliamentary season. The Colonial Throne is not quite a seat of comfort to its occupants, and calls for constant exercises of good humour, tact and patience; but when the tenants of Government House are at liberty to go afield and breathe the purer air of the Provinces, and draw breath after their social sufferings, they find in a better acquaintance with the country a refreshing change. The unaffected genuineness of provincial life must be a contrast to the varnished vulgarity which invades the Capital in the early months of the year in quest of these bits of pasteboard, sometimes obtained by undignified solicitation or less respectable stratagem, and presumably borne away in triumph from the hard fought field as social credentials.

L. M.

THE NICARAGUAN TREATY AND SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.

By the Nicaraguan Treaty the United States Government undertakes to connect by a canal the two oceans which lave the opposite shores of Nicaragua. By another convention, known as the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, which has not been formally terminated, she bound herself not to build any canal across the Isthmus of Panama. A French company, with M. de Lesseps at its head, had in the meantime begun to construct a canal across the Isthmus, by the Chagres River. The work was begun without any protest from England. Mr. Blaine protested on behalf of the United States, but not on the ground that the stipulations of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty were being made of no account by the intervention of a third party. If he had done so, and had asked England to join in the protest, the French adventurers might have been baulked. But the United States did not desire to make a treaty which tied her hands whilst the hands of all other nations, except England, were free. If Frenchmen are at liberty to carry a canal across the Isthmus, the United States is not likely to continue to deny herself a like liberty. There must be some means of terminating the Bulwer-Clayton Treaty without violating good faith or putting an undue strain upon the international relations of the contracting parties. Treaties are not eternal; they are made to meet some exigency of the time, and they expire with the causes that led to their being made. Neither England nor the United States would have bound herself by the inhibitions of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty if France had already begun to dig the Panama Canal, and there is no reason why either of the treaty nations should allow herself less liberty than is permitted to a third power. The United States owes it to herself to seek an honourable release from the obligations of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, and so long as England adheres to the object of that instrument, she is bound to do what she can to enforce its inhibitions on other nations. By neglecting to do so, she has, in effect, given up the attempt to enforce the principle of the treaty. To the objection that the United States would be at liberty, under the treaty with Nicaragua, to fortify the strip of land which is to be conceded to her for the purposes of the canal, the reply is that the fortifications would be of no use: so easy would it be, by sinking a single vessel, to close the canal in time of war. In time of peace the owner of the canal would be happy to receive tolls from all comers.

That the United States could greatly add to its trade with Central and South America by means of commercial treaties is not open to question. And already treaties with some of the Central American States have been formed in addition to the treaty with Spain and another with San Domingo. The States of Central and South America, having large sums annually to pay in interest on their public debts, find it necessary to export more than they import; their export being \$352,600,000, and their imports \$293,400,000. This disparity must continue so long as their foreign indebtedness remains what it is; but if they sold more, there would be a proportionate increase in their purchasing power. The United States' share in this trade is represented by exports, \$47,000,000, and imports, \$293,400,000. For every dollar's worth of goods the United States sends to these countries, Europe sends five dollars' worth. The greater cheapness of European goods gives them the hold which they have on those markets; and if discriminating duties under the treaties changed the course of the trade, Central and South American consumers would find that they had put themselves under a restraint which, when the conditions of trade with all nations

were equal, they rejected, and that the cheap goods which they now buy would, by their own act, have been placed out of their reach. The increase in the price of the goods would make them cost nearly as much as the goods they now buy with the duty superadded. These States would find some difficulty in making up the loss of customs revenue, on which they chiefly depend. The United States would not always, or, perhaps, often, be able to monopolize the benefits of these treaties; the benefits would be shared by any other country which might obtain treaties with Central and South America, giving it all the advantages in trade and navigation to which the most favoured nation is or can be entitled. The free admission of sugar and molasses would cause the United States a loss of revenue one fourth greater than the estimated surplus of the present year; and if treaties with all the countries embraced in the plan of the Secretary Frelinghuysen, were carried into effect little or nothing of the sugar duties would be left. The revenue difficulty could be got over by reducing below its present figure (\$57,000,000) the annual contribution to the Sinking Fund; but even then there would not be much margin for reducing the tariff on articles which are highly protected, and there would be some danger that the worst features of protectionism would be fastened on the country for years to come. The *New York Times* is of opinion that the rejection of the Spanish treaty by Congress is certain. Nevertheless the policy of these treaties, amidst all these drawbacks, has much to recommend it.

C. L.

HOUSE-HEATING IN WINTER.

DURING severe and protracted winters we are liable to exclude the fresh, wholesome air from our common dwellings in endeavouring to keep out the cold and frost, and in so doing awaken a danger of which we are not perhaps sufficiently aware, and which we see with far less dread than could be desired. Neither heat nor cold in the abstract can materially affect the quality of the air we breathe, as regards its wholesomeness, though it is a fact undeniable that the temperature of the inspired air very greatly modifies the state of health. In a healthy adult, however, the temperature of the house is not very material, provided there be sufficient and suitable clothing and food, and that the air be pure. The degree of external cold—that is the degree of cold outside the body—for the delicate and very young or old, whose systems are not so vigorous as those of robust constitutions, is however of considerable moment, and therefore our houses must be kept conveniently warmed. Again, it is almost necessary that artificial heat be supplied for our cooking and for purposes of ventilation.

The points which are brought before us to discuss in respect to supplying artificial warmth in our dwellings, churches, etc., are two, viz.:—1st, What degree of warmth should be given? 2nd, Of what kind is it to consist and how is it to be supplied? For a healthy adult any temperature between 50° and 65° Fahr. will be found comfortable, provided food and clothing are suitably added. Dr. Park's gives between 48° and 60°, but this I am inclined to look on as a little below what will be found comfortable by most people. Babies and old people require an external temperature of from 65° to 75°, in addition to abundant clothes and food. The general temperature of hospital wards is 60° Fahr., but this of course greatly depends upon the form of diseases treated in the ward.

So much, then, for the degree of warmth which is found best suited to the healthiness of our habitations and for purposes of efficient ventilation. To proceed to the second point, viz., Of what kind, and how given? Different kinds of artificial heat are communicated by radiation, conduction, and convection. The latter term is applied to the conveyance from one place to another of heat by masses of air; while conduction is the passage of heat from one particle of air or matter of any kind to another—a very slow process. Radiant heat is perhaps the best kind, as the rays of heat striking the body warm it, but do not affect the air through which they pass, and add nothing to it; in which case it is obvious no deleterious or unhealthy vapours can be added to the air. Radiant heat is, however, expensive and feeble, since the effect lessens as the square of the distance from the fire—as, for instance, if at the distance of one foot from the fire the warming effect is said to be equal to one, at four feet it will be sixteen times less. A long room, therefore, can never be properly warmed by radiation. Radiant heat is undoubtedly the healthiest, and, moreover, the open fire-place which is necessary acts as a first-class ventilator. For this reason, and for the convenience and cheerfulness of the open grate, it is frequently employed and supplemented by conduction and convection, in which case the air is heated by stove-pipes, stoves, hot water or steam-pipes, etc. The air in this case is charged with heat by conduction, *i.e.*, by the heat being conducted to the particles of air from the stove-pipes, etc., and

from each other. This is a very common means of supplying heat, and as long as the moisture which is taken from the air is replaced and the heating surfaces are kept at a medium temperature of from 150° to 200° Fahr., the plan answers very well. The kind of heating surface is not of very much importance as long as the temperature is not raised too high. It may be hot stones, earthenware, iron or copper plates, hot water, steam or gas pipes. If there is a peculiar odour produced, the stove or other heater is too hot. The conduction plan is now coming into more general use, and in many of the larger houses and public places is the plan employed, either alone or in conjunction with the open grate. Here the outside air is conveyed through the small chambers or ovens, or through heated pipes, or over heated surfaces, and discharged into the rooms near or at the floor. The danger here, too, is having the heating plates too hot, and in the facility with which the air may become too dry in the heating. In using iron stoves, heating plates, pipes, or coils, it should also be remembered that certain noxious gasses pass with comparative ease through red-hot cast-iron, and this is of still more importance to us who mostly use anthracite or hard coal, which gives out large quantities of carbonic oxide, and at the same time quickly heats cast-iron to redness. The gas passes with much greater difficulty through wrought-iron or through stoves lined with fire-clay. The symptoms of poisoning from this cause may here be briefly mentioned, *en passant*, as headache, lassitude, drowsiness, and probably sickness of stomach, proceeding, perhaps, to collapse in very severe cases. In furnaces the air chamber should be large and the heat feeble, so that a large quantity of fresh air at a comfortable temperature, in preference to a small quantity of over-heated and over-dried air, probably carrying poisonous vapours, may be thrown into the chamber. A small quantity of hot air will not, moreover, so readily mingle with the cool air of the room as a large quantity only of a few degrees higher temperature will, and the former will more readily fly to the ceiling or ventilator and escape, having added but trifling heat to the room.

RHO SIGMA.

SCIENTIFIC JOTTINGS.

THE Chairman of the Council of the Society of Arts, Sir Frederick Abel, the accomplished chemist and electrician, delivered the opening address at the 131st annual meeting of that body in London, on the 19th November. Beginning with a deserved panegyric upon Sir William Siemens, the late President, Sir Frederick proceeded to sketch the present condition of the question of electricity as applied to the service of man; the progress of aerial navigation, with regard to which he is not very sanguine; the use of compressed air, and the liquefaction of gases, to which reference was made in the last "Jottings." Turning to more domestic concerns, he says a good word for the results of the "Smoke Abatement" Exhibition of two years ago, and then passes on to discuss some of the lessons of this year's Health Exhibition, whence a digression to the vexed problem of an adequate water-supply for London is easy. He thus sums up the question of *bacteria* and their presence in water: "I venture to think that our hope for a radical improvement in the water supply of this great metropolis lies rather in the application of some simple, expeditious, cheap and effective mode of chemical treatment to supplies from sources now in use, previous to their filtration, than in a complete change of our source of supply." The *Times* devotes a lengthy editorial to a most favourable review of the address, and considers that on the whole the reader will rise from it in a more cheerful mood. If dynamite, compressed hydrogen, and torpedoes, among other engines of destruction, are making progress, so are electric railways, purified gas, and smokeless grates adding to the comforts of mankind. Shells are becoming more and more explosive, but we are promised pure water. Science, even in these days of Krupp and Whitehead, preserves more lives than she destroys.

THE Messrs. Krupp show an ingenuity worthy of a better cause in turning the last achievements of chemical science to practical advantage in their manufacture of heavy ordnance. Gases liquefied under great pressure and at extremely low temperatures naturally exert an enormous expansive force when allowed to escape. The Messrs. Krupp produce liquefied carbonic acid upon a large scale, and employ it for maintaining steel castings under pressure, during the solidification of the metal, by closing the mould directly the metal is cast and then allowing the liquefied gas to escape from a reservoir connected with the mould, whereby the space above the molten metal becomes filled with gas, and the very high pressure thus obtained continues until the steel is completely solidified, all tendency to formation of cavities being thus avoided. This system of casting is also being applied to other metals and alloys. In proof of the absence of danger in employing liquefied carbonic acid it may be mentioned that the reservoirs of the liquid are kept immersed in hot water when being used, in order to add to and maintain uniformity of pressure during the employment of the condensed gas. The stored force presented by the liquefied gas has received further useful applications, such as for the working of fire-extinguishing apparatus, and upon a very extensive scale in Germany, for forcing beer from casks to any distant place where it has to be drawn.

AMONG electrical railways that to the Giant's Causeway in Ireland is notable. The line extends from Port Rush to Bushmills, a distance of six miles. A dynamo at Bushmills is operated by water power, and the current is carried along a strap of iron about one-fourth of an inch thick by three inches wide, supported on posts a foot above the ground, and the same distance from the car. A bar of iron extends from each end of the car and has a thin elliptical spring at its extremity; the spring adapts itself to the inequalities of the road and transmits the electric current from the strip of iron to the dynamo under the car. This dynamo works the wheels, and the car goes along at the rate of ten miles an hour, smoothly, and without the jerky motion observable in cable roads. One car has been running two years without interruption for repairs.

THE uses of electricity on railways are multiplying rapidly. Besides a few short electrical railways, such as that just described, electric bell-calls from each berth on the newer Pullmans, and electric lighting of cars from batteries, an electro-magnetic brake has been satisfactorily tested on the Baltimore and Ohio road. A special test of the brake was made with a loaded train going down a grade of sixty-eight feet to the mile at the rate of forty-eight miles an hour, and the train brought to a dead stop in a distance of 410 yards, and within thirty-five seconds from the time the danger signal was given. Advantages claimed for this system are that the brake is applied simultaneously to the whole train, so as to prevent the closing up of the rear cars with their accompaniment of bumping; the stops are consequently smooth and easy; that the engineer can be signalled from the caboose, and that if a train parts, and thereby breaks the electrical current, a bell rings in the caboose and another in the cab, while the brake on the forward portion of the train still remains under the absolute control of the engineer.

GRATZEL'S patent for obtaining magnesium by electrolysis is likely to be extensively used. At a recent sitting in Berlin of the *Electrotechnische Verein* a ball of magnesium of superb brilliancy, fifteen centimetres (six inches) in diameter, was exhibited, and it was stated that the light from the magnesium possessed a greater penetrating power in fogs than the electric light.

TEN large iron works in the United States are interested in a new method of producing steel, known from the inventor's name as the Henderson process. Good Bessemer iron, steel, and croppings, are taken and converted on an open hearth, with a blast descending from the top, without the use of a converter, as in the Bessemer process. Steel ingots manufactured in this way have been rolled into plates, which bend on short turns, and nails cut from them are of very fine quality, can be readily bent obliquely, and show well-defined edges. The process itself is practically successful; the question yet to be solved is whether the steel can be produced cheaply enough to take the place of charcoal blooms.

THE advantages of wool over vegetable fibres as a material for clothing are claimed to be very great, as the latter impede the circulation of the air, retain the noxious emanations of the body, and expose the surface of the skin to sudden changes of temperature, while wool is free from these objections.

FRESH evidences of the wonderful value of oil in subduing waves are continually being presented. Captain Walker of the steamship *Para* thinks that his vessel was saved on two occasions by the use of oil. In one instance he was running before a heavy gale, with a remarkably high sea, and his vessel was in great danger of being pooped. He hung two canvas bags of oil on each quarter, from which sufficient oozed out to answer his purpose, and the sea ceased breaking at once. Only four or five gallons of oil were expended in twelve hours. Captain Peterson, of the Norwegian bark *British Queen*, was trying to make the port of Valencia, in heavy weather, when seas swept over the vessel fore and aft. He lowered a canvas bag of oil from the jibboom, and the seas no longer broke over the vessel. A plan has been devised to make use of this property of oil to act as a cheap form of breakwater. A number of metal cylinders or buoys are strung together and moored outside the area to be protected. Each buoy contains in its bottom a quantity of oil, the remaining space being filled with cotton-waste or tow, which acts as an enormous wick to draw up the oil by capillary attraction, and feed it through holes in the upper side of the vessel. As the waves break over the buoys they carry with them a film of the oil, and losing their crests sink into still water on the other side. In the Gulf of Mexico there exists a mile off the northern coast of Texas a natural harbour about two miles long, formed by oil springing from the bottom of the sea. In fine weather there is nothing remarkable to attract attention, but in storm a broad belt of white foam marks where the waves, rolling shoreward with all the force gathered in an unbroken sweep of seven hundred miles across the gulf, are suddenly arrested, and sink down conquered, so soon as they come within the mysterious influence of this gentlest of rulers. Unfortunately this peaceful haven is so shallow that it can be used only by vessels of light draft, and by those familiar with the phenomenon, as strangers naturally assume the breakers to be caused by a dangerous reef.

GRADGRIND.

A GOOD story is going the rounds about the late Lord Chelmsford and Baron Channell. Once in his young days, when the late lord was in court, the Baron was arguing a shipping case, engaged in a suit as an advocate, the "Hannah." However, the then Mr. Channell was somewhat inclined to drop his h's, and kept talking about the "Anna." At last some barrister turned to Lord Chelmsford and said jokingly, "Where is the 'Hannah' now?" "Oh," answered Mr. Thesiger, "she's lost in the chops of the Channell."

HERE AND THERE.

ONE of the correctives for the desultory reading of our times consists in the direction given by literary and debating clubs. Perhaps nothing better of the kind exists in Canada than a club established in Montreal eight years ago. Its membership is but twenty-five, so that each member in turn can entertain the club at his house. The meetings are fortnightly, except during the summer months. Men of letters, of science and of business, with teachers, lawyers, doctors, and clergymen make up this delightful club. A paper is contributed once a year by each member, according to a calendar arranged at the beginning of a session. This paper is discussed, and the variety in the membership affords a diversity of topic and comment which grows in interest from year to year. Clubs such as this would be a most desirable means of culture throughout our country, not only in giving reading and thought an aim and purpose, but in cultivating the amenities between men of diverse standpoints in political and theological conviction. Much is done when an artist leads men of business out of the stock exchange and away from the protracted perusal of bulky ledgers. Not less is secured for the broadening of the mind when a chemist or botanist recounts to educators and pleaders the last triumphs of experimental or inductive science. Men grow in mutual respect when they pass out of class into a courteous social circle where differences of sect and party are ignored in common intellectual aims.

THE large and distinguished attendance at the funeral of Mr. James Bethune, Q.C., was not merely a formal recognition of professional eminence, but a heartfelt tribute to the rare worth of the man. Mr. Bethune was not only a very successful lawyer, he adorned the profession by singular integrity, conscientiousness, and liberality of mind. He showed the same qualities in politics, from which, however, he soon retired. The social loss caused by his death will also be widely and deeply felt. It is supposed that the disease which cut short his bright career was contracted by stopping, when on circuit, in an ill-drained house, though the immediate cause of death was connected with the heart.

Is interest in Canadian politics and literature awakening in the States? It would appear so. More than one journal is to-day bidding for the work of Canadian pens, and now we have a paper on Sir John Macdonald in *Lippincott's Magazine*. The writer is Mr. James Macdonald Oxley, of Ottawa, and the political complexion of his biography of the Canadian Premier will scarcely need to be suggested when it is added that he is in the Government Service. Everything is rosy, and the unpleasant episodes in Sir John's career which the historian cannot get away from are here glossed over with consummate skill. As a literary production the paper is charming; as an estimate of the character and work of Sir John it is worthless. One thing, however, Mr. Oxley must be complimented upon: Though writing as a partisan, he does not descend to the too common practice of bespattering his political opponents with Billingsgate in order to make his portrait of Sir John the fairer. He writes as a gentleman for gentlemen.

A LETTER has recently been forwarded from Canada to Lord Carlingford calling attention to the feasibility of introducing into Ireland prepared flax from the Canadian North-West, where the growth of flax is found profitable and is being largely adopted by farmers. Most of the supply for the factories of Ulster and Dundee is now received from Russia, and as the fibre flourishes in the Canadian North-West, the question of supply is thought in Canada to be merely one of competition. Lord Carlingford takes a deep interest in the linen trade, and it is thus sought to enlist his co-operation on behalf of that Canadian product.

THE Christmas Double Number of the *Chicago Current* is a remarkable evidence of the journalistic enterprise of our neighbours. Such an array of well-known names is rarely seen in one issue of a journal as contributors. It is just a trifle amusing, however, and is one more proof of the little that is known of Canadian matters in America, to note that one or two "representative" names put forth with a fanfarrone are utterly unknown in the Canada they are said to "represent." Moreover, though Mr. Edwin Arnold, for example, is as likely as another to make due allowance for the amenities of Christmas advertising, his poetic equanimity must be rudely shocked to see how his elaborate poem is sandwiched in between the holiday announcements of a riding-school and a nail factory! One claim which the *Current* makes for itself, however, will probably pass unchallenged: that estimated by a yard measure it is far ahead of most contemporaries: "The typographical measurement of the *Current* for six months of publication, and of other periodicals for the same six months, shows the *Current's* remarkable pre-eminence:—The *Current*, about 1,484,000 words; the *Century*, 950,400 words; *Harper's Monthly*, about 650,400 words; the *Atlantic*, about 578,400 words. Thus it is seen that the *Current* published more matter than *Harper's Monthly* and the *Atlantic* combined, and nearly as much as the *Century* and the *Atlantic* combined.

THERE were twenty-six failures in Canada reported to *Bradstreet's* during the past week, as compared with twenty-two in the preceding week, and with thirty-two, twenty-six and seven, respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1883, 1882 and 1881. In the United States there were 305 failures in the past week as compared with 316 in the preceding week, and with 280, 236 and 145, respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1883, 1882 and 1881. About eighty-seven per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000.

It is not so very long since the very mention of cremation was sufficient to raise a cry of horror among refined and religious people. But time change, and this method of disposing of the earthly frames of our departed ones is slowly but surely gaining ground, even in this country, and many people are beginning to think if it may not be after all the best, as it certainly is for the survivors the healthiest, method of disposing of the dead. Abroad, and especially in Germany, it continues to win favour. The two hundredth case has just been registered at Coburg, where fifty-four people have been cremated this year alone. These two hundred cremations have occurred since 1878, when the furnace was erected in Coburg, and the cases included sixty-two inhabitants of the duchy, and one hundred and thirty-eight foreigners—one hundred and twenty-six men, sixty-nine women, and five children.

IN his advent sermon preached at the Pro-Cathedral, Kensington, Cardinal Manning made a vigorous onslaught on "Society" journalism. "The plague of tongues" in the spirit of detraction which is abroad, the tendency to scandal-mongering, and the encouragement given to it in society, he described as almost universal, and deplored it as one of the most distressing signs of the times, only equalled, if equalled, in its mischievousness by the spirit of rationalism which he finds supreme in the higher forms of modern journalism and literature. The Cardinal had a fling in passing at the carelessness of English parents in sending their sons to "godless" universities.

IF there was needed any other proof that Ireland, notwithstanding the Crimes and Coercion Acts, is in anything but a peaceful state of bliss, it would not have to be sought for long or far. This is a boycotting notice that was liberally posted throughout Bray, the most fashionable seaside resort near Dublin, recently:—"Down with the land-grabbers. The farmers and traders of Wicklow, Wexford, and Dublin are cautioned to beware of Anthony Ivory, of Bray, that cowardly traitor who has betrayed and scandalized the holy cause of the Irish people. Have no dealings with him. Do not speak to him or to anyone who does so. He has been false to his country and his God. The man, woman, or child who is seen to enter his house, or to have intercourse with him, or any member of his family, will be ever branded as a renegade to the sacred cause of Ireland, and our succeeding generations will curse them for that reason. The tortures of hell would be but light punishment for an accursed land-grabber." This precious document was signed "Murty Hynes," and was levelled against an inoffensive greengrocer who was courageous enough to rent a few acres which were given up to the landlord by the last tenant. And yet the Irish raise their voices against Lord Spencer and his coercive measures! Was there ever such a coercionist as this never-visible, ever-dastardly Murty Hynes?

A "MOTHER OF MEN" and a "mother of Generals" has recently died at Benares, whose life has set at defiance all orthodox medical theories, for, having been born in 1787, she has never left the plains of India, the only occasion on which she went up to the hills being that on which she had any serious illness. Anna, the widow of General James Kennedy, of the Bengal Cavalry, who died in her ninety-seventh year, lived to see no fewer than one hundred and seventy-six lineal descendants, of whom one hundred and twenty-eight survive her. She had eighteen children, eighty grandchildren, seventy-three great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren. Besides military officers of inferior rank, her father, husband, two sons, one son-in-law and four grandsons were generals in the army.

"MUNDUS," the facetious literary free-lance of *The Rambler*, tells the following anecdote:—At a recent reception in New York a distinguished member of the bar told a story at the expense of a fellow advocate, who was invited to some entertainment, his invitation being accompanied with the usual request, "r. s. v. p." Never having before met the cabalistic initials, he inquired what they signified. "Why, don't you know?" was the reply. "It is a direction as to dress: roundabout shirt, vest and pants." "That's lucky," said he, "for I have everything except the roundabout." A distinguished railroad man, who stood by, capped this with another. On one occasion he invited all the employes of the road to his house to listen to a little talk by Peter Cooper and others. Just at that time there had been some discussion as to a reduction of salaries, and the invited were suspicious, especially as they could not make out what the "r. s. v. p." in the corner of the invitation meant. So they held a meeting, and after much cogitating one man said: "Here, boys, I know what that means: reduction of salaries very profitable. They will get us there, give us something to eat and drink, and we will be roped in before we know it; don't let us go," and go they would not until the superintendent had been seen, and the matter explained.

FROM the remarks of a contemporary it appears to be thought that the custom of burning the Yule-log is extinct in England. This is not so, however. In several of the northern counties, after the usual Christmas Eve devotions, candles are lit, and the Yule-log thrown on the open hearth. In some wealthy houses a "Lord of Misrule" is appointed to superintend the revels. The reign of this personage in former days began upon All-Hallow Eve and lasted to Candlemas Day. The favourite pastimes over which he presides are generally music, conjuring, "dipping" for nuts and apples, dancing, blind-man's buff, and the like.

A JUVENILE query has suggested the idea that perhaps the knowledge possessed by most parents of "Santa Claus" is limited to the fact that the name is a corruption of St. Nicholas, and in view of possible question-

ings it might not be unadvisable to refresh the parental memory. The worthy Saint who was born at Patara, and died Bishop of Myra in A.D. 343, was patron of young people and seamen. The custom of slipping presents into children's stockings while they are asleep is said to be founded upon a habit the good Saint had of doing good by stealth. It is also held that upon one occasion he secretly dropped a purse of gold down the chimney of a poor man so that the recipient might be able to give each of his three daughters a "dot" and so get rid of them by marriage. The following lines possess more of age than beauty—the last one going off at a tangent, and is evidently dragged in for the sake of the rhyme and a moral:—

Saint Nicholas money usde to give to maydens secretlie,
Who, that he still may use his wonted liberalitie,
The mothers all their children on the Eve do cause to fast,
And when they every one at night in senselesse sleepe are cast,
Both apples, nuttes and peares they bring, and other things beside,
As caps and shoes and petticoates, which secretly they hide,
And in the morning found, they say that this St. Nicholas brought:
Thus tender minds to worship Saints and wicked things are taught.

APROPOS of Christmas associations. Despite the assiduous preaching of the gospels of vegetarianism and prohibition, can any person imagine a festive season *sans* beef, *sans* wine? Would not such a feast be very much like a performance of "Hamlet" *sans* the Prince of Denmark?

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for the Editor must be addressed: EDITOR OF THE WEEK, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto. Contributors who desire their MS. returned, if not accepted, must enclose stamp for that purpose.

PROHIBITION IN MAINE.

To the Editor of The Week:

SIR,—One of the benefits claimed to be derived from the prohibition of liquors is the diminution of crime. In the model State of Maine, where crime has increased over 200 per cent., while the population has increased only 14 per cent., the Hon. Neal Dow explains in a recent letter to the *Montreal Witness* that this increase is very much attributable to strong drink. He says the terrible increase in murder is mostly owing to this cause; and he apologizes for the enormous number of divorces—which are not classed as crime—by asserting that as compared with some other bad States, Maine is no worse off in this respect. He further says that \$500,000 will cover the cost of alcohol smuggled into the State, and we may be certain he does not exaggerate. For teetotalers even this is a very fair allowance, representing, as it does, one-third of a gallon to every man, woman and child. If we add to this what is legally sold under the drug-store licensing system, we may form our own estimate of the thirst of Maine, the more powerful liquors being washed with copious draughts of cider, equal to the strength of beer.

Mr. Dow's proposition seems to be "that prohibition of strong drink takes away the cause of crime; that prohibition does prohibit; yet that crime increases, and that its cause is strong drink." He then triumphantly asks whether the success of the measure is not amply demonstrated in its continuance by a majority of three-fourths of the polled votes. It might be said, if three-fourths produce such a state of affairs, it would seem to imply that either utter unanimity is requisite before complete success, or that full consent on the lines depicted above would make matters perfectly unbearable. Given three-fourths producing an increase in crime of two hundred per cent., what percentage would the whole produce?

But it is scarcely fair to make the whole population answerable for what was in fact, in its initiation, the work of only a noisy section, fanatical on the subject. The question is so mixed up with politics that in voting the Republican ticket a vast number sunk the lesser in what they considered the greater issue, *i.e.*, the political, and Mr. Dow himself, in an unusually candid letter, written to the *London Times* of 6th October, 1883, refers to a certain section as "most respectable people, none of whom have any sympathy with the temperance movement, much less with the policy of prohibition," thus distinguishing himself unconsciously between "temperance" and the other thing. These things being so, we may fairly assume that the three-fourths majority was composed of contrabandists, druggists, politicians, illicit and legal drinkers, and the unhappy one-fourth of "most respectable people;" and it may be gratifying to working men to know that these "most respectable" were of the wealthy classes, and with whom the British Consul might fittingly associate. And it may be still more gratifying to know that to these same wealthy classes prohibition is merely a figure of speech which has no meaning to them practically.

W. H.

ANOTHER of Huckleberry Finn's adventures, by Mark Twain, entitled "Jim's Investments, and King Sollermun," will appear in the January *Century*.

WHEN Mr. Gladstone some months ago made a grant of £500 to Dr. Guisberg on account of the impending completion of the latter's edition of the "Massorah," by the publication of the third volume of that colossal work, it was believed that finality would have been reached with the issue of the same. This, however, is by no means the case in actual practice and experience. Dr. Guisberg's aim was to give the "Massorah" as it is at present, wherever it might be found, to show how it had been built up, and to explain it so fully as to make it easy for a person of average intelligence to understand. Dr. Guisberg now finds his labours prolonged by the discovery of important manuscripts, which, through Aden as an outlet, have been secured from the comparatively remote and unexplored regions of Central Arabia, and he is now engaged in editing a supplementary volume of the "Massorah," which shall take cognizance of these latest discoveries.

AT CHRISTMAS-TIDE.

MOANING, moaning, o'er the prairie, wail the chill December skies,
Silently the drifting hardens where a storm-beat wand'r'er lies:
Swift the weird-like shadows glooming, in the fading light of day,
O'er a lone heart sadly dreaming of a homestead far away;
For he sees the dear old faces, chasten'd by the hand of Time,
As they sit around the ingle list'ning to the clang and rhyme
Of sweet-toned bells that far and wide
Ring in the gladsome Christmas-tide.

Borne above the north-wind's sobbing—o'er the clashing of the bells—
Float the tones of quaint old carols, touching chords of Memory's cells;
But the blessed vision passes; silent now the sweet refrain,
And the horrors of the Frost King rise before his ken again;
One more effort, onward stagg'ring, till before his ice-lash'd eyes
Beams the log-wood's cheery firelight, and his wild despairing cries
Are heard by joyous hearts that glide
In the settler's dance at Christmas-tide.

Lanterns flashing, hounds a-baying, where a swoon'd form is found;
Stalwart men and bright-eyed maidens, in the firelight gathering round,
List'ning to the wand'rers story: how he left his camp at morn,
Miss'd the trail, the blizzard's raging, how he lay, with strength outworn,
Till the storm had spent it's fury, and the numbness of his limbs
Warn'd him of insidious slumber, which for aye the senses dims—
How but for them he should have died
'Neath a shroud of ice at Christmas-tide.

Moaning, moaning, wails the North-wind, and the moonbeams break and pale
O'er a nestling, peaceful homestead, in a pleasant English vale;
And around its glowing ingle kneel a gentle household band
Who are praying for an exile in a far-off foreign land:
Pray the mother, sire, and sisters, pray they for an only son,
Asking Heaven to shield, in mercy, him, the wayward, absent one;
And by that prayer is Death denied
In the Western wilds at Christmas-tide.

H. K. COCKIN.

A CHRISTMAS REVERIE.

Ad Uxorem in Caelo.

THE hallowed Christmas-tide returns
And I, alas, must lay upon thy tomb
The kisses which I erst did'st print upon thy lips.
Thou art not here to take from hearts that loved thee
The greetings of the Christmas morn: the embraces
Of thy children; the little gifts their loving hearts
Were wont to buy and press upon thee, eagerly scanning
The beautiful face to see it break in pleased surprise
O'er treasure which love, not commerce, most must value.
Nor ever more shall I or they receive at thy dear hands
The simple tokens of that love surpassing
Wherewith thou lovedst us; nor hear again the music
Of that voice which though it break no more on ear of earth
Thrills ever angel-hearts within the gates of heaven.
Ah, God! 'tis hard to learn the lesson—to see
That 'tis by sacrifice our hearts are drawn to Thee,
And that by snatching up our treasure the object of our worship
Shall be the idols of the home no more, but Thou, Jehovah,
Who, though Thou hid'st Thy face, art yet Our Father!
'Tis only thus we could have heart, O God, to bear the loss,
Or be submissive to the blow, and not rebel;
'Tis but in knowing that Thou art He who doeth all things well;
And however faint our hearts may grow and dull
That Thou art kind, and alway seek'st to do us good,
And would'st draw us heavenward, e'en thro' the waters of affliction;
Aye, and raise our souls as Thou hast raised the Christ,
That by His Cross and Passion, and by the blessed Resurrection
We all may pass from death to life, and meet as one in heaven,
Forever singing the song of triumph around the throne on high.
So, heart, be still awhile and murmur not
That Death hath entered in and stolen thy treasure,
For God hath but early garnered it for thee and thine;
Nor let sorrow's surge o'erwhelm more thy household
That there comes not back a loved one to fill the vacant chair
And with the gladness of her presence hallow the Christmas feast.

Toronto, December 23rd, 1884.

G. M. A.

MESSRS. EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE have published for their chief Christmas book a very elaborately-illustrated edition of Barham's well-known "Lay of St. Aloys." It is marvellously well done. Mr. Jessop has written out the poem with his own hand, and gives a sketch for nearly every line of it. He has a genius for comic ecclesiastics. His bishops, abbots, monks and choristers are delightful studies of human characters. His careful drawing would delight the heart of Mr. Ruskin if he could be got to read an Ingoldsby legend. His owls, bats and crows are real studies of nature. The fun of the funny poem is brought out in a hundred ways.

CASA DEL DIAVOLO.

[Translated from the German for THE WEEK.]

"SAUL went out to seek an ass and found a crown." I, following the impulse of my own sweet will, walked down the Riva to pay a visit to the well-fed young elephants in the public gardens. But on the way thither my fairy god-mother, whose name is Phantasy, and on whose "pass" I travel, crossed my path, and so it chanced that I brought home with me an ancient love-tale, and left the animals "with two tails" to their fate!

In a little lane behind the arsenal a broken wall lets daylight into an old, deserted court-yard in which weeds and flowers grew in rank luxuriance. Yellow jasmine lifted its golden head in every corner, heavy with fragrant hashish dreams. Unable to resist the impulse to gather some of these in flower-famine-stricken Venice, I climbed over a huge heap of debris and pushed my way into the empty space, in which a moss-grown fountain, quantities of lovely maiden-hair, headless statues and crumbling vases—fit subjects for a poet-painter à la Böcklin—completed a fair picture of still life.

As I leaned forward to break off, with both hands, a cluster of the blossoms, my foot struck against a piece of painted Venetian glass and shattered it to atoms. I picked up the fragments, for one would as soon dream of scorning the gems in Alladin's grotto as the smallest piece of Venetian glass, and as I held it against the sunlight the rays flashed through tiny dark red spots Perhaps a fragment of one of those Caprician drinking goblets—the same that Murano now copies, but in form only—goblets more beautiful than either silver or gold ones, and out of which one longs to pledge the "Empress of the poets." Romance! What laughing, dainty lips must once have touched the bit of glass I held in my hand!

A shrill cry rang through my day-dream "Belle bestie, belle!"

It came from an old, weather-beaten man, a crab-seller whom I occasionally saw in the atelier of a French painter—a droll figure in the midst of gleaming Salambôs and fair Leda.

He came clattering over the broken way, "to shorten my way," he said; and "altro, Signor," he added, "if you have come here to paint, you have not chosen a very safe place." "Safe! and why not?" "Indeed you must hasten away before twilight. This is the Casa del Diavolo!" "O ho, and pray what does that signify?" The old man shook his head and murmured, "The trap-door is buried beneath the ruins since 1568, and yet they say the page still wanders about as before." "Trap-door Page à la bonne heure! What a treasure-trove! "Stay and tell me the story," I called out to him as, making the sign of the cross, he hurried away, but evidently his fear of ghosts was greater than the prospect of a *pour-boire*, for, deaf to my call, he slipped through a hole in the wall and, a moment later, I heard again the shrill cry of "Belle bestie, belle!" outside in the lane.

And I was left lamenting, like Jeremiah amid the ruins of Jerusalem.

But even in the very act of recalling the old crab-seller, the whole story sprang, ready-armed, from my head Thanks, half to the inspiring perfume of the yellow jasmine, half to my "pass," by whose aid I at once stepped over the border into that enchanted land where the brave men and fair women of by-gone days walked clad in the beautiful Carpaccio and Ticipolo garb.

Lo! once upon a time!

No, gentle reader, I will not buy my fame in this trite manner.

Ghost and love stories do not fall from the bushes like a shower of golden-rod, lilac or jasmine Rather let me confess that, many years ago, when Florence was the capital of Italy, an old Venetian poet, Dall Ongaro, told the story of a noble lady and a page who lived in the city of Lagunes and without doubt the crab-seller would have told the same legend. At all events permit me now to tell you mine, or rather, Dall Ongaro's "miniature romance." There was once—a more original beginning were not in keeping with the tale—a Duke of Soëlla, Senor de Attamonte, who, towards the end of the sixteenth century, lived in Venice, where he became the so-called right-hand of ten Spanish ambassadors. This Duke was young, luxurious, and more devoted to the easy customs of the Venetians than to those of the bigoted and etiquette-loving Spaniards. The golden-haired sirens of Venice enthralled him more irresistibly than his own gentle and amiable wife, a languid Andalusian beauty, with magnificent dark hair and eyes, and so it came that he left her often alone—far too often. But she made no complaint—at least not aloud—only sometimes they heard her sigh for the moonlight nights of Granada, its orange-groves and pomegranite blossoms; but no one understood or pitied her longing.

Among the numerous retinue of Soëlla the page was a conspicuous figure in his white satin doublet—a model page, who could not follow his mistress to mass without falling in love with her! This was almost *de rigueur* in those days—was at all events the privilege, even the duty, of every page, to consecrate himself, heart and soul, to the service of his mistress. On one side sighs, attendance with the holy water, serenades on the mandolin; on the other, an indulgent smile! This calm devotion lasts for a little while. The Italians call this period "il grado latente,"—that is, secrecy, no declaration, yet not altogether irresponsible. The well-known story of Mazeppa—although later than that of our novelette—has sufficiently shown that even a page's passion may become a serious one. Goethe's "Franz," "Beaumarchais," "Cherubim," are not all pure fiction.

The poor, neglected Duchess was left, as we have said, too much alone, while she fed her imagination on the glowing tales of the Alhambra, and was never weary of reading of the lovely Linderaya and Gazul, the handsome Abencera, and by and bye this fair, attractive boy—her page—

seemed to merge into this shadowy existence—a being all light, the embodiment of spring, of happiness itself!

But where should an indolent child of fortune have learnt the meaning of such words as duty and self-sacrifice? Everywhere he heard men make sport of the ideal and a jest of all high and noble things. So the flower of an innocent love faded in his heart, and he made a bold wager. Henceforth no more languishing glances. His gaze had something of menace in it as it rested upon his mistress; not unlike the covetous look of a robber when he sees a costly pearl, which, embedded in gold and velvet, lies in some sacred place beyond his reach.

In the autumn the Duke made a journey to Rome, and the page was obliged to follow. How was it possible to refuse obedience?

More lonely than ever, the Duchess remained behind in her dreary, deserted palace.

One night the mighty spirit of the ocean swept through the lagoons; a terrific storm burst over Venice; it seemed as if all the elements were in rebellion; below the Leviathan roared; above the thunder rolled; "Help us, Saint Mark!"

Before the fast-expiring embers in a great fireplace—supported by centaurs in alabaster—the Duchess reclined, wrapt in a long robe of white Levantine silk. Her women had long since withdrawn, to sleep away the stormy night. Why did she alone wake? An unusual emotion, which she sought in vain to dispel, banished all sleep. She reflected on the emptiness of her life. No sweet child was there for her to watch its slumbers. Monotonous, joyless, had been her youth. Comfortless was the place about her, where the passionless marble statues looked down upon her with cold, white looks, and she longed for the fulfilment of some of her youthful dreams—for some change, something of life, no matter what, so it be not emptiness.

Hark! Did not someone knock at the heavy iron portal of the palace?

No; it was but the storm.

The Duchess let the beads of her rosary slip through her slender, feverish fingers. Ah, me! The string broke and the small oriental pearls rolled over the carpet. Mencia de Soëlla watched them go, indifferently, while her eyes sought a wreath of faded autumn flowers which Lionello, the page, had given her at parting, and half unconsciously she pressed it to her lips until the frail, fragrant leaves floated down to join the pearls. "Do I love him?" murmured Mencia, sighing and yet half-happy. "From my soul," was the answer her fluttering heart gave.

Lightning! The lashing of the waves! Thunder! The moaning of the wind! And yet above the storm was heard a knocking at the portal.

Impatiently the sleepy porter rubbed his eyes and peeped through the grating to see a monk standing outside, his mantle and hood drenched with rain. "I come from the patriarch," he said, "with a blessed weather-cross for the Duchess de Soëlla." The porter opened the great iron door, and in the act his lantern went out. "Here, take my hand, padre, come through this corridor. There, dry your cossack by this fire, and in the meantime I will fetch a jug of warm wine." Full of the pious intention of enjoying a merry hour with the monk on his return, the porter disappeared. But what was his amaze when he came back to find the room empty, and no sign of his late visitor, but a long brown mantle on the floor. "Oh, the devil has carried him off up the chimney," and the ducal servitor, making hastily the sign of the cross, bore away the jug and its contents to make merry on his own account, and restore his shaken nerves. Above in the dim salon—without a sound to tell of his approach—the page stood before the Duchess. For a moment she thought it must be a vision that she herself had conjured up from the land of dreams; the next his feverish kisses rained on hand and arm, and with a cry of alarm she sprang to her feet. For the first time she noticed the disturbed, the changed appearance of the boy, and with a woman's unerring instinct she now knew why Lionello had returned. Not as an obedient servant, not as her devoted follower, had he come, at peril of his life, in the night and the storm. With flashing eyes he stood before her as though he had now to command, and she to obey.

Never before had the Duchess found herself in such a position; but she was Spanish enough to be equal to the occasion, and with desperate energy she repulsed the mad boy. She spoke firmly, persuasively, indignantly, recalling him, with every effort, to a sense of his duty—words which, had his guardian angel not forsaken him, had surely awakened every noble feeling. Her insulted pride, her gentleness and goodness, were all alike powerless to shake Lionello's diabolical design, and the boy's evil spirit, borrowing naught from his good angel but his golden locks, felt a wild joy that now at last his proud, high-spirited mistress was at his mercy.

Bathed in tears—tears for the lost illusion, for the fall of her favourite—she threw herself before her *prie-dieu*, but Lionello dragged her with iron hand from her knees, through the door, down the marble stairway, into a cell-like room lit only by the sudden glare of the lightning outside. "You are in my power, remember!" he hissed in her ear. At the same moment he pointed to a trap-door in the floor, which he threw open.

Mencia knew that beneath this Oubliette flowed the fathomless Adriatic.

"And now choose," commanded her relentless lover; "choose, amor o muerte!"

The Duchess stepped to the edge of the trap-door, commended her soul to Heaven, and faintly murmured, "muerto" (death).

"Bene," came his answer, like a long-drawn sigh. Crossing her arms over her bosom, the flashes of lightning playing over her queen-like figure, she waited, expectant that he would push his victim into the flood; but all she felt was a kiss upon her forehead—passionate, clinging, tender as a farewell, and Lionello had vanished.

The heavy trap-door had closed over the young life! Unheard rang Mencia's heartrending cry through the sleeping palace, for the storm was at its height. "What a terrible sight for the Soëlla," whispered the Venetians to each other the following day. "Beelzebub appeared in the absence of the Duke and carried away a monk; the Duchess woke with a snow-white wreath in her hair; her husband lost his favourite page in a most mysterious and inexplicable manner, during the journey to Rome."

The beautiful, magnificent palace became an object of superstitious awe to the good people of Venice, the Duke and Duchess abandoned it, and from henceforth it was called the Casa del Diavolo. In Valladolid there is a portrait of the Duchess de Soëlla, the Senora de Attamonte, painted by Don Alonzo de Castro. This artist had never before painted the portrait of a woman, but his admiration for Mencia was so great that he overcame his prejudice, and begged for a sitting. She is painted in violet velvet, and amid the masses of raven hair falling in heavy waves over the left shoulder there is a single grey lock, and in the eyes a melancholy, far-away look that tells a tale of endless regret for the lost love.

REN.

MUSIC.

An interesting event took place on the 11th, 12th and 13th of December, namely the opening of the new Gewandhaus at Leipzig. The programme comprized Beethoven's overture, "The Consecration of the House," Mendelssohn's "When Israel out of Egypt came," Handel's "Messiah," Rubenstein's "Tower of Babel," and works by other great composers. No building in the world is connected with so many interesting musical events as the old Gewandhaus. The concerts given there date from the time when J. S. Bach was cantor at the *Thomas-schule*, the first being given in a private house, with an orchestra of sixteen performers. After being interrupted by the Seven Years' War, they recommenced in 1763, with an orchestra of thirty players. In 1778 they were again discontinued for three years, after which they were resumed and given for the first time in the Gewandhaus, which had been the ancient armory of the city of Leipzig, and to which a concert hall had recently been added. The first concert in the new hall took place 29th September, 1781, and they have been continued regularly ever since. In this not very convenient hall the finest works have been performed by the greatest musicians, and the list of conductors who have successively wielded the *baton* comprises some of the most prominent names in musical history. Many bright recollections of Mendelssohn's life cluster round this old building, and many are the references to it in his letters. At Leipzig he greeted all the great performers with cordiality, among them two great English musicians, Sterndale Bennett, who performed his own concerto in C minor at the Gewandhaus, and Clara Novello, whose singing at the same place roused a perfect *furor* among the musical Leipzigers. Liszt also, during his reign, visited the city and was by Mendelssohn reconciled to the Leipzig people, whom he had much offended by what they considered the exorbitant charges at his concerts.

The concert of the Mendelssohn Choir, Montreal, which took place December 19th, attracted, as it always does, a large audience. This society has been established over fifteen years, and during that time, thanks to the constant zeal of its gifted conductor, Mr. J. Gould, has acquired the reputation of being unequalled in this country, and perhaps unsurpassed on the continent, in the perfect rendering of part songs. The only drawback to such a concert is, that a programme composed entirely of part-songs and choruses of a light texture is apt to flag in interest, and on this particular occasion the selection was hardly as happy as usual, several numbers being well-worn and the novelties for the most part not striking. The gem of the evening, both as to musical merit and perfection of performance, was the part-song by Rheinberger, which the audience with strange apathy allowed to pass with fewer signs of approval than a comic part-song, and the adaptation of Mendelssohn's "Duetto," better known as one of the "Lieder ohne Worte." We think it was a pity to have included this in the programme, such arrangements being always to be deprecated and particularly so in this case. The piece is a representation of a Tenor and Soprano Duetto, and, if words be added at all, love words would be most naturally suggested by the music. A very jerky effect is produced towards the close, where the voices drop from a *sporzando* upper note, and the delivery of *staccato* chords once to a running accompaniment, and once at the close, causes a sense of frivolity equally at variance with the words sung and with the original music. Mr. Canture has produced good original compositions any of which would have been more welcome to the musicians in the audience than this contorted version of Mendelssohn's beautiful piece. Mrs. Humphrey-Allen gave great pleasure, as she always does, by the delightful rendering of the numbers allotted to her, whilst Mr. Wulf Fries, if age is showing its effects in a somewhat impaired tone, nevertheless played with all his old fire and vigour, both in his solos and in the duet with Miss Wonham, whose playing is of a very high order, and quite beyond what is usually heard from amateur performers.

The Hamilton Philharmonic Society's performance of "Naaman" on Thursday last was most satisfactory, and showed much intelligence and careful drilling on the part of the members. Mr. Torrington conducted in his usual able manner. An impression was prevalent that the Ambitious City ought, however, to be able to produce a stronger chorus. The principals were: Mrs. Frank Mackelcan, Mrs. McCulloch, and Mrs. Hamilton—all of Hamilton; Mr. B. Wild, also of that city; Mr. W. Mockridge, the Chicago tenor, and Mr. Stoddard, of New York.—E.

BOOK NOTICES.

THE CROKER PAPERS. The Correspondence and Diaries of the late Right Honourable John Wilson Croker, LL.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Admiralty from 1809 to 1830. Edited by Lewis J. Jennings. In two volumes. With Portrait. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs.

Seldom has the literary world been treated to such a succession of "spicy" books as during this season. The experiences, public and private, social and political, of Lords Lytton and Malmesbury, Thomas Carlyle, and "A Man of the World" have followed so close the one upon the heels of the other as to scarcely give time for excitement to subside; and now we are offered a heterogeneous mass of notes made by a *Quarterly Reviewer* upon contemporary men and events covering the first half of the present century. Mr. Croker was the intimate associate of the foremost literary and political men of that period, and in his diary made memoranda of such events as came under his own observation—memoranda which is of the greatest value in forming an estimate of the personal characters of Wellington, Canning, Lyndhurst, Peel, Lord Ashburton, Lord Aberdeen, Sir James Graham, Guizot, Metternich, Sir Walter Scott, Isaac D'Israeli, Lockhart, and others. Moreover, the curtain is removed from the motives which impelled some of these in important junctures, and we are enabled to place a proper value upon their actions. A large amount of original and amusing anecdotes tends to further enliven a book already of absorbing interest, and renders it exceedingly attractive, not only to the literary or political student, but to the general reader.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. New York: Macmillan and Company Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchinson.

THE arrival of this handsome volume has, by a series of untoward incidents, been delayed out of all reason. It ought to have been included amongst the list of attractive books recommended for holiday gifts: not that this description of it would have exhausted its claims to attention. A moment's glance at the list of contents, a cursory look at the many illustrations which adorn its pages, will reveal features which entitle the first annual volume of *The English Illustrated* to take a prominent place amongst the most charming books of the season.

ONE of the prettiest calendars of the season is Messrs. Houghton and Mifflin's "Emerson Calendar," which contains some beautiful floral work on a gold background, whilst from a mimic frame beams the genial face of the poet, smiling approval, as it were, on the "selections for every day of the year" which accompany the calendar proper.

The Toronto News Company send specimens of Messrs. Prang's Christmas and New Year's goods, including an exquisite flat card calendar in colours, and an even more artistic illuminated folding pocket calendar. Two samples of edged Christmas cards—one a winter-scene, with birds in the foreground, the other a spray of flowers—are novel in design and perfect in execution. An assortment of less costly memento cards of elaborate workmanship, in every conceivable size and style, and with suitable mottoes, is also worthy of special mention. We understand the Company are showing an immense variety of holiday goods from other houses.

THE PERIODICALS.

A SPEAKING likeness of Edward Everett Hall, preacher and litterateur, forms the frontispiece to the January *Century*, and William Sloane Kennedy has a paper on the "tall, trapper-like man, with a canny face, bearded and tanned." The illustrations accompanying Mrs. Van Benschelaers third article, "Recent Architecture in America," include some capital views of Trinity Church, Boston, St. Stephen's Lynn, Mass., Yale College Chapel, a view of Trinity Church spire, New York, and many others. Ernest Ingersoll writes on "The Making of a Museum," his paper being beautifully illustrated. One of the best and most useful contributions of the number is that entitled "Christianity and Popular Amusements," wherein Washington Gladden states his conviction that the Church is responsible for the recreation of the people, and shows what success attended an experiment for the promotion of intellectual entertainment in Cleveland. Mr. Cable defends his position on the Negro question in a readable paper, and "Recollections of Foote and the Gun-Boats" and "Operations of the Western Flotilla," copiously illustrated, follow. "Ivory Black" and "Mark Twain" have novelettes, whilst further instalments of serials appear from the hands of W. D. Howells and Grace Denio Litchfield. The "Topics," "Open Letters" and "Bric à Brac" are, as usual, full of attractive reading.

THE new volume of the *Atlantic* opens with abundant promise for the coming year. First place is given to the initial chapters of a novel by Charles Egbert Craddock, "The Prophet of the Great Smoky Mountains." Sarah Orme Jewett, Frank R. Stockton, and M. O. W. Oliphant also contribute ably to the fiction of this number. Richard Grant White discourses upon "The H Malady in England"; Oliver Wendell Holmes writes in his own happy style under the heading, "The New Portfolio." H. E. Scudder treats of "Childhood in Greek and Roman Literature"; Eleanor Putnam and Kathleen O'Meara have two thoughtful papers—the one upon "A Salem Dame-School," the other about "Madame Mohl and her Salon." Extracts from the Journal of Henry D. Thoreau and a capital Essay upon "Vedder's Drawings from Omar Khayyam's Rubaiyat," are editorial, as are also the most interesting article entitled "Culture of the month" includes "A Canadian Folk Song," by William Wilfred Campbell, "A Norwegian Legend," by S. Weir Mitchell, and "The Star in the East," by Harriet Prescott Spofford.

THE contents of *Choice Literature* for December are various and well-selected, and include papers from the pens of Professor Seeley, Edward Freeman, Professor Mitchell, Charles Mackay, Grant Allen, Arthur L. Perry and others. The "Recollections of Canning and Brougham," from *Temple Bar*, will be found of especial interest. An "extra" number of this excellent eclectic has also been published, and brings the annual volume up to one thousand pages.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN AND Co. will issue immediately a new novel by Pen Oliver, entitled "Charley Kingston's Aunt." The story, we learn, turns upon the actual experiences of a medical student.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND Co. announce that fifty thousand subscriptions have been received to the illustrated edition of Longfellow's works published by them, in the superb quartos familiar to the public.

A COMPANION volume to "Men of the Time," devoted to women of mark and comprising 400 names well known in art, literature, science, music, and the drama, has been compiled by Francis Hayes, and will shortly be published by Messrs. Chatto and Windus.

LORD TENNYSON has said so many fine things about Freedom in his time that it is much to be regretted that he cannot now leave her alone. "Of old," in the palmy days of his genius, she "sat upon the heights," but she has come down to the flats with a vengeance in the stanzas with which he introduces the December number of *Macmillan*.

To the present generation, Lord Hervey's "Memoirs of the Reign of George II." is a book almost unknown, though it is full of interest, and met with a very cordial welcome from the English public when first issued, in 1847. Messrs. Scribner and Welford now announce a new edition, in three volumes. The work is edited by John Wilson Croker, whose own Memoirs have recently been given to the public.

THE London *Telegraph*, which manufactures its own paper, has bought a large tract of railroad land in the Mojave desert in California, and will use the yucca plant, or "Spanish bayonet," instead of the customary wood-pulp as the base of the paper. The "hitherto despised yucca" will be shipped to some point on the Colorado River, where it will be ground into pulp. The pulp will be shipped to New Orleans and thence to Liverpool.

PROF. HUXLEY, who came from the Adriatic to London to be present at his daughter's wedding, has returned to Italy to cure his liver and prolong his life under a prescription of absolute idleness. Smalley says his first idea of "absolute idleness" was eight hours a day instead of sixteen—"time now to do some of the things I have had to put off." But he has found that a delusion. He will be sixty years old in May, and has no energy to spare.

THE *Manhattan* has apparently made its final appearance, in spite of a good deal of talk about its revival by Messrs. Arnold, Constable and Co. There is apparently no movement in that direction. An illustrated magazine is not the kind of enterprise which a great dry goods house would care to conduct. It is reported that Arnold, Constable and Co. have offered the magazine on the most liberal terms, but have failed to find a purchaser.

CHAMBERS'S *Journal*: At one of Sheridan's dinner parties the conversation turned upon the difficulty of satisfactorily defining "wit." Forgetting that he was expected to hear, see, but say nothing, Master Tom informed the company: "Wit is that which sparkles and cuts." "Very good, Tom," said his father. "Then, as you have sparkled you can cut!" and poor Tom had to leave his dinner unfinished.

A VERY interesting account of "Madagascar: its History and People," has just been published by Messrs. William Blackwood and Sons, of Edinburgh and London, in the shape of a substantial volume, the author being the Rev. Henry W. Little. The object of the book is to describe the habits, customs and natural features of the country, and direct public attention to a small but progressive and worthy people, who are at the present moment passing through a great national crisis.

MRS. HENRY WARD BEECHER will henceforth editorially conduct the "Home Interests" department of *The Brooklyn Magazine*. A special feature, which it is said will resemble the recent congratulatory testimonial of the *Critic* to Dr. Holmes, will constitute the leading attraction of the January number of the magazine. The publishers do not announce the name of the distinguished gentleman to be honoured; but in order that the surprise may not be discounted the publication of the January issue has been postponed until the 6th proximo.

THE three most popular New York novelists at present seem to be E. P. Roe, Dr. Hammond and Edgar Fawcett. Mr. Roe's "A Young Girl's Wooing" will pass rapidly, it is thought, through four or five editions, although there were 25,000 copies in the first edition. Dr. Hammond's "Lal" has paid the author and publishers handsomely, and his new book "Dr. Grattan," is selling fast; the first edition of "Dr. Grattan" was purchased by the dealers within an hour, and a second edition is now in preparation. Edgar Fawcett's "Rutherford," published a few months ago by Funk and Wagnalls, has sold by thousands, though it is one of his weakest novels.

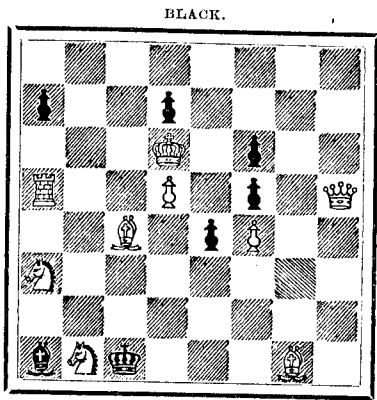
BONA-FIDE lovers of good music will be glad to hear that the enterprise of Messrs. Suckling, of Toronto, in publishing a "Canadian Copyright Edition of Standard Pianoforte Studies and Solos," has been rewarded with success, and that many of them have gone into a second edition. The get-up of these selections is far in advance of anything hitherto attempted in Canada: the paper is of the best quality, the printing is bright and clear, and the idea of giving sample bars of the newest and most popular pieces on the last page has been adopted. "En Route," by Sidney Smith, which Messrs. Suckling have favoured us with, is too well known to require comment. "Ever with Thee," from the same house, music by T. C. Jeffers, of Toronto, set to Barry Cornwall's words, is a pretty song, suitable for a tenor voice.

CHESS.

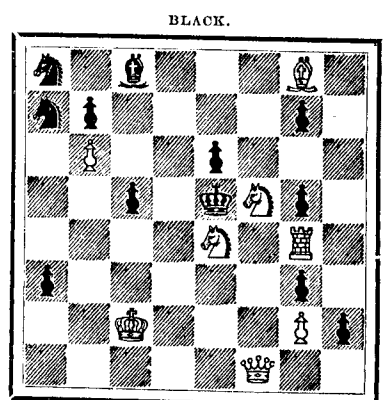
All communications intended for this department should be addressed "Chess Editor office of THE WEEK, Toronto.

PROBLEM No. 67.
Composed for the WEEK.
By Morley Punshon, Toronto Chess Club.

PROBLEM No. 68.
TOURNEY PROBLEM No. 16.
Motto:—"My Lance."



White to play and sui-mate in four moves.



White to play and mate in three moves.

TORONTO vs. QUEBEC.

BOARD "D."

The following well-contested game was played between Messrs. E. Pope and E. C. Fry, of Quebec, and Messrs. J. H. Gordon and W. Wilson, of Toronto, in the recent telegraphic match:

TORONTO.		QUEBEC.		TORONTO.		QUEBEC.	
White.		Black.		White.		Black.	
Messrs.		Messrs.		Messrs.		Messrs.	
Gordon and Wilson.		Pope and Fry.		Gordon and Wilson.		Pope and Fry.	
1. P K 4	P K B 3 (a)	47. Q Q R 3	K B 2				
2. P K B 4	P K 3	48. B Q sq	P Q R 4				
3. P Q 4	Kt K 2	49. P K Kt 3	Q R 3				
4. Kt K B 3 (b)	P Q B 3	50. B K 2	B Kt 4				
5. P Q B 4	P Q 4	51. B Q sq	P Kt 3				
6. Q B P takes P	B P takes P	52. Q Q R sq	B Q 6				
7. P K 5 (c)	P K B 4	53. B Q B 3	Kt B 3				
8. Q Kt B 3	Kt Kt 3	54. Q Q Kt 2	B Kt 4				
9. B Q 2	B K 2	55. B K B 3	P Q R 5				
10. Q Q Kt 3	Castles.	56. P takes P	B takes P				
11. Kt K 2	Kt Q B 3	57. Q R sq	P Kt 4				
12. R Q B sq	P Q R 3	58. B K 2	Q Kt 2				
13. Kt K Kt 3	K Kt R 5	59. R Q Kt 2	R Q Kt sq				
14. Kt takes Kt	B takes Kt	60. Q Q R 3	Q B 2				
15. Q Q B 3	B Q 2	61. K Kt 2	Q K 2				
16. B K 2	R Q B sq	62. Q Q R 2	Q R 2				
17. Q K 3	Q K sq	63. R Q 2	P Kt 5				
18. Castles (d)	B takes Kt	64. B Q Kt 2	B Kt 4				
19. P takes B	Q Kt 3	65. Q takes Q	Kt takes Q				
20. K B 2	P K R 3	66. B takes B	Kt takes B				
21. R K R sq	Q R 2	67. K B 2	Kt R 6				
22. R K R 4	Kt K 2	68. R Q 3	R Q R sq				
23. B Q 3	R takes R	69. R Q Kt 3	Kt B 7				
24. B takes R	P K Kt 3	70. K K 2	R Q B sq				
25. P K Kt 4	B K sq	71. K Q 2	K K 2				
26. Q K Kt 3	K R sq	72. K Q 3	K Q 2				
27. Q R 2	Kt Kt sq	73. B B sq	R B 5				
28. P K Kt 5	Q Q B 2	74. B Q 2	Kt takes P				
29. B Q 2	P K R 4	75. R takes P	R takes R				
30. R K R 3	Kt K 2	76. B takes R	Kt Q Kt 4				
31. Q K Kt sq	K Kt 2	77. B B 5	K B 3				
32. B Q Kt sq	B B 2	78. B B 2	Kt R 6				
33. P Q Kt 3	Kt B 3	79. K Q 4	K Kt 4				
34. K Kt 3	Q Kt 3	80. K B 3	Kt B 5				
35. B Q B 3	R Q B sq	81. B Kt sq	K R 5				
36. K R 2	Kt R 2	82. B B 5	K Kt 4				
37. B Q Kt 2	Q Kt 5	83. B B 2	Kt R 4				
38. Q B 2	Kt Kt 4	84. B Kt sq	Kt Kt 2				
39. P Q R 4	Kt R 2	85. K Q 3	Kt B 4 ch				
40. R Q 3	B K sq	86. K Q 4	Kt K 5				
41. Q Q 2	Q Kt 3	87. K Q 3	Kt takes P on Kt 3				
42. Q K sq?	B takes P	88. B B 2	Kt K 5				
43. Q Q sq	B Kt 4	89. B K sq	K B 4				
44. R Q 2	B Q 2	90. B Q R 5	P Q 5				
45. B B 2	Kt B 3	91. B B 7	P R 5				
46. Q Q R sq	Kt Kt 5	92. B Q 6 ch and White resign.					

NOTES.

- (a) An exceedingly slow, but not necessarily bad opening.
- (b) B Q 3 we prefer.
- (c) Weak on principle.
- (d) The remainder of the game calls for little comment. White's play exhibits an enormous amount of finesse, and Black's is characterized by an abnormal development of caution. In fact, one seems afraid, the other dares not.

NEWS ITEMS.

THE *Detroit Free Press* Christmas column contains eleven problems. Eleven valuable prizes are offered for the best solutions.

SIXTY-TWO problems have so far been entered in the *Mirror* Tourney. THE Toronto Chess Club Tourney is in full swing. Some of the new blood is exerting a powerful influence.

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WHAT IS CATARRH ?

From the Mail (Can.) Dec. 15.

Catarrh is a mucopurulent discharge caused by the presence and development of the vegetable parasite ameba in the internal lining membrane of the nose. This parasite is only developed under favourable circumstances, and these are:—Morbidity of the blood, as the blighted corpuscle of uric acid, the germ poison of syphilis, mercury, toxemia, from the retention of the effeted matter of the skin, suppressed perspiration, badly ventilated sleeping apartments, and other poisons that are germinated in the blood. These poisons keep the internal lining membrane of the nose in a constant state of irritation, ever ready for the deposit of the seeds of these germs, which spread up the nostrils and down the fauces, or back of the throat, causing ulceration of the throat; up the eustachian tubes, causing deafness; burrowing in the vocal cords, causing hoarseness; usurping the proper structure of the bronchial tubes, ending in pulmonary consumption and death.

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 mucus tissue.

Some time since a well-known physician of forty years' standing, after much experimenting, succeeded in discovering the necessary combination of ingredients which never fail in absolutely and permanently eradicating this horrible disease, whether standing for one year or forty years. Those who may be suffering from the above disease, should, without delay, communicate with the business managers,

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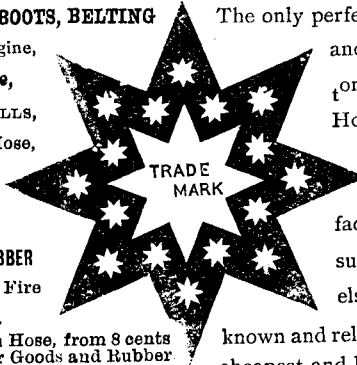
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Testimonials Selected.

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I hereby certify that I have examined samples of JOHN LABATT'S INDIA PALE ALE, submitted to me for analysis by JAMES GOOD & Co., agents for this city, and find it to be perfectly sound, containing no acetic acids, impurities or adulterations, and can strongly recommend it as perfectly pure, and a very superior malt liquor.

HENRY H. CROFT.

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Signed, JOHN BAKER EDWARDS, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and Public Analyst.

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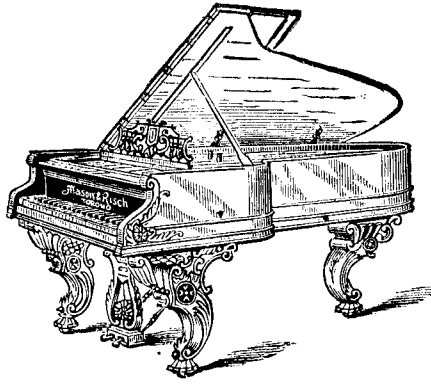
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