

THE WEEK:

A CANADIAN JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

Second Year.
Vol. II., No. 28.

Toronto, Thursday, June 11th, 1885.

\$3.00 per Annum.
Single Copies, 10 cents.

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Edited by W. PHILIP ROBINSON.

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Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage prepaid, on terms following:—One year, 12s. stg.; half-year, 6s. stg. Remittances by P. O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.
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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

BIG BEAR, who does not fight in rifle-pits, will not necessarily stake everything on a single encounter as the Half-breeds did. Under the shelter of the woods he can move stealthily from one position to another. Discontent, the harbinger of disaster, has broken out in his camp; the Forest Crees are said to be anxious to leave him and to be only waiting for the opportunity to do so. Big Bear's allies are less ferocious than his own band. Mrs. Delaney and Mrs. Gowanlock, who have been rescued alive after numerous rumours that they had been killed, if left to them would have been butchered. To the Half-breeds they owe their lives which the savages repeatedly threatened. Even among the Indians degrees of ferocity were marked. Only the Indians of the plains desired to spill the blood of the captives; the Forest Crees, milder than their brethren of the plains, appear to have behaved better. The stories told about these women being subject to indignities at the hands of their captors appear to have been entirely unfounded. In their case captivity among Indians appears to have been shorn of much of its horrors, and the Half-breeds who took them away from Big Bear must have risked something for their gallantry. The women may have been said to have been rescued twice: first by the Half-breeds, who were like themselves Big Bear's prisoners, and then by William McKay and ten of General Strange's men. Big Bear is more to be feared as a fugitive than as a warrior; if he would fight he would soon come to the end of his career; as a fugitive among woods and quagmires his power of evading the troops may prove tedious and annoying. But that he can long keep a force of some hundred men together is improbable. General Middleton's design evidently is so to dispose of his forces that in whatever direction Big Bear may go he will find himself face to face with some of the volunteers from whom he is trying to escape.

In the ever-growing burden of taxation, and notably of city taxation, expenditure on the Public Schools is an item which is perpetually increasing. It is placed out of the control of municipalities in accordance with the

usual policy of a certain class of philanthropists who think nobody so enlightened as themselves, and deem their special object too supremely important to be entrusted to the common sense of the community. The time, however, seems to have come for defining the principle on which the system of school taxation rests and for confining the extension of the tax within that limit. No one can pretend a natural right to having his children educated at the expense of his neighbours any more than to having them clothed or fed. The justification for that which, as between man and man, is not equitable, must be sought in some reason of paramount expediency affecting all members of the community alike. The reason is that it is necessary, under democratic institutions, to provide that all citizens shall receive an education sufficient to enable them to understand public questions, without which their exercise of political power would be dangerous to the State. For the sake of this indispensable object we are content to put up with anomalies which our sense of justice would otherwise condemn. But expediency and justice alike require that the purpose of the expenditure should be the measure of its amount. The plain rudiments of education are all that the State is in any way concerned or called upon to impart. It happens also, that these are all that can be thoroughly taught in an ordinary Public School. To give the pupils a smattering of subjects with imposing names which they cannot really master, is merely to inflate them with a dangerous conceit of knowledge which they do not possess. It is perfectly natural and even laudable that the schoolmaster or the educational official should desire everyone else to exalt his office, and should wish to embellish his programme with high-sounding subjects of instruction. It is for the community to take care that professional zeal shall not, in its career, entirely leave the public interest behind. The question presses the more for consideration because both from the United States and from Canada come increasing complaints of imperfect attendance, while in the United States and even in that abode of light, Massachusetts, illiteracy appears to be growing apace. State education has extinguished in the breasts of parents the sense of educational duties towards their children. If the State system now breaks down in respect to the children of that very class which it is supposed to save from illiteracy and to prevent from being socially and politically dangerous, such advocates of the Voluntary System as remain will have too much ground for triumph. The first step seems to be to get the school taxation once more fairly under the control of the community.

THE Act passed by the Manitoba Legislature to enable debtors, among whom it seems are included not a few of the legislators themselves, to defraud their creditors, is, we must own, a most untoward comment on the plea which we urged the other day for the extension of self-government in the North-West. Such self-government would make the North-West a cave of Adullam. There can surely be no doubt that this is a case for disallowance. For what purpose was the power of disallowance reserved if not for that of keeping these young legislatures, from which crudities and escapades were naturally to be apprehended, within the bounds of public morality and legislative principle? The Act of the Ontario Legislature breaking the Goodhue Will was another proof of the danger of clothing such bodies as little Provincial Legislatures with absolute sovereignty, and of the necessity of retaining such control over their proceedings as the power of disallowance affords. Unfortunately this power is not here, as it is in the United States, vested in a neutral authority. Nominally vested in the Governor-General, it is under cover of that figment really in the hands of the heads of a party, whose exercise of it cannot fail to be tainted in the eyes at all events of the opposite party by his political position. We see that in the present case the party out of power immediately takes arms against disallowance, and, with the regardlessness of all consequences to the State too characteristic of partisans, declares in favour of the absolute sovereignty of a Local Legislature which has shown itself wanting alike in wisdom and in honour. It unluckily happens that, in addition to the party taint, the present Prime Minister has displayed centralizing tendencies of a decided kind, so that disallowance in his hands becomes doubly an object of suspicion. It is

time that so glaring and serious a defect in the Constitution should be removed, and that the power of disallowance, at least for reasons which are not imperial or diplomatic but legal or connected with commercial morality, should be entrusted to an authority the sentence of which would command the respect of all parties, as do those of the Supreme Court in the United States. Some statement of the principles upon which the disallowing authority was to proceed would of course be required at the same time. Legislation involving a breach of contracts, or a confiscation of private property, except in case of State necessity and with compensation, would be prohibited as a matter of course.

If there is not honour among our reporters, the very ground on which public opinion is formed will be cut from under it. The other evening a meeting of the Liberal Temperance Union was held in St. Andrew's Hall. It was numerous and respectably attended, nor could there be any doubt as to the predominance among the audience of sentiment in favour of the cause in the interests of which it had been assembled. The *Globe* gave a report, bearing throughout marks of a petty and unmannerly spitefulness against the Temperance Union and those who spoke for it, which it might have been thought that a journal which is now so respectably conducted would hardly have condescended to admit. The report concludes with these words: "The Chairman (Mr. Cattnach) then left the chair, stating that Mr. Tait had taken up too much time, and the meeting broke up, *not however until a resolution had been carried* to the effect that the Scott Act had been adopted in nearly sixty counties, and that as it met with the approval of the people it would be unjust to amend it as proposed by the Senate, and recommending that it be adopted in the City of Toronto." It is here obliquely stated that a resolution adverse to the object of the Temperance Union was passed before the meeting broke up. But the Reporter must have known perfectly well that no such thing took place, and that the resolution in favour of the Scott Act was passed by a small number of persons of that way of thinking, who, when the Chairman of the Temperance Union had left the chair and the meeting had broken up, stayed behind and held a little meeting of their own. The artifice of the form in which the statement is couched only marks a consciousness of its character. Has enthusiasm got the better of professional as well as of ordinary morality?

This attempt to nullify the significance of a demonstration of public opinion serves only to lend emphasis to the fact that public opinion has at last begun to manifest itself with something like freedom on the subject of the Scott Act. The great political weakness and one of the greatest dangers of communities in which the will of the majority is law is the fear which everybody has of not being in the majority. Too many people bow before any prevailing gust of sentiment like reeds before the wind. They have not yet learned apparently how easy it is to manufacture sentiment by means of an active organization and an apparatus of paid lecturers, platform oratory, and campaign literature combined with social and commercial pressure such as the promoters of the Scott Act have employed. The Scott Act Party has constantly refused the one decisive test, or rather it has virtually admitted that the verdict of the one decisive test would be against it, by resisting the proposal that an absolute majority of the electors should be requisite for the adoption of the Act. In this it has been wise in its generation; for the fact is, that while it has appeared to sweep county after county by overwhelming majorities, it has not had one-third of the electors in its favour. In an aggregate of counties of which the total electorate is 398,764 the total number of votes cast for the Scott Act was only 123,588. More than two-fifths of the electors have stayed at home. Those who thus abstained from voting cannot have been in favour of the law; at all events they cannot have reached that degree of conviction which alone will justify a man in imposing a sumptuary law upon his neighbours. The probability is that a great many of them were against the Act but were intimidated morally, if not in any other way, by the overbearing violence of the movement. They were afraid of being labelled and denounced as friends of drunkenness and supporters of the Devil's cause. Every Presbyterian and Methodist minister is under pressure which it is scarcely possible for him to resist. The politicians have, of course, gone with what they have taken to be the majority, some of them, plainly enough, against their own convictions, and the political press has been compelled, to a great extent, to follow suit. While one side has been intensely aggressive on the other apathy has reigned. Resistance has been left to the Liquor Interest which was, of course, at a great moral disadvantage, though the monstrous criminality of defending your trade and your bread against those who are trying to deprive you of them is not so apparent to the ordinary mind as it is to that of the Prohibitionist, who seems to think that a brewer ought at once to see in him the chosen instru-

ment of Heaven deputed to punish brewers for their iniquities, and at once go forth meekly with his family to starve. But a blow in favour of freedom of opinion in this question seems at length to have been struck by the formation of the Liberal Temperance Union, the organizers of which are entirely independent of the liquor trade. The Union is formed on the principles which its leading members have publicly maintained from the outset, and which are those of inspection, regulation, and the substitution of lighter and more wholesome beverages for ardent spirits. It thus, while keeping terms with human nature and aiming at nothing impracticable, offers a platform on which any citizen can stand without moral misgivings or fear of being branded as a friend of drunkenness. There is a prospect at all events for those constituencies which remain uncommitted of hearing something like a free discussion of this most important issue before they bow their necks to the yoke of the Scott Act. The Hon. J. B. Finch, of Nebraska, and his friends when they, with most Christian lips, revile the President of the Temperance Union as a "blackguard" and an Annexationist, pay a tribute after their own fashion to the importance of the Association, and show themselves conscious of a turn in the tide.

The Hon. John B. Finch, of Nebraska, must be well aware that if he has been rebuked, it has not been for lecturing or speaking on Temperance in Canada. He is perfectly welcome to lecture or speak on that or any other philanthropic or general subject. He has been rebuked and is, as we believe, condemned by all right-minded people for interfering between our Government and its citizens on the question of compensation, with which, as a foreigner, he has nothing to do, and with which the commonest delicacy would teach him to refrain from meddling; and at the same time for assailing with the most venomous abuse, and holding up as fit subjects of inhuman treatment, a body of Canadian citizens who have done neither him nor his country any wrong. Canadian soil is hospitable, but respect for decency is required here.

Fears are beginning to be felt in financial circles that the continued purchase and coinage of silver by the United States Government, at the rate of two millions of dollars a month, may so reduce the stock of gold in the Treasury as to make it impossible, before the year closes, to continue to pay the interest of the public debt in gold. There are people whom no one would suspect of being needless alarmists who contend that the time has come when the Government should make an arrangement with the banks with the view of preventing so dire a calamity. The banks, whose surplus reserves are greater than ever before, could, it is alleged, without serious inconvenience afford to exchange some of their gold for silver at bullion prices; but there are others who fear that Congress will not repeal the silver coinage law under any pressure less than that which would be caused by a crisis in the Treasury Department arising from an insufficiency of gold. The Silver Ring, far from being abashed, would rejoice at the dishonour of the nation, if the inability of the Treasury to pay interest in gold should set the precedent of paying in silver coin of the value of eighty-five cents in the dollar. Any temporary arrangement between the Treasury and the banks would be useless unless Congress be prepared to suspend or repeal the silver coinage law. In purchasing silver for coinage, the United States does what no other nation does; even the nations of the Latin Union merely receive for coinage silver sent by individuals for that purpose, and they do not coin silver so brought in unlimited quantities. The enforced coinage of silver, in the United States, is producing its natural result; the cheaper coin is displacing the dearer, as it always does whenever two coins of different values come into competition. To what extent the displacement of gold has been caused by the heavy coinage of over-valued silver may be a question. Some contend that if one hundred and eighty millions of silver dollars had not been coined under the law of 1878, an equivalent amount of gold currency, less the over-valuation of silver, would now be in the country. If the produce of the silver mines had been exported to the amount of over one hundred and fifty millions of dollars, it does not follow that a precisely equal quantity of gold would have been imported or retained; the silver coinage, being artificially enforced, does not measure the extent of a public want; the cheaper coin, to the extent that it has been used, either by going directly into circulation or indirectly through the proxy of certificates, has displaced the dearer coin. The displacement of gold is greater than the sum total of the coin used as a substitute, because the silver in the unused dollars has been paid for by gold; but, whatever it may be, it is great enough to threaten to deplete the national Treasury of gold and to make it difficult or impossible for the nation to keep faith with its creditors. In the face of such a danger, it is reassuring to know that at the head of the executive is a man who will do whatever he can to bring Congress up to the line of its imperative duty. Besides there are signs

that the nation is awaking to the reality and the imminence of the danger; and if the nation once becomes thoroughly alive to the public peril, the Silver Ring and its schemes will be brushed aside like cobwebs.

A CATHOLIC clergyman has been writing to the newspapers to confute the assertion that Catholic countries are behind Protestant countries in popular education. In Ireland, he says, the statistics show that popular education is more widely diffused than in England or Scotland. Ireland, let us take the liberty of reminding him, is not entirely a Catholic country. No insignificant part of it is Protestant, nor can he touch upon the subject without raising in our minds the pregnant question, why it is that the Protestant North is prosperous and contented, while the Catholic South is so much the reverse of both. But why should he speak of Ireland alone? Why does he not venture to extend his vindication of Catholic education to Spain and Italy, which his antagonist appears to have included with Ireland in the disparaging remark? However great his attachment to Ireland, he surely would not contend that the countrymen of Cervantes or those of Galileo were inferior in natural intelligence to the Irishman. The case of Italy is particularly strong, since she has always been illuminated by the actual presence of the Papal Sun. The answer to the query is, that Catholic Ireland owes popular education to her Union with England and Scotland. Left to herself as a country, under the sway of the Catholic priesthood, she would have shared in this respect as in others the lot of all countries under the same sway, both in Europe and in America. The system of national schools was introduced by an Act of the Imperial Parliament. It was introduced in the teeth of the greatest difficulties caused by the jealousy and the opposition, open or covert, of the great body of the Catholic clergy, though a few enlightened prelates and priests, such as Bishop Moriarty, took the more liberal side. If the Union were dissolved it would be likely to go hard with the National School System in the south of Ireland. The priesthood insist on Separate Education in Canada; much more would they insist on it in a community where they would be not only strong but supreme. Nor is popular education the only thing which Ireland manifestly owes to the Union. She owes also to it free institutions and Parliamentary Government. Left to herself she would, in this respect also, have followed the political course of all the other Catholic communities, except the Catholic Cantons of Switzerland, whose freedom is the offspring partly of the mountains, partly of that connection with the Protestant Cantons which, at the time of the Sonderbund, the priests and Jesuits desperately attempted to dissolve. Not the slightest germ of free institutions had become visible in Ireland before the Anglo-Norman Conquest, nor have the Irish Catholics since shown any spontaneous tendency towards self-government. On the contrary, when the ballot has been put into their hands they have invariably made over their votes either to the priest or to the Head Centre. Head Centre Parnell is at this moment treating them like political sheep, and nominating their representatives in the ensuing Parliament without consulting, in the slightest degree, the wishes of the different constituencies. In the matter of political self-government, as in that of national education, Catholic Ireland cast adrift would infallibly retrograde and as the Protestant North would refuse to be dragged back to the Dark Ages, the repeal of the internal Union would be likely pretty speedily to follow that of the Union with Great Britain, while, even within the pale of the three Catholic Provinces, the communistic or revolutionary Fenian would soon be flying at the throat of the obscurantist priest. Far from being deprived of freedom by the Union, the Irish people probably owe to it all the freedom which they possess, as well as the excellent school system, the existence of which is rather a curious result and proof of the ruthless oppression which, as we are daily asked by Separatist writers and orators to believe, Ireland is suffering in her Union with Great Britain.

By a coalition of the Tories with the Parnellites on the question of the Spirit duty Mr. Gladstone's Government has been defeated by a majority of twelve in a full house. We are told, and can well believe, that when the result was announced, Lord Randolph Churchill and Mr. Parnell jumped upon their seats and enthusiastically waved their hats amidst the renewed cheering of their supporters. The Parnellites pointed at Mr. Gladstone and yelled, "That is the price of coercion!" "Down with Buckshot Forster!" "Remember Myles Joyce!" Comment is superfluous to anyone in whose heart there lingers a vestige of regard for patriotism, consistency, or honour. It now remains to be seen whether the British people will allow the Government to be overturned by such means. If they will, dark days are before them. Mr. Gladstone's plain course was resignation. It will now appear whether Lord Salisbury, Sir Stafford Northcote and Lord Randolph Churchill, with their Parnellite

allies, can undertake to form a Ministry and govern the country. One pleasant feature in this affair there is. Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Charles Dilke, who were courting the Irish Vote and were ready to barter for it the safety of loyal lives in Ireland and the unity of the country, must have enjoyed the Parnellite shout of triumph over their fall. Perhaps another little gratification may be in store for us if the Tories get into power, and proceed to deal after their established fashion with the Irish.

No one who looks at English politics quietly from a distance, and is not a thoroughgoing devotee of Mr. Gladstone, will deny that there may be reasons sufficient at all events in the eyes of Conservatives for opposing his Government. His Irish policy, his Egyptian policy, his extension of the Franchise to untried masses without the provision of corresponding safeguards, all are fair subjects for criticism and rational grounds for differences of opinion. But no one who is not rabid with political hatred can imagine that Mr. Gladstone is a proper object of personal contumely and outrage. His character is unblemished, his aims have always been the highest, his vast ability and marvellous accomplishments are disputed by none, he has served England for more than fifty years, his achievements in finance alone would entitle him to the highest gratitude, and if majorities have any meaning, he is the elect of the British people. Yet with personal contumely and outrage he is continually assailed, not only by the Irish members, but by men who pretend and think themselves pre-eminently entitled to the name of English gentlemen. Illustrated papers in general profess neutrality. One of them, however, has an extremely bitter article against Mr. Gladstone on the Russian Question, inspired very likely by Jewish influence, for behind almost every one of those curtains in England as well as on the Continent there is a Hebrew. But in the same columns we find a detailed description by another hand of a "painful scene" in the House of Commons, "in which Conservative gentlemen howled at the Leader of the House with that tone of intense personal hatred which may be noted in the shout of a mob on a racecourse when they discover a welsher in their midst." It is not wonderful that Mr. Gladstone should have assigned as a reason for his speedy retirement, "the blow which has been struck at the liberties and dignity of the House by the modes of proceeding which within the last few years have been introduced into its debates." There is no blackguardism like that of a gentleman when once he forgets himself, because in his case the insolence of class is combined with brutality of manner; though there are some perhaps on the Tory as well as on the Irish benches to whom this reflection need not be extended. As to the dignity of the House of Commons, it has become a legend of the past. But it does not depart alone; other attributes still more indispensable in the case of a governing assembly are rapidly following it to the grave.

To us it has always appeared that the chief danger of England, and the most serious probability of war, still lay on the side of France. It might have been expected that the German invasion would have diverted the animosity of the French people from England to Germany, and that the passion for avenging Waterloo would have been supplanted by the passion for avenging Sedan. But whether it be because the cliffs of Kent and Picardy confront each other, or because the Anglophobic tradition is immemorial and ingrained, certain it is that the new hatred has not cast out the old. "French opinion," says the *Pays*, "is unanimously in favour of Russia. With ill-restrained delight—a delight which for our part we do not endeavour to disguise—would England be seen paying at last the penalty for all her unfairness and treacheries. Whatever may have happened with other nations, the real enemy of France has always been England. Even now we should not be obtaining redress for the outrage of her agents upon our countrymen in Egypt if she were not in a more than perilous situation. She has everywhere and always acted against us in a hateful and persistent way; and every attempt has been fruitless to unite these two nations composed of mutually repulsive elements—France and England. The chivalrous loyalty of the former has always been the dupe of the unscrupulous selfishness of the latter." The chivalrous unselfishness of a nation which invaded the Roman Republic for the purpose of preventing the independence and unification of Italy, and attacked Germany with a similar object, is, no doubt, beyond question. In French history, notably during the age of Louis XIV., there has appeared no tendency to selfish aggrandizement or rapine. In this very Egyptian business the conduct of France towards her partner has been eminently chivalrous. But let that pass. Here is a pleasant piece of reading for the Jingo and Russophobicists, whose type and leader, Palmerston, drew England into an alliance with France against Russia, and who were also eager to close with the French Emperor's proposal for a joint intervention in favour of the Con-

federates, whereby they would have entailed on England the implacable and most dangerous hatred of the people of the United States. Nothing could be clearer than that the moment England appeared to be in peril the French Government, though ostensibly on the best terms with her, prepared to take advantage of her embarrassment. Surely this is another reason for thinking a little more of Dover and a little less of Herat.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BANK OF MONTREAL ON THE CURRENCY.

THE Bank of Montreal is placed in an exceptional position, both by reason of its imperial magnitude and by reason of its relations with the Government, which are beginning to resemble those of the Bank of England with the Government of Great Britain. A proposal emanating from its Manager, therefore, with regard to the legislative treatment of other banks ought to be received with great respect and at the same time with a certain amount of caution. The proposals of a premier bank, like those of an exalted personage, for the regulation of those whom Providence has placed beneath it, are a little apt to be austere; and austerity may be carried to excess. Lord Overstone, who was the Great Mogul of British finance, was certainly excessive in his austerity, and by that highly moral machine for monetary strangulation, the Bank Charter Act, which he persuaded Sir Robert Peel to adopt, he did perhaps as much mischief as any financier of his day. The President of the Bank of Montreal recommends that, with a view of securing the soundness of the currency by putting a tight curb on reckless banking, and of affording financial help to the Government at the same time, all Canadian banks shall henceforth be required to deposit Government bonds against their circulation. Here are two distinct objects; and as they have nothing whatever to do with each other we shall be extremely fortunate if the same device serves both. But with regard to the first object, the soundness of the currency, we must ask where is the necessity for the bit? Is the soundness of our currency under the present system doubtful? Are new securities urgently demanded by the public? In all the troubles and periods of crisis through which the commercial world has passed during the last twenty years, how many holders of Canadian bank-bills have lost their money? How many depositors even have ultimately suffered? Canada is not a raw Western State, nor are these the days of wild-cat banking. If there is reason to apprehend looseness of principle in any quarter at the present day, we should say it was rather on the part of the Legislatures, whose paternal interference with our commerce the Manager's proposal would tend practically to increase, than on the part of the banks. The Manitoba Exemption Law was not the work of Winnipeg bankers, nor would a congress of bankers, if it were called together, be found to swarm as a Legislature does with crazy devotees of the Rag Baby and wild-goose financiers of all kinds. There is more reason, in short, in our time and country for fearing wild-cat governments than wild-cat banks. But supposing a necessity for enhanced security to exist, still the special mode of meeting it suggested by the President of the Bank of Montreal is, we cannot help thinking, as open to question as anything that comes from so high a financial quarter can be. When a financial projector in England proposed to base a national paper currency on the Funds he met with an irreverent reception, and was made, we presume, at last to understand that the Funds, as far as the nation was concerned, were debts and not assets, and that a community could not any more than an individual merchant base its promissory notes upon its debts. What the President of the Bank of Montreal recommends in effect is that the Government shall issue through the banks a mass of promissory notes of which the basis is to be its debt. Not only so, but the Government will be bound to run into debt and to remain in debt sufficiently to provide the basis for the circulation; and if in consequence of the growing population and expanding commerce of the country an increase of the indebtedness should be required, Government will have to increase its indebtedness; otherwise monetary strangulation will ensue. Are not our neighbours in the United States at this moment confronted by a most serious dilemma arising from the reduction of their public debt and the consequent withdrawal of the national bonds on which the circulation of their banks is based? Are not American politicians hostile to the banks and enamoured of the Rag Baby looking forward to this crisis with an eagerness equal to the anxiety of the commercial men, and joyously preparing their legislative projects for shoving the queer? Not the position of the Government, financial or general, but the requirements of commerce from time to time are the proper measure for the expansion or contraction of the bank-bill circulation, as they are for the expansion or contraction of the general volume of commercial paper, such as promissory notes and bills of exchange. Nor ought commerce to be exposed, as with a currency based on Govern-

ment bonds it would, to having a shock sent through its whole system by any act of the politicians which might happen to effect the credit of the Government.

But the plan is open to a still more radical objection. It would give the Government a forced market for its bonds. In the case of the United States the measure was a forced loan in disguise, and is deprived by that fact of authority as a financial precedent. That there shall be no such thing as a forced market for any paper, whether it be that of an individual trader or a government, but that all paper alike shall depend for its currency entirely upon the credit of those by whom it is issued—that it is upon their solvency and their conduct—is a cardinal principle of commercial morality which the President of the Bank of Montreal would, we are sure, be the last man to violate. From a forced market for government bonds there is but a step to a forced circulation of government bills and an inconvertible paper currency. If political power is to be allowed the privilege of fixing its own commercial credit the privilege is likely to be freely used, as in commercial ages, which we deride as dark while we sometimes reproduce their errors in other forms, was the privilege which political power then assumed of fixing the value of its own coin. Nobody will question the President's patriotic desire to confer a benefit on the Government and the nation; but we doubt very much whether the benefit would in fact be conferred; at least whether it would extend to the nation as well as to the Government. To furnish a spendthrift youth with special facilities for floating his paper would surely not be an unquestionable kindness. Would it be an unquestionable kindness to furnish not the most economical of governments with a forced market for its bonds? If the President of the Bank of Montreal could desire some mode of making it a little less easy for the Canadian Government to run into debt and thereby compelling it to consider a little more carefully into what enterprises it plunged the country, he would, perhaps, be rendering the industrial community a greater service than he would by putting a forced value on Government bonds and thus encouraging the power which issues them to continue in its present courses.

Nothing can be sounder than the doctrine preached by Mr. Smithers to shareholders in Banks and to depositors. They must trust, as he truly says, to their own commercial judgment and caution in the selection of investments, the appointment of directors, and the choice of safe places of deposit, not to the government, which has nothing to do with their affairs, but whose intervention some of them are too ready to invoke. It is only a pity that he did not go a step further and point out, as he might have done, that the banking trade stands on the same footing as other trades, and that government has no more to do with it than it has to do with any other branch of commerce. The government must stamp the coin, to assure us that it is of the right weight and quality. There its proper functions end. But a confusion of ideas has been produced by the loose and ambiguous use of the term money, which has been transferred from coin, its proper meaning, to bank-bills circulating as money, though they are not really money but promises to pay it. Hence apparently arises the prevalent notion that the issue of bank-bills, like the issue of coin from the mint, is one of the prerogatives of government, that the profits derived from it belong of right to the nation, and that, if bankers are allowed to reap them, it must be through some sort of usurpation or connivance involving a fraud upon the community. Hence, too, the belief rooted in the minds of many politicians, especially in the United States, that to bedevil the banks is their natural right and duty—a belief which, when the Currency Question comes on at Washington, we are likely to see translated into wise and beneficent action. The issue of bank-bills is no doubt a proper subject for legislative safeguards of a special kind, as are insurance and some other branches of trade. The taker of a bank-bill in the ordinary course of commerce cannot stop to satisfy himself of the solvency of the bank, as the taker of an ordinary note or of a bill of exchange satisfies himself regarding the solvency of the drawer. Legislative safeguards then by all means let there be, either in the form of inspection or in any other form that may seem best, and let their stringency be as great as the nature of the case requires. But it is one thing to provide the legislative safeguards required by a special trade; it is another to compel the volume of bank circulation to conform itself, not to the requirements of commerce, but to so totally alien a standard as the National Debt, at the same time furnishing governments, of which frugality is not the peculiar characteristic, with a forced market for their bonds.

BUBBY stubbed his toe and came crying to his mother. "There, there, Bubby," she said, after she had ascertained that the injury was trifling: "you are too big a boy to cry over a little thing like that." "B-but what a-am I to do, mamma?" he said, sobbingly; "I ain't b-big enough to swear."

DISINTEGRATING FORCES WITHIN CONFEDERATION.

A DIM, shadowy form, on which has been conferred the high-sounding but paradoxical title of Imperial Federation, has lately been conjured up by a few enthusiastic gentlemen-wizards, who are thoroughly convinced that they have summoned to their aid a veritable Genius of the Lamp invested with marvellous powers for the amelioration of the condition of the Canadian body politic. A much greater number, however, equally intelligent, are just as firmly convinced that the apparition is merely a harmless spook impotent for good to this much-doctored Dominion.

The present moment, therefore, seems very opportune for a little introspection on the part of Canadians. Are we really marching towards Federation or Separation? To the writer it seems perfectly clear that so far from the undercurrents of public opinion and public interest tending to a more intimate union of the different Provinces of the Dominion, their course has been, is, and will be slowly but surely in the direction of disintegration.

Let us examine the situation critically. From the Atlantic to the Pacific the same forces are silently at work.

British Columbia we find more interested in the affairs of California than in those of Eastern Canada. The pulse of Vancouver vibrates with San Francisco, not with Ottawa. In the North-West Territories we find a closer relationship with Dakota and Montana than with Ontario and Quebec. Coming farther east, to Manitoba, we find Winnipeg to-day more intimately connected with Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Chicago than with Toronto and Montreal. On the Atlantic seaboard, again, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are more in accord, socially and commercially, with Maine and the North-Eastern States than with their older sisters in the Dominion.

What is the lesson taught by these facts? Is it not this? We cannot in this age of education, electricity and steam, by imaginary boundary lines and arbitrary political divisions, annihilate geographical and commercial ties. The more quickly our statesmen realize this fundamental truth the more quickly will their legislation become effective.

But all the important disintegrating causes above enumerated fade into utter insignificance when brought in contrast with the forces at work in Ontario and Quebec. Look at the relative position of the two! Ontario, rapidly advancing in wealth, population, education, and political enfranchisement, the peer of any State on the globe in intelligence and diffused prosperity. Quebec, bankrupt, uneducated, a century behind in civilization and freedom, and four centuries behind in land tenure and laws. In the secret of this astounding contrast we have the proximate cause of the future dismemberment of the Dominion. What is that secret? It is undoubtedly the Treaty of Paris. Guaranteed by that treaty the enjoyment of religious and civil privileges inimical to the progress of the Province the French of Quebec are to-day the great barrier in the way of a real living union of the British North American Colonies. They form the weak link in the chain. Just as the existence of the inhuman institution of slavery in the Southern States, an institution foreign to the principles of the remainder of the Union, formed the primal and final cause of a terrible rebellion, so will the continued existence in Quebec of political and religious institutions alien to the political and religious institutions of the rest of Canada form the most potent disintegrating element within Confederation.

Can any one reasonably hope that this condition of things will not continue? By whom will it be removed? Not by the priesthood of Quebec, secure in the enjoyment of many exceptional privileges. Not by the feudal landowners of that Fourteenth Century France. Certainly not by the French Canadians themselves, servilely registering at the polls the decrees of their Jesuit masters. Will the other Provinces try to force the necessary changes? Then do they incur a mightier resistance and an immense responsibility. France would stand ready at a moment's notice to enforce the provisions of the Treaty of Paris, and support her children in America in their endeavour to maintain the French language, French traditions, French laws, and French sentiment in Quebec.

For these reasons it seems evident that so far from the time being ripe for the various members of the British Empire being more closely knit together, the time is not far distant when the further continuance of Confederation on its present lines will be, so far as Ontario is concerned, an impossibility.

If Confederation is to continue, if the various nationalities and creeds north of the United States boundary are to remain under one Government, it can only be by the relinquishment of those special and peculiar privileges possessed by the French Canadians and the placing of the Province of Quebec on an equal footing, socially, politically, religiously, and educationally, with the rest of Canada.

CARLOS.

ON THE SCARCITY OF GOOD SINGERS.

THAT at the present day there exists a scarcity of good singers utterly disproportionate to the number of voices which are to be found is, I think, a self-evident proposition an explanation of which may be interesting. It would be untrue to say that at the present day there are no great singers. Vocal phenomena have always existed, but there is no reasonable proportion between the number of naturally good voices and those capable of using them. The possession of a beautiful voice by no means pre-supposes on the part of its owner skill to display it. A Stradivarius or Guarnerius violin which, in the hands of a Paganini, Wieniawski or Sarasate might bewitch and hold captive the world, becomes mute and voiceless in the hands of one lacking the requisite skill to use it.

The first reason why the number of good singers is not more plentiful is the too often carelessness (or worse) of many *soi-disant* vocal professors. The human voice is the most susceptible to injury of all instruments, and the most difficult to cultivate. The singer has to combine in himself both instrument and performer, and as the loss would be irreparable should his organ sustain serious injury, it is imperative that both its culture and care should be most carefully considered. The first thing necessary to the successful training of the voice is that its proper character shall be understood. Voices differ as much in character and *timbre* as faces, and the master should, whilst developing a voice to its fullest capacity, endeavour to preserve its particular individuality as well. The number of registers and the methods of production being more complex in the female voice than in that of the male, it is doubly imperative that female students should thoroughly understand this, as their voices will never otherwise be properly "placed." No greater or more injurious mistake can be made than to suppose it is the compass of a voice which determines its character and should regulate its cultivation. A baritone may occasionally possess higher notes than some tenors; but to treat and train his voice as a tenor would only result in failure, since he would be practising too much on the upper notes of the *voce mista*, the very part in his particular case which would require the most careful treatment in order to fit it for future exertions. The number of voices which are constantly spoiled through their true character being misunderstood is very great. Whilst on this point it may be wise to say how very injudicious it is for an amateur to select vocal music simply because it is within the compass of his or her voice. This is only one thing to be considered. As every quality of voice has a distinct character and beauty of its own, a good composer first of all considers the *tessitura* of the organ he is writing for in order to produce his effects. An *aria di bravura* written very effectively for a light soprano may sound quite the reverse when transposed and sung by a mezzo-soprano or contralto.

Over-training is another and frequent explanation of a ruined voice, especially in the cases of young persons intended for an artistic career. Over-training is due, in nine cases out of ten, to unskilful teaching. No two voices are exactly alike any more than any two blades of grass, and one secret of the success of a good teacher is that, whilst his fundamental principles remain the same he varies his details according to the exigencies of the case. There are some voices, principally the graver kind of men's, from which by a certain course of treatment all roughness and coarseness of tone can be eliminated, and the voice rendered velvety and flexible. But to adopt the same method to one possessing a light and delicate tenor or soprano would be to completely extinguish it. A strong and robust hungry man would be materially benefited by a good dinner; but to administer the same quantity and quality of food to an invalid approaching convalescence might be to destroy all hopes of recovery. A few appropriate exercises practised in a particular manner, with a teacher whose trained ear warns him of the time when fatigue of the vocal cords commences, may so strengthen and develop the voice as to render it capable of bearing the fatigue of heavier work.

Another cause why good singers are not more plentiful is that whilst any one wishing to acquire any degree of perfection on the piano, violin, or any orchestral instrument, will devote several hours daily to the practice of technical exercises and studies in order to acquire a perfect *mécanique*, yet the average vocal student is often impatient if, at the end of a few months' exercises, he is not allowed to commence the study of some scena or aria, which might be very suitable for a finished vocalist, but totally unfitted for a beginner. Too much time can scarcely be devoted to properly "placing" or "fixing" the voice and acquiring the proper method of breathing, so as to have perfect control and management of the breath, before proceeding to the study of agility. The "placing" of a voice may indeed be said the making of the instrument; "*l'agilità*," the art of playing upon it. A story is told of the once celebrated singer Caffarelli: Caffarelli,

who possessed a remarkable and beautiful voice, was a pupil of the famous singing-master Porpora. All the exercises the pupil had given to him were written by his master on one sheet of music paper. These were diligently practised and transposed by the pupil into all keys, throughout the range of his voice. His master also taught him the secret of true respiration, and eventually when his voice was properly placed added exercises for flexibility, still on the same sheet of paper. At the end of the fifth year he gave his pupil instructions in phrasing, pronunciation, etc. Six years being now completed, and Caffarelli becoming impatient, he asked his master when he would have some different exercises. "No more are required," replied Porpora, "go my son, you are the greatest singer in the world." This eventually Caffarelli did become, and made enough money by the exercise of his art to purchase the Dukedom of San Donato.

Another cause of decadence in the art of singing is what is technically known as the *spostamento della voce*, or displacement of voice, caused by singing music unfitted for its peculiar character. At the present day a great evil has arisen in singers not adhering to parts well defined by composers as within their range and character. It is quite common even in the largest lyric theatres to hear a tenor, for instance, sing one night the principal tenor rôle in "Roberto" or "Les Huguenots" and on another occasion in "Il Barbière." A *tenore di forza* (*tenore robusto*) is required for the first two, whilst in order to properly execute the delicate roudades, scales and divisions of the latter, a *tenore di grazia* (*tenore leggiere*) is needed.

The so-called music of the future is another source of harm to professional vocalists. No other composer has done so much to spoil the voices of his singers as Wagner. Disregarding, as he often does, the tessitura of the voice, accompanying his singers at times with the full force of huge orchestras, and in many ways exacting the utmost limit from his performers, the representations of his works are so wearing to singers as to demand lungs and throat of steel. Many beautiful voices again are spoiled by the present mania for forcing high notes. The medium of the voice is the most proper to cultivate, as it is with this part of the voice the artist will have to execute most music, and on the proper cultivation of which depends its preservation in after years. The great English tenor, Mr. Sims Reeves, is a striking example of this. The public of the present day is greatly to blame in this mania for high notes. I have known a tenor sing villainously all through the opera of "Guillaume Tell" until he reached the famous "*Suivez moi*" in the finale to the fourth act. Here, being enabled to launch and hold the *ut de poitrine* (chest C), all his former faults were instantly forgiven, and he was received with acclamation.

The cases in which nature has not bestowed a voice which would be the better for proper cultivation are much rarer than people imagine. Possible Patis or Nillsons may not abound, but considering the amount of pleasure to be given and derived, by even a simple ballad correctly and tastefully rendered, it seems a pity the art of singing is not more generally cultivated. To such as take up this beautiful art I would advise courage and perseverance, bid them remember there is no royal road to acquiring this any more than there is to any other art, but assuring them that the pleasure to be derived is so great as to amply repay all time and labour bestowed on its acquirement.

W. ELLIOTT HASLAM, R. A. M., Lon., Eng.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

PARIS, May 23rd.

THE French Foreign Office is now occupied classifying the manuscript writings of Mirabeau, including some recent purchases. The manuscripts treat on a great variety of subjects, from political economy to the military strength of the European powers. It is well known that they formed the favourite reading of Gambetta. The preservation of the manuscripts is perfect; the paper is yellow, but not pricked or torn. They are important, not only as historical documents, but as photographing the line of studies and thought of the great orator of the French Revolution. The penmanship of Mirabeau is very original; the letters are as straight as a ram-rod, and close-set, the words running into each other as if vigorously dashed off by a single stroke of the pen. There are no flourishes, no loops. The space between the lines is very narrow, and each page is divided into two columns, one for the text, and the other for marginal notes. The corrections and notes are as numerous as George Canning's. On many of the pages, small slips of paper, with new notes, are attached, and at foot, pages have been added on like an oriental scroll. All figures are written on a different coloured paper. The manuscript on the "Prussian Monarchy," published in 1788, was the longest work Mirabeau composed. He also jotted down some curious notes, such as "a woman and a fool are two objects most difficult to define: one is less embarrassed about what they think than of what they do not think."

M. BARINE forgets that the crowd does not wish its legends to be touched. We do not willingly wish to be deprived of our martyrs. It is

unkind to expose that we have been weeping over a chimera. Taine's masterpiece on English Literature is his chapter on Swift, where he describes him, from his entry in life—an awkward and bizarre scholar, laughed at by his professors, and his subsequent career devoured by griefs and pains. Twenty years of insult without vengeance, and of humiliations without end; hopes nourished, only to be crushed; magnificent dreams, suddenly to be destroyed; the habit to suffer and to hate, and the necessity to conceal both; the consciousness of superiority wounded, and next, the isolation of his genius and of his pride. M. Barine gives us a Swift, not less grand by talent certainly, but less sad and less unfortunate.

Much has been written on Swift and yet the public is not fatigued. Passion and pride devoured Swift, and finally consumed him; he had an immense desire for place, power, and honours; he had an insatiable want to disturb and dominate women. Ridicule was one of the chief causes which led to his ruin—as in his obstinacy to become a bishop; in his simplicity to accept as serious the adulation of the parties he reciprocally served; in his mania for gallantry, which involved him in intrigues without dignity; and in his rage—when caught in his own nets. He was insolent and impetuous, with a manner bitter and rude; he had a pride that was superhuman, and a disposition rigid and easily cruel. Delightful, when he wished to please; pitiless towards whoever even involuntarily wounded him; patient and ferocious in his vengeance, waiting twenty years to punish an offence; and steadfast in his friendships—till it was his interest to be otherwise; a redoubtable enemy; a good hater; the inspirer of two immortal loves, but which he used only to subject to suffering. Swift had not that sympathy in his character which alone vivifies and fructifies human intercourse. His irony had no concealed tenderness for the society which he chastised. When he protected writers, it was because he loved letters, and that the role of Meccenas flattered his vanity.

Swift lost the battle of life from those pernicious influences and sufferings which pull down the human soul. But let those among us who are good only because they are happy judge him less Spartanly. Thackeray would not shake hands with that "immense genius." It would be more human, more just, to do so, but to avoid encountering its possessor.

THE French are adopting the German plan of issuing to the army a handy-book series of tactics, so that he who runs can read. Respecting infantry in by-gone and present times, a curious legend is explained away. At Fontenoy, it has been claimed as chivalrous on the part of the French to address the well-known summation to the English: "Gentlemen, we will never fire the first—fire yourselves." This was only a reply to a British officer who demanded: "Gentlemen of the French guards, fire." The colloquy was, in itself, part of the reigning tactics, that of drawing an adversary's fire, the first being estimated precipitate and so inefficacious. Marshal Saxe held as a sacred axiom that the troops which opened fire were doomed to inevitable defeat. In the campaign of 1870-71 the Germans adopted, for attack as well as defence, the dispersion order that is, forming the infantry into large and thick lines of tirailleurs, then to cross in running the dangerous distance, to seek shelter as near as possible to the enemy, and from such position keep up a concentrated and well-directed fire.

THE death of M. Toussenel, the naturalist, affords the occasion to bring out a new edition of his works which are very interesting and original. He observes of the otter, that if it be taken from the mother's breast, treated kindly and caressed like a pup, it will in the course of three months become as affectionate as a spaniel, will follow you, will moan at your absence and express joy at your return; accustom it to meat and it will never require fish; train it to catch fish and it will do so as dexterously as the king of Poland's pet, only reward it after each take with a slice of mutton. Pigs when they root up a truffle are recompensed by a knock on the snout and a potato. The Chinese fish, not only with cormorants, but otters. Otters, when born, generally in spring and five at a birth, take instantly to the water like young ducks. Toussenel suggests that they be trained to fish as in China, where a good otter fetches 1,000 fr. In the Pyrenees bears are specially trained to dance.

NOVELS that may be safely read as interesting, agreeable, dramatic and pathetic: "La Grande Marnière," by Georges Ohnet; "Jours d'Amour," by A. Courmes; "Marielle Thibaut," by A. Chabot; "Le Chateau de Trélor," by A. Rocoffort, and "Le Sang Bleu," by H. Malot. ZERO.

MATTHEW ARNOLD AS A MASTER OF STYLE.

IT is perhaps well to point out briefly the influences of thought and character which have largely contributed to the formation of Mr. Arnold's style. He himself acknowledges his obligations to Homer and Shakespeare. Of the former none may speak but him who can enter into the spirit and beauty of Greek poetry, except to say that Matthew Arnold is the son of Dr. Arnold, of Rugby. Of the latter it may be said that Mr. Arnold has approached perhaps nearer than any other living writer to the quiet dignity and unruffled calm of the great master, and that he has succeeded still better in imitating his simple plainness and directness of thought and expression. But a greater influence than either of these is to be found in Mr. Arnold's study of Biblical literature. This influence manifests itself not only in the numerous uses he makes of the Bible in his writings; it is seen in the homeliness, if we may use the word, and purity of his diction (though this may also be attributed to Shakespeare); in the similarity of expression occurring again and again; but, above all, in the very spirit of the thought which he has so aptly caught from the ancient writers. Examples may be found in all his works on culture and especially in one of his later essays, "Isaiah of Jerusalem."

But apart from the merely literary influence of the Bible, Mr. Arnold is pre-eminently a religious spirit. In "Literature and Dogma," perhaps his best work, he is constantly pointing out the necessity for searching out the inward man, for continual communion with "the power not ourselves which makes for righteousness." No one can read the book without feeling strongly that the writer is appealing to his own experience; it is impossible for anyone not possessed of a spiritual nature to write with such a sense of earnestness and with such power of conviction. This spirituality of thought makes itself felt on every page, and controls and regulates every sentence. The diction is the natural outcome and expression of the thought. Thus we see how great an influence Biblical literature and the spirit of the Bible itself has had upon Mr. Arnold's style.—*Prize Essay, Toronto University, by J. O. Miller.*

HERE AND THERE.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH writes to the *Globe* correcting the statement of Mr. Tait, the Prohibitionist orator, who spoke of Mr. Smith as "a man who goes to the United States as a hired lecturer, and takes advantage of the endowment of American Colleges." Mr. Smith says he has never received a cent for lecturing in the United States, or taken any advantage whatever of any American College. He adds that he did not complain of Americans for lecturing here, but for interfering with our legislative questions.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH has also contradicted the statement of the Hon. J. B. Finch, of Nebraska, the Scott Act orator, that he is known in the United States as a fearless advocate of Annexation. He says that he has never referred to the subject in any speech or lecture in the United States. The statement was made by Mr. Finch with the obvious purpose of tainting Mr. Goldwin Smith's character in the country as an opponent of the Scott Act. Mr. Finch gave a specimen of American and Prohibition manners by calling Mr. Goldwin Smith a "blackguard."

A WALKERTON correspondent disputes THE WEEK's assertion that the liquor-sellers have obeyed the laws passed from time to time for the regulation of their traffic. He then proceeds: "I like THE WEEK; we Canadians need just such a journal as it professes to be. I am no Scott Act fanatic. I would like to see the Liberal Temperance movement succeed were I sure that wine and beer could be sold without opening a door for the selling of whiskey. It is just the law-breaking tendencies of the average hotel-keeper that scores of us fear. Hotel-keepers here are told by their own friends that they have brought the Scott Act on themselves, and very few of them deny it. They have sold liquor on Saturday nights and on Sunday. They have sold to minors and confirmed drunkards after due notice, too." Our correspondent must observe, however, that his facts all tell against him; for if it be true that hotel-keepers break the present law, which is not over-stringent, how much more difficult would it be to enforce a sumptuary measure like the Scott Act. Would it not be better to enforce the regulations now in existence for the good conduct of the liquor business, and to make it a public offence to demand liquors out of hours? If the man who solicited a hotel-keeper to break the law were subject to the same penalties, there would not be so much illegal drinking.

FOR the better understanding of the following cutting from a London paper it may be well to explain that, in addition to the "May Meetings" of many religious bodies, several teetotal conferences were held in the Metropolis during the "Merrie Month":—"During May the restaurateurs of the Strand have money's worth out of the water companies. The lunchers and diners consume it by the gallon. I lunched in the same room with a temperance party this week, and two things astonished me—the amount of unfiltered water they have trained their systems to stand, and the amount of pastry they have trained their digestions to do battle with. At the table next to me four total abstainers, having consumed a whole salmon and two cucumbers, a loin of pork and a soup-tureen of apple sauce, and four ducklings with sage and onions, commenced on the pastry. Between them they finished twelve open jam tarts, eight raspberry puffs, four cream cakes, and then they had an apricot jam omelette and strawberry water ices. A quarter of an hour afterwards I met the same party coming out of a sweetstuff shop armed with huge blocks of almond hard-bake, which they bit at and crunched merrily as they entered the hall for an afternoon lecture on Temperance."

OH, Party! what fantastic pranks dost thou play with Political Man! In the reverse just sustained by the Gladstone ministry in England we see an alliance of the defenders of "our ancient Constitution" with a band of rebels whose avowed object is the disruption of the Empire! Not, let it be observed, in defence of a vital point of principle have the Tories and Parnellites fallen into each others' arms, for the vote on the Budget will practically have no effect on the present Parliament—nor, indeed, will it avoid a strong Reform majority being returned to the next. But merely for the sake of securing a party-victory (*sic!*) the respectable Conservatives have allowed themselves to be dragged into a contemptible dodge by their unruly tail, whilst the Parnellites take a savage delight in uniting themselves with anybody or everybody who is "agin the Government."

CANADIANS must not be misled by the garbled cable reports of the English Government's defeat or by the disingenuous comment of Tory

writers. Not Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy, but his determination to maintain law and order in Ireland, was the matter actually voted upon, and to defeat which the unholy alliance of the Tory and Parnellites was formed.

MR. WALTER H. SMITH, of Montreal, astronomer and President of the Astro-Meteorological Association, has issued a tornado and storm warning for the last eight or ten days of June. On the 24th and 26th days of the month named Mercury and Venus are respectively at their perihelion points, and past records, Mr. Smith says, show that some of the worst tornadoes, cyclones and storms have occurred in summer seasons, even when only one of the planets has been nearest the sun, notably August 3, 1882, with Mercury at perihelion; July 21, 1883, when Mercury was again at perihelion; August 22, 1883, Venus at perihelion; and July 7, 1884, with Mercury at perihelion. A glance over the files of Canadian and American newspapers of any of the above dates will satisfy anyone of these coincident occurrences. The following is Mr. Smith's forecast of probable weather for the last eight or ten days of June, 1885: "Oppressive heat, high winds, thunder-showers, and unsettled weather in Canada and the north-eastern United States; tornadoes probable in tornado sections, notably the western and south-western States, near the Mississippi Valley—followed by a reactionary, cool to very cool, period of high barometric pressure, with local frosts in northern and middle sections, June ending cool. Tornadoes occur most frequently between the hours of two and six in the afternoon." Daring as the above prediction may seem, it is not a whit more so than many he has made in the past, which have been fulfilled to the letter. Such were the storms of Jan. 17 and Feb. 17 last, the coolness of April and the backwardness of the forepart of May, all foretold long beforehand by the Montreal weather forecaster.

JOHN BRIGHT has written a note on Dr. Cox's recently-published work entitled "Expositions," the main value of which is an exhibition of sympathy with that higher view of the fate in store for the human race which Tennyson calls the larger hope. Dr. Cox, speaking of the value of work to those in sorrow, tells how Mr. Bright, brooding with a breaking heart over the irreparable loss he had sustained in his youth by the sudden death of his wife, was found by Cobden and urged to take part in the great enterprise of bringing bread to the hungry and the poor. As he devoted himself to this public task, new interests sprang up in his wasted life, and in some good though gradual measure consoled him for his private grief. Dr. Cox asks if Mr. Bright did not take the heroic road to comfort and learn to live for others rather than himself. "Whatever we may think of him as a politician, can we fail to admire him as a man, or, at the lowest, to admire the devotion to public ends by which he was thus inspired and consoled." Noticing this passage, Mr. Bright, without expressing his own opinion, says that the subjects discussed in the volume are of profound interest. "I am sensible," he goes on, "of the kindness and good opinion of Dr. Cox, although I cannot feel myself worthy of the reference he has made to me. I agree with him, however, that active and useful employment is a great remedy for grief."

OUR medical contemporary, the *Lancet*, like a watch-dog, is only doing its duty when it barks. We can deal with it as we do with the watch-dog when it wakes us in the middle of the night—either get up to see if anything is the matter or turn round and go to sleep again. Many persons do the latter, and the result generally justifies a policy of masterly inactivity. Our contemporary is now upon the subject of postage stamps and adhesive envelopes. Licking them, we are told, is a perilous practice, resulting in sore tongues, local irritation, and so forth. This caution is fortified by a true story of a person who reclosed an envelope received from some one who had taken large quantities of morphia hypodermically injected, the consequence of which was violent vomiting. Few persons, we believe, would lick postage stamps or envelopes which they had reason to believe had gone through the same process previously, whether they thought of germs and contagion or not. Clerks who have hundreds of envelopes to close and postage stamps to affix would be foolish if they did not provide themselves with brushes or moist pads. But few persons who write a letter or so occasionally, and take postage stamps from their purses to frank them, would spend ten minutes in searching for means to prepare the letters for the post. They would moisten the stamps with their tongues and take the risks. Germs have such a gift for finding their way into our bodies without being asked, that we must face the danger or else practise suicide to save ourselves from being killed.

ALTHOUGH Victor Hugo loved Paris with a love romantic in its intensity, he did not desire that his remains should rest in Père Lachaise or Montmartre. As long as he lived he wished to dwell in the city which, to his mind, was the centre of the civilized universe; but the spot of earth to which he was to be carried at last lies in pleasant Normandy. His domestic affections were always the strongest. Many years ago a daughter was, with her husband and two of their relatives, drowned in the Seine. The bodies of the ill-fated boating party were duly recovered, and deposited in the quiet little churchyard of Villequier, close to the town of Caudebec, which voyagers on the Seine will remember as lying about half way from Havre. Beside them moulder the bones of the poet's wife. In this sacred spot there is a space still vacant, which the poet reserved as a corner for himself. It was his aspiration that his dust should mingle with that of his wife and daughter. In Paris they talk of laying him in the Pantheon. There is a common feeling that the mortal part of him should not be taken away from the city whose grandeur and majesty he never wearied of

singing in the most delightful measures. But if his own testament should prove to be explicit and decided on the subject—if he has insisted on reposing in the rustic churchyard of Normandy where already lie his wife and daughter—public opinion will scarcely fail to obey him.

THE authorship of "Society in London," the new book which has certainly caused some stir and comment, is still tormenting the curious, and exercising the minds of those literary *avant coureurs* who are supposed to know everything. The names of all kinds of celebrities have been identified with it, Royal personages—foreign and otherwise—well-known playwrights, poets, and not a few ladies of renown. Among others who have been prominently mentioned are Mr. Labouche, the Marquis of Lorne, Lord Randolph Churchill and Mr. Oscar Wilde.

BURGLARY, one of the oldest and most highly cultivated of the exact sciences, has lately attained to the rank of a profession, and the recent capture of a noted cracksmen, says *Town Topics* (N. Y.), has developed some curious facts in this regard. It appears that the gentleman cracksmen spoken of was by no means a vulgar housebreaker. With him burglary was a scientific diversion, and its amusing and instructive principles found in him their most active and enthusiastic exponent. In other words he was a consulting burglar, a specialist, whose varied talents and profound learning were always at the service of the veriest novice in the art. It may be somewhat startling to reflect upon the possible existence of a school of burglary, in which the principles of that profession can be learned thoroughly. The idea itself is not so new, unless the famous kindergarten presided over by Professor Fagin is altogether a myth.

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. RESIDENT (Quebec) omitted to enclose his card. WALKERTON.—Your letter was mislaid, but shall appear next week.

CONTINENTAL SOCIALISM.

To the Editor of The Week:

Sir,—As the very latest statement of the demands of the most advanced section of the Socialist party in Europe the following document will probably interest the majority of your readers. It is the programme prepared by the French Socialists in view of the general election in the Fall of this year.

PROGRAMME OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLICAN FEDERATION.

"Political Section.—Art. (1). Complete revision of the Constitution by an Assembly elected specially for this purpose by universal suffrage. Art. (2). Suppression of the Senate and of the Presidency of the Republic. Art. (3). A single House elected for three years by universal suffrage, but with an annual change of one-third of the members, withdrawn by lot at the end of each annual session. Art. (4). The accumulation of public functions and of the electoral mandate to be forbidden. Art. (5). The assimilation of the electoral to the civil mandate. Art. (6). Every public function which is not elective shall be open to public competition, with no age-limit or distinction of sex. Art. (7). The department, the canton and the commune shall have a right to all the autonomy compatible with national unity. Art. (8). Remuneration for all offices. Art. (9). Reduction of large salaries. Personal responsibility of officials. Art. (10). A magistracy elective and removable at pleasure; justice gratuitous; in all jurisdictions the jury shall pronounce judgment and assist in the application of the law; suppression of all exceptional jurisdictions. Art. (11). Equable revision of the Codes. Art. (12). Inquest into paternity. Art. (13). Recognition of the political and civil rights of women. Art. (14). Separation of Church and State; suppression of the ecclesiastical budget; submission of the clergy to the common law; nationalization of the property of all religious corporations and establishments; alienation of religious edifices. Art. (15). The support of children, and full and essentially secular education for both sexes, at the charge of the commune and of the State. Art. (16). Military education to be compulsory for all male children. Art. (17). Military service to be compulsory and the same for all. Art. (18). Progressive substitution of national militia for the standing army; suppression of all military jurisdiction.

"Economic Section.—Art. (19). Suppression of all monopolies and all privileges; annulling of all contracts that have alienated public property—mines, canals, railways, etc. Art. (20). Progressive tax upon income and upon temporary legacies. Art. (21). Abolition of heritage in principle. Art. (22). Creation of banks for pensions, and insurance of life and limb. Art. (23). Reduction by law to eight hours of the work-day. Art. (24). Prohibition to employ children of either sex in factories, workshops, etc., before the age of sixteen years. Art. (25). Rigorous application of the laws of hygiene and public health. Art. (26). Recognition of a civil character in the syndical chambers. Art. (27). Establishment of councils of prudhommes in all important centres, and at least in the chief town of each canton. Art. (28). All differences relating to workmen, employes of every kind, shall be referred to the councils of prudhommes nominated by those interested, of both sexes. Art. (29). The prudhommes shall be remunerated for their services. Art. (30). Intervention of the prudhommes in apprentice contracts, in the regulation for workshops, factories, mines, etc. Art. (31). The work of the 'inspectors and prisons to be sold at the same price as that in the regular trade, under the inspection of the prudhommes and of the syndical chambers. Art. (32). Abrogation of the law against the International.

"Obligations.—Art. (33). Obligation of those elected to report on their commission at every demand of the electoral body and at least once a year. Art. (34). Those elected to office shall not form part of the administrative councils of the financial or industrial societies, as well as use their titles to patronize any society of the kind."

A slight study of the above will show its intensely radical character. It may remind some readers of old political romances, such as the Utopia of More, the City of the Sun of Campanella, the Voyage to Icaria of Cabet. It certainly furnishes one more instance of how much the romance of former times is passing into the common experience or expectation of our own remarkable age.

It may be remarked that in one important item the above programme will probably be anticipated by the municipal council of Paris. A project is actually before the council providing for the establishment of large Government-regulated restaurants for the wholesome and cheap feeding of the poor. This, with the penny dinners for school-children in England, indicates which way the wind blows—whether it is an altogether ill wind or a good wind is not here the question.

Paris, France, May 20, 1885.

R. BALMER.

To the Editor of The Week:

BEER AND WINE,

vs.

WHISKEY RUM, GIN, BRANDY, OPIUM AND IGNORANCE,

Plaintiffs,

Defendants.

Advocates for the Plaintiff,

Those who advocate Prohibition, Total Suppression by Law, have only to travel through the County of Halton and discover how it works. There you can get what you want, in the way of whiskey, for your money and it is *very bad*, enough to use up any person who drinks it. You cannot get a glass of beer, it is too bulky. Whether there is a law or whether there is not a law the people that want stimulants and have money to pay for them can get them.

The teetotal temperance reformer is like the man at the Chicago fire. After the great fire, he stood among the ruins! A whole city almost destroyed. Millions of dollars of property consumed! Homes ruined, families desolate! "What is the cause of this," said he. "What terrible demon can have wrought such destruction? Clearly it was fire. If there had been no fire, the city would not have been destroyed. Fire therefore is a bad thing, and I vow never to use any more fire, never to cook my food. Better, far better, that I should be a little inconvenienced in this matter than by the use of fire to subject myself and my fellow-beings to such a terrible disaster!"

That is about the argument of the teetotaler.

The historical argument in favour of beer and light wines can be gathered, and it is known that in beer countries like Germany there is very much less drunkenness than in whiskey countries like Scotland.

No reason exists why rum, brandy, whiskey and gin should not be sold subject to the same conditions and hindered with the same penalties as opium.

A simple and efficient means for stopping the sale of the "Curse of Canada," that is whiskey, would be not to allow any spirits to be sold at less than twenty-five cents a glass. That would put a stop to "treating" in spirits. Yours, etc.

HERET. C. JONES.

A COMMON THIEF.

Of all the thieves that prowling go
Around both day and night,
There's one, though old in thievish tricks,
Is youthful to the sight.

He stealeth neither gems nor gold:
He stealeth by himself.
But ah! he stealeth hearts untold,
This wicked little elf.

He's armed with but a tiny bow
And arrow, slim and long;
He shoots at people high and low,
And sings a merry song.

He steals from mortals rich and poor;
He steals from bright and stupid;
He'll steal *your* heart—of that be sure:
So keep an eye on Cupid.

CHARLES M. RYAN.

THE SWALLOWS.

(From the French of Béranger.)

In weariness on Afric's burning shore
A Christian warrior under fetters bending,
Held captive in the thralldom of the Moor,
Watches the swallows to their nest-nooks wending.
He speaks to them: I see you once again,
Birdlings, the swift-winged foes of winter-time.
You surely come from France; and in your train
Comes hope to cheer me in this burning clime.
Of my dear country speak you no word to me?

Three years in vain have I entreated you
To bring some token of the peaceful vale
Where dawned my life in calm security—
Lulled to a gentle future in that dale
Where ripples, 'neath the fragrant lilac trees,
The stream that near our cottage wends its way—
The cot you oft have seen when on the breeze
Your sportive wings have carried you in play.
Of that fair valley speak you no word to me?

Perchance some one of you has built a nest
Within the roof where first I saw the day—
Has marked the sighing of the gentle heart
That wears itself in grief for me away.
My dying mother listens for her son,
And weeps, and vainly hopes, in some hour near,
The welcome echo of my step to hear.
Of her deep love speak you no word to me?

A. G. H. W.

A FRENCH VIEW OF THE FUTURE OF CANADA.

A RECENT number of the *Revue Politique* contains a long article by Leo Quesnel, based upon Reveillaud's "History of Canada and the French Canadians," a work to which attention has already been called in the pages of THE WEEK, and some of his remarks are worth reproducing as an evidence of the interest taken by Frenchmen in the efforts now being made to establish and develop a French nationality on this continent.

The conflict of races, nationalities and religions which followed the conquest of Canada by the English continued with ever-growing bitterness, and it was not until 1851, says M. Quesnel, that a *modus vivendi* based upon justice and liberty began to take form; but to-day the Union of Upper and Lower Canada is complete in fact as well as in law. The English crown now retains little more than a mere nominal sovereignty over Canada, represented by a Governor-General, who, like the Queen of England, reigns but does not govern. The French element is always represented in the Ministry, and by way of emphasizing its presence the Cabinet is known by a combination of the names of two members, one from each nationality; thus we have had the Baldwin-Lafontaine Cabinet, the Macdonald-Cartier Cabinet, and just at present the Macdonald-Chapleau Cabinet holds the reins of government. The French population numbers about two millions, not one of whom will be found to deny his ancestry.

M. Reveillaud, in concluding his history, considers the question of the destiny in store for Canada, and M. Quesnel comments as follows: "England has good reason to deal fairly with the French population, for this population is the one obstacle in the way of annexation of Canada to the United States. Among these old French colonists, these sons of heroes, tracing their descent from noble families, and inheriting all the hatred of our own western French for the English, there exists a persistent spirit of nationality which in all probability will forever prevent their joining the American Union. If then Upper Canada, which has not the same reasons for holding aloof, should see fit some day to become a member of this great Confederation, what would be the fate of these two millions of Frenchmen? M. Reveillaud, at any rate, is a firm believer in the future of the French-Canadian nationality, and he sees in the rapid growth of population in Lower Canada an earnest of its creation. For these two millions of French Canadians are not the result of immigration. 'They are all, or nearly all, the descendants of ten thousand Breton, Norman, Poitevin, and other French colonists who landed on the shores of America between 1608 and 1703.' The fecundity of the race is proverbial, the population doubles itself every twenty years; if this rate of increase continue, in fifty years statisticians will have to reckon upon the existence of eight million souls in Lower Canada. Now when we consider with what ability and persistence they have maintained for more than a century their freedom, their hereditary institutions, the use of their language, so often proscribed, and, in spite of the policy of the English Government, which has, by turns, employed both violence and craft against them, have finally regained their autonomy, we have no reason to think that the qualities which have sustained them in the past will desert them in the future." Within the present century we have seen nationalities, considered by every one as on the point of extinction, awaking to a new lease of life; Greece regains Thessaly; Roumania, Servia and Bulgaria are delivered from their long subjection to the Turkish yoke; Hungary is restored to the Hungarians, and Italy is rescued from the German. Examples of nationalities becoming completely absorbed or effaced beneath the pressure of stronger power are rare, says M. Reveillaud, even when the lapse of centuries has apparently obliterated the fact of conquest; thus the Poles, the Letts and the Esthonians still preserve their individuality, so persistent is national sentiment, and yet the languages of these races can hardly be considered well adapted for the diffusion of ideas, being in fact little more than dialects. The Canadians, on the contrary, are masters of a language in a certain sense universal, and one which they have shown themselves able to preserve against all attacks. "A people possessing already a literature of its own and free to draw at will from the perennial springs of the richest literature in the world, does not run the same risk of losing its nationality as would a barbarous and isolated tribe suddenly brought into contact with a superior race. Ethnologically and politically the French-Canadians are the peers of the English. They have passed the most dangerous crisis for their newborn nationality, and have reached the age of manhood. In the natural course of events the annexation of Canada by the United States is at any moment a possible occurrence; but the majority of the French-Canadians, especially the Conservative Catholics, are opposed to it."

From a material point of view the change would not be great for either Upper or Lower Canada, if, instead of forming a group of united Provinces, they should become States of the American Union. Even now they possess a Constitution very greatly resembling that of their neighbours; and whether they remain under the protection of the British Crown, or become a part of the United States, or form in their turn an independent confederation, it is not likely that any great changes will be made in their institutions. But the moral effect would be vastly different if Lower Canada were to become a member of an autonomous Canadian confederation. Its nationality, no longer forced to defend itself against the danger of absorption, would be free to exert all its energies, and, aided by the advantage it possesses in the fecundity of the race, to establish in the best region of central North America (the farming region) a nation purely French in origin and language, in the truest sense a New France.

M. Reveillaud is of the opinion that, whatever may be the political destiny of Canada, the French-Canadian race has nothing to fear if it only maintains the virtues which have brought about its present prosperity; that even should the absorption of Canada into the American Union ever

take place, it is likely to be only a transient phase in the history of North America; that in all probability that vast and overgrown Confederation must break up into three or four republics, and Lower Canada must certainly be one of them.

"These views of the extent, the greatness, and independence of a nationality which is indeed flesh of our flesh, are well calculated to arouse the interests of all Frenchmen if we still retain a just regard for the future of our race and our name. It is the duty of France to strengthen the ties which still unite her to her old colony, and as far as it can be done, to aid the French-Canadians in preserving their language, and in developing their national independence. The best method of accomplishing this is by the active resumption, through trade, commerce and travel, of the relations between Canada and France which have been allowed to languish for more than a century. It is melancholy to think that to-day the direct trade between old and new France does not exceed fifteen million francs in an annual total of a thousand millions. The indirect trade through English channels may possibly bring these figures up to fifty millions; but even this is only five per cent. of the total exports and imports. As M. de Molinari has said, France may have, if she will, a market for her capital and her products on the banks of the St. Lawrence capable of almost indefinite extension. We desire to obtain colonies that we may have outlets for our commerce, and rightly so; but here is a market already open, for the true colonies of a nation are the countries where its race has taken root, where its language is spoken, and where the people have similar needs and similar tastes. The bond of administrative dependence counts for little in such matters. Were Australia and South Africa to become independent England would nevertheless continue to maintain active and profitable relations with these countries. Let us then learn to estimate at its full value the advantages we possess in this community of origin and language. Nowhere, beyond our own frontiers, do we find the French race forming so dense a group of population, or possessing so vast a territory, as in Canada. The French in Algeria do not yet number two hundred thousand, while the Province of Quebec alone contains more than a million."

It would seem, continues M. Quesnel, that these patriotic counsels have already found an echo in the appearance, almost simultaneously with them, of a French-Canadian journal (*Paris-Canada, organe international des intérêts Canadiens et Français*) published in Paris. It is true that the editor is a Canadian, the Agent-General for Quebec in France, but he addresses himself chiefly to a French audience. His object is, in his own words, "to reveal Canada to France, and to make France better known to Canada."

In a leading article, which should be read, M. Fabre touches lightly on the causes which at present tend to alienate Canada from France. We must remember that our former colonists, descendants in part of the Breton and Poitevin gentry, zealous Catholics and strong Conservatives, are Frenchmen of the seventeenth century rather than of the nineteenth, and that during their hundred and twenty years of subjection to English rule they have, of necessity, grafted some English ideas upon the old stock of their race.

"Canada" says M. Fabre, "has learned to be independent of France, and to be French in and for herself alone. In recent years, through the influence of her youngest and most courageous statesman, M. Chapleau, one of the present ministers, a step towards France has been taken, and by the establishment of a Canadian agency in Paris, an attempt has been made to renew the long interrupted relations. The custom of visiting France is becoming more general among the Canadians, and some can be found who take the ocean voyage just as the Parisian takes the train to St. Germain."

We hope, continues M. Quesnel, that this current of migration and counter-migration may become more firmly established, for, as M. Fabre pleasantly remarks, Canada, whether invited or not, would willingly undertake to re-people France, and no sooner do Frenchmen set foot in our old colony than they behold children everywhere, at the doors, and windows, on the roofs, and roused by the spirit of emulation they will no longer suffer their homes to remain empty. We wish *Paris-Canada* a successful future. The more readers it has the better will our merchants, our emigrants, and our tourists learn to know this vast and fertile country where the productivity of the soil equals the fecundity of the women, and where all that was good in the civilization of old France has been preserved and purified from whatever in that civilization was antagonistic to liberty.

A HALF-FORGOTTEN CHAPTER IN CANADIAN HISTORY.

Few records of colonial settlement are more sad than those of the community that strove to root itself, early in the century, in the soil of the Red River. Sorely tried as the Scot has ever been, seldom has it been his lot to suffer so keenly. In the year 1811, a small band of Scottish Highlanders, with a sprinkling of Celts from the West of Ireland, landed at York Factory, and after a winter spent on the Nelson River proceeded to settle on the virgin prairies of the Canadian North-West. Cheerless as was their surroundings on the bleak moorlands of the Old World they had left, more cheerless still was their introduction to the wild wastes of the New. When they came inland from the forbidding shores of Hudson Bay to the banks of the Red River, they found that the heart of the continent did not warm to them. It gave them no welcome. The North-West Fur Company was already in occupancy of the region to which the colony had emigrated, and the title to possession of its rival, the Hudson Bay Company, was held in light esteem by it and its employés. But the Nor'-Westers themselves had acquired no proprietary interests in the soil: they were merely traders, doing business in the territory, and had no

pretext to dispossess even the wandering Indian of his hereditary claim to the land. The Selkirk settlers were there not only by right of purchase from the Hudson Bay Company, but they were there after the Indian title had been quieted for a consideration paid them by the founder of the colony. The claim of the colony to possession was thus doubly valid. But however valid it might be, it did not suit the Nor'-Westers to have their hunting-grounds encroached upon by a people whose pursuits would prove disastrous to the interests which, as a trading corporation, they wished to conserve. It still less suited this Canadian Company to have a settlement grow up in the midst of its trade, by right of purchase from an organization whose claims to possession it ignored, and which had been founded under the direct auspices of a powerful rival. First of all, the colony was unwelcome because it was an undesirable intrusion upon lands which both Companies were interested in preserving for the purposes of the fur trade. Secondly, it was unwelcome because it had come to the country directly from the headquarters, the trading-posts, of its rivals. And, thirdly, it was unwelcome because it had acquired the right to its location from a company whose territorial claims were strenuously opposed by an organization that had long been in occupancy.

It has been remarked that the Scot rarely complains that the world he has been brought into is too stern for his temper. The little world of Celtic Scotland, at the beginning of the century, was, however, a hard foster-father to the poor cottar. Self-reliant as he was by nature, if he could not extract a living in the scenes of his birth, he was determined that he would not stay there to disgrace himself and his country by becoming a pauper. In other climes he would find that subsistence which his own had denied him. Emigration was the stern but accepted remedy. Just at this time there comes upon the scene Thomas Douglas, fifth Earl of Selkirk, Baron Daer and Shortleugh. He it was who was to become the Moses of the Scottish Exodus. In 1803, at his own expense, and under his personal supervision, he transferred a band of 800 Highlanders from their native moors to comfortable homes on Prince Edward Island, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The descendants of those Highland colonists, now grown a numerous people, form the substantial yeomanry of one of the most prosperous Provinces of our young Dominion. From the New Canaan of these cottars of Skye and Inverness, Lord Selkirk came to Canada, to cast about him for other desirable sites for colonial settlement. His earnest desire to benefit the peasantry of his native country led him to urge emigration, and to formulate a scheme for planting a colony somewhere in the interior of the Hudson Bay Territory. To extend to the incipient colony every advantage it could have, the Earl and other members of his family acquired a large monetary interest in the Hudson Bay Company. A meeting of the general Court of Proprietors of the Company was called, and the Selkirk proposal submitted to it. A grant of land was asked on which to settle a colony, to be located in the Assiniboine district—the expense of transport, the purchase of necessaries for the voyage, and the support of the colony for a time after settlement, the cost of agricultural and house-building implements, and the outlay for quieting the Indian title—were all to be borne by the noble applicant. In the summer of 1811, a party of some seventy Highland cottars from Sutherlandshire, with a small contingent from the West of Ireland, set sail for Hudson Bay. Mr. Miles Macdonell, formerly a Captain in the Queen's Rangers, was appointed Governor by the Hudson Bay Company, and by Lord Selkirk was given charge of the colony. The emigrants spent the winter at the Company's post on the Nelson, and the next season arrived at Red River. The situation chosen for the colony was the banks of the Red River, near the confluence of the Assiniboine—now the site of the Prairie capital, the City of Winnipeg. The title given to it was the Kildonan Settlement. Here, in the autumn of 1812, when other sections of Canada were in the turmoil of invasion, a peaceful colony sought to found homes for themselves in the wilderness. For contingencies, in the event of trouble, the settlers were in some measure prepared. Fort Douglas was capable of defence, for, thanks to the provision of Lord Selkirk, some light brass field-pieces had been sent into the country, to be mounted on its ramparts; and the settlers had been furnished with arms and ammunition. But, as we have said, the settlement felt quite secure in its peaceful mission to the country, and had no dread of serious molestation.

In the year 1814, the smouldering fires of the Nor'-Wester's enmity emitted puffs of flame. In January, Miles Macdonell, the Governor of the colony, had found it necessary to issue a proclamation forbidding the export from the territory of the food-supplies that were required for the support of those who had come to the colony and of those who were about to arrive in it. The proclamation was construed by the North-West Fur Company as a menace to its traders, and likely to deprive them of a source, hitherto relied upon, of their support. The issue of this document, if it was not the beginning, was the active foment, of lengthened hostility to the Selkirk Settlement. The partners of the North-West Fur Company, who met at Fort William, in 1814, for their summer parliament, were loud in their protest against the Governor's proclamation, and fixed in their determination to suppress the colony. Scotch, as was the Kildonan Settlement, its active suppressors were of the same nationality. It was the old story, their foes were of their own household. The partners who were entrusted with the grim work of breaking up the colony were the twin-worthies Duncan Cameron and Alexander McDonell. They were instructed to proceed to Fort Gibraltar, a trading-post of the Company at the Forks of the Assiniboine, within half-a-mile of the Red River settlement. From this station, which had not hitherto been honoured by the presence of a resident-partner of the Company, they were to do what they could to harass the settlers. At first the Company was wary in showing its animus to the colonists. The initial step was to coax the settlers to leave the territory, and, failing in that, to intimidate them by threats of

Indian massacre. Cameron, ingratiating himself with the heads of influential families in the settlement, made them discontented with their surroundings, dissatisfied with their superiors, and doubtful of their prospects in the territory. This was the first assault on the integrity of the colony. The next undermining act was to excite the fears of the settlers by disseminating reports of Indian treachery and threatened massacre. The horses and cattle of the settlers were shot by stealth in their enclosures; and, as was threatened, the downfall of the colony was decided upon by fair means or foul. The next step was to starve the settlers out of the country. By bribery, and such harassing acts as we have mentioned, a few of the colonists were induced to abandon their homes, and received money and supplies to quit the country. But most of the colony were true to one another, and loyal to their common interest. No arts could allure or threats intimidate them to give up possession of their territory.

About this time Miles Macdonell, the Governor of the district, had been served with a warrant of arrest, issued by a magistrate of the Indian territory, on a charge of having feloniously taken a quantity of provisions belonging to the North-West Company. This warrant Macdonell, at first, paid no heed to; but the colony being threatened with dire mishap unless he surrendered himself, he thought it prudent to do so, and proceeded to Canada for trial. The Governor was taken to Montreal, where he was long and vexatiously detained. Meanwhile the poor colony was subjected to further and more wanton outrage. The settlers were frequently fired upon by the Half-breeds; their houses were broken-up and pillaged; many of the labourers, quietly employed in tillage, were forcibly seized and detained as prisoners; horses were stolen and cattle driven away; and, finally, the whole colony was ordered to leave the Red River. Things had now come to such a pass that nothing but abandonment could save the lives of the colonists. In June, 1815, about sixty of the settlers fled for safety to a Hudson Bay Post on Jack Fish River, at the northern end of Lake Winnipeg. To mark the triumph of this serious defection, a number of clerks and servants of the North-West Company proceeded to the settlement, and "setting fire to the houses, the mill and other buildings, burnt them to the ground." On this happening, the remainder of the settlers—one hundred and thirty-four in number—abandoned the place, and accompanied the North-West traders to the annual rendezvous at Fort William. From this post on Lake Superior they proceeded to Upper Canada.

During these trying times for the Selkirk settlers the founder of the colony had not been idle. For more than a year he had been in correspondence with the Canadian authorities, with a view to obtaining military protection for the settlement. In this, however, he had failed. Lord Selkirk came to Canada to see what could be done. Here he heard with dismay of the fate of his colony. There was but one ray of hope. The detachment of settlers that had gone north to Lake Winnipeg might not have left the country. This was the case: they had even now returned to the smoking ruins of their homesteads, and, figuratively, had sat down by the waters of Babylon and wept. To clear the debris from the ground, re-erect devastated homes, and plant something for the wants of the coming winter, was soon the accomplished work of the returned settlers.

Lord Selkirk was still detained in Canada endeavouring to induce the Government to extend its authority, with the symbol of its power, to the North-West. In this task he found himself seriously handicapped by the overshadowing influence of the Canadian traders. They had possession of all the avenues to Government favour, and had effectually prejudiced public opinion against him and his colony. His representative, Governor Miles Macdonell, was still under arrest in Montreal, and others of his agents were in trouble. To add to the difficulties of his position, detachments of refugees from his colony came dribbling into Canada, and they naturally turned to him for support. This was not denied them. But his chief effort was at present directed towards obtaining evidence to enable him to fasten responsibility for the troubles upon those who had occasioned them.

(Concluded next week.)

THE SCRAP BOOK.

ANGLICAN PARSONS AND UNITED STATES PREACHERS.

THERE is to be an American exhibition in London next year. What if the directors organize a Sunday section, in which specimens could be given of the pulpit oratory in favour in the United States of America? Good American preachers are better than those in England of the highest class. The former hardly ever profit by the incapacity of their hearers to contradict or audibly sift pulpit utterances. "Bosh and twaddle!" I often say to myself as I read in the London journals reports of what has been said by our clergy in the churches on the morrow of any great event, such as a disastrous earthquake, the death of a Royal Prince, or of a military hero. The talky talkativeness, the absence of originality, strong cerebration and independent thought of most of the sermons reproduced in our dailies are in sharp contrast with those given in the Monday issue of the *New York Tribune* of the Rev. Robert Collyer, John Hall, H. W. Beecher, and many others less well-known to fame. They are free from clerical slang or shibboleth. Our "Dumb Dogs," when their tongues are untied, speak as if they thought certain verbal forms should be used in dealing with things religious. These forms have grown as meaningless as the jargon of a Chancery lawyer, and, considering the income of the Anglican Church, they are perhaps more costly.

The Rev. Robert Collyer is a Yorkshireman, who emigrated young, and whose mind and piety have widened out in American surroundings. He saw the rough sides of life before he got to the smooth. A sermon of his

is the outcome of knowledge of the world, bitter and sweet personal experiences, moral perceptions rendered keen by the discipline of the wide world; of elevated sentiment, of struggles against his meaner self, and boldness in flashing out his inner lights. No matter what unbeliever, provided he had a head and heart, could fail to sit under him with delight. The Rev. John Hall is an Irishman who also went young to New York. He was sent there by the Ulster Presbyterians on a mission, and was given a return-ticket for his passage to America and back. When there he preached a sermon, and was prayed by the greatest congregation in the Empire City to become their minister. The Rev. Morgan Dix is a son of the late General Dix who was minister plenipotentiary in Paris about sixteen years ago. He is an Episcopalian of the Ritualist school, but more of an artist and a sensitive moralist than a thinker. In an English pulpit he would have dwindled down into a feeble preacher. As it is, his sermons are telling. He has fine sentiment, scholarship and the courage of his opinions. The Rev. H. W. Beecher has been in England. Poor M. Desmarest, the ex-bâtonnier of the Paris bar, and now, alas! less than living, his mind being unhinged, heard him preach in Glasgow when the American civil war was raging. That accomplished Frenchman thought Gladstone, in point of harmony of voice, fluency, and soft and easy dignity, first among contemporaneous orators, and Beecher, the highest when judged by his strong-winged eloquence, which shrewdness and humour kept from grandiloquence. There are "thorns in the flesh" of this famous preacher, and he does not deny the impeachment. The knowledge that they are there and that carnality often dominates his better self makes him indulgent of the faults of others. In Brooklyn, where he has his church, he is addressed as "Doctor" and confided in by the black sheep of his flock who aspire to be whitened, but often want the grace to submit themselves to the necessary discipline. "Doctor," said one of them, "I feel like swearing." "Well, then, swear," replied the D.D. It was better for the virus to come to the surface than to keep fermenting inside. "I fear, Doctor," replied another of his black sheep, "that I have not the right heart for religion, and that I'm drawn into sin beyond the power of praying." "If that's so," answered the minister, "just plunge into the pond. When you take the dive you'll find what Satan's service is, and better understand the happiness of giving yourself up to a heavenly Master. Come back to me when you have had enough of the evil one, and I believe what I say to you then will not go in at one ear and out at the other."—*Writer in Pall Mall Gazette.*

HAWTHORN.

A GREEN world, prank't with flowers and filled with songs;
 And if our woodlands have their own May-Queen,
 Surely to thee, fair May, this crown belongs,
 With clustered pearls upon thy robe of green,
 And broideries of white bloom; or all one sheen,
 Thou and thy maidens, worshipp'd by the throngs
 In various verdure,—though sad Yew is seen
 Still with the black cloak round his ancient wrongs.

Soft winds o'er sunlit grass bear news of thee.
 Blue, darkening, feels the moonrise. Then, elate,
 Thy coaxing nightingales who love thee well
 (Their Thorn art thou, not sharp as stories tell),
 Bring hearts and lips—how loth to separate!—
 Within the shadow of the trysting tree.

WILLIAM ALLINGHAM.

THE REVISED OLD TESTAMENT.

THE good service that the revisers of the Old Testament have done, from the point of view of the student, deserves the fullest recognition. By the references to more ancient versions, by the literal renderings of the Hebrew in the margin, by the articulation of the argument, by the use of paragraphs, and by the continual elucidation of obscure passages, they have done very much not merely to interest the curious scholar, but to help every one who brings a critical intelligence to his reading of the sacred Book. But especially are we grateful to them for that they have left undone. It is true that, to use a vulgar but expressive phrase, they have "made hash" of more than one of the classic passages of the Authorized Version. Revisers, we suppose, must revise, even when they mar rather than mend the version on which they are engaged. But on the whole, especially when compared with the revisers of the New Testament, they have been merciful. The chief change is the elimination of hell from the Old Testament. It is a kind of compensation for the way in which the other revisers thrust the devil into the Lord's Prayer. The other changes of form and substance may commend themselves to scholars. The unlearned public will leave them alone, and it will act wisely. Anything more provocative of feelings the reverse of devotional than the attempt to follow the New Version of the New Testament by the aid of the Authorized Version it is difficult to imagine. Before the reader closes the Book, the hearer is found lamenting that the revisers could not have been summarily packed off to the invisible world, however translated, before they had begun their messing the familiar text by the very superfluity of wanton change. Scholars may applaud the accuracy of the New Version, but the trail of the reviser is over it all, and there is little probability of its being appointed to be read in churches, at all events in our time.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

READER, if you will try burning up each day all the parings of vegetables, fruit, and even refuse of meat, instead of keeping them for the scavenger to call for them, the result will repay and please you. The

trouble is a mere nothing in the ordinary day's work, the inconvenience from smell absolutely *nil* if properly managed; and the comfort of having no refuse to make smells, attract and breed flies and other vermin, will result in a contented mind.—*Dominion Sanitary Journal.*

RACING in Canada labours under many difficulties. It therefore behoves the Turf Clubs of the country to so regulate and control racing that the worst elements will be eliminated, and only honest legitimate sport served up. Such irregularity as is said to have characterized the late effort of the St. Thomas Club is anything but creditable to those in authority.—*Canadian Sportsman.*

DR. T. W. THOMPSON, M.R.C.S., late surgeon 1st Life Guards, in conjunction with a Dr. Hamerton and "a friend in whom they had the greatest confidence," have been making some experiments in connection with their own bodies on the question, "Is alcohol a food?" Dr. Thompson says (*Lancet*, April 25th, 1885), "I must express my belief that unless our experiments have been rendered fallacious by errors of practical manipulation, our experiments certainly indicate in the clearest manner that alcohol, in small doses at all events, is a source of nourishment—*i.e.*, a food."

THAT the present rebellion was not without cause is evidenced by the Government appointing a commission as soon as the rebellion occurred to remedy the very grievances which caused the outbreak. This was an undeniable admission by the Government that they had been negligent in the discharge of their duty. If they were negligent then they are doubly responsible. If the Government are responsible, then they—and they means, under this Government, Sir John Macdonald personally—are the cause of the increased taxation necessary to undo the disorder caused by their misgovernment.—*Ottawa Free Press.*

IT is a weak point in prohibitory legislation that it requires for its enforcement other means than the ordinary process of law. In Kansas special legal machinery was erected for the purpose, but it has broken down on the first trial. The district attorneys were empowered to organize special courts for investigation, and to bring persons before these to testify, under the penalty of commitment for contempt. The very first witness called before such a court refused to testify, and the State courts sustained him in the refusal. They decided that under the State Constitution no such investigations can be held, and the prohibitory law must be enforced by the ordinary means for the administration of justice. But other laws have for their support an overwhelming public opinion, which a prohibitory law never has. Therefore it cannot be enforced by the ordinary means.—*The American.*

ON the ground that one rebellion is enough at a time, the Government will consent to remedy the abuses which have thrown British Columbia into a ferment. The "crass and incomprehensible policy" which has done such deadly work in the North-West has been put in full operation on the Pacific coast. The ruin of New Westminster and the deprivation of three thousand men of employment, are foretold as the immediate consequences of the Government's criminal blundering. The British Columbians have notified the Government what the consequences of a refusal to abandon its ruinous policy will be. The Government, not because it has been doing wrong, not because of the justice of British Columbia's claims, but because one rebellion at a time is enough, yields. Here is a fine lesson for the other Provinces, and probably they will not be slow to profit by it.—*Manitoba Free Press.*

BISMARCK recently declared, with his usual frankness, that Germany was centuries behind England in civilization. Bismarck's own policy is an expression of German barbarism. But his words are true. Even the celebrated German science is in originality and soundness actually backward compared to that of England. The immense knowledge of the learned men of Germany is often a raw, useless mass, and their metaphysical ideas are often altogether too far from reality. Notwithstanding recent great progress, they are therefore generally weak in the science of life, such as politics and social economy; they have some few excellent economists and teachers in politics; also the German journalists, the leaders of the people, have advanced remarkably just in this field; but the professors at the numerous small universities are making blunders in common sense which would be impossible to the common English workingman to commit.—*Scandinavian.*

THE liquor problem is the burning issue in Massachusetts just now. The Bay State followed the example of Maine in making trial of the prohibitory theory, but it proved such a failure and scandal in practice as to produce a political revolution in 1874. The Republicans in that year nominated a strong Prohibitionist for Governor, while the Democrats chose a believer in license, and for the first time in more than a quarter of a century the Democratic candidate was elected. With him came into power a system which allowed each city or town to decide by popular vote whether the sale of liquor should be licensed. Experience has conclusively proved that a rigorous application of the license plan is far more effective as a restriction upon drunkenness than a prohibitory law which public sentiment will not support. Springfield, which began in 1875 with 158 licenses, and reduced the number by 1881 to sixty-seven, has, after a year of "no-license," gone to the other extreme and granted the prayer of all but a dozen of the 175 applicants. It would not be strange if the result should be a reaction in public sentiment which will enable the Prohibitionists to succeed in their next annual attempt to secure from the legislature another trial of their hobby, little as the cause of temperance would have to hope for from such a result.—*Nation.*

MUSIC.

AN interesting exhibition of manuscripts relating to the history of music has been arranged in a series of cases in the Department of Manuscripts in the British Museum. This collection comprises early illuminations and drawings of musical instruments, specimens of the notation known as *neumata* or *neumes*, of which the Museum possesses samples as old as the tenth century; manuscripts illustrating notations written on two, three, four, five and six lines; choral books; the early ballad and instrumental music of England; and specimens of autograph music by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Handel, and other great composers.

THE programme of the Birmingham Festival, to be held during the last week of August, runs thus: Tuesday morning, "Elijah"; Tuesday evening, Mr. F. H. Cowen's new cantata, Mr. Prout's new symphony, Mendelssohn's violin concerto, played by Senor Sarasate, overture to Tannhäuser, etc. Gounod's new oratorio, "Mors et Vita," will be produced on Wednesday morning, and in the evening Mr. Anderton's cantata and Mr. A. C. Mackenzie's violin concerto. "Messiah" will be given on Thursday morning, and in the evening Dvorak's cantata, "The Spectre Bride," will be produced, together with a miscellaneous selection, including an orchestral selection from "Tristan and Isolde," Dr. Bridge's hymn, "Rock of Ages," and the third "Leonora" overture. The programme of Friday morning will consist of Dr. Stanford's new oratorio, Beethoven's choral symphony, and the festival will close the same evening by a repetition of Gounod's new work. This festival will be rendered unusually interesting from the large number of new works by English and foreign composers which will be produced, also from the fact that it is Herr Richter's first appearance as conductor of the festival. Much jealousy appears to have been aroused among English musicians at his appointment when there are so many Englishmen perfectly capable of filling the post with success and distinction. The recent bestowal on him of the Oxford degree of Mus. Doc., hitherto reserved for creative artists, has intensified this feeling, which will not be allayed by the fact that he has for the Birmingham festival engaged principally instrumentalists out of his own orchestra to the exclusion of many honoured English artists who have been associated with the festival on previous occasions.

OPERA, especially in Italian, appears to have fallen on evil days. In London, English opera is the only representative of that form of art, and from Paris comes the news that the opera is in so critical a condition that it may shortly cease to exist. The reasons for this are the exorbitant sums exacted by leading singers, and, in Paris, the enormous sums spent on decorations and *mise-en-scène*. The luxury and splendour of the house are said to have killed the thing for which it was built; the musical arrangements are, therefore, second-class, and cease to attract the musical. On the other hand, in London English opera well put on by Mr. Carl Rosa is successful, which fact shows a healthy tendency of public taste in the direction of a good *ensemble*, rather than a company consisting of one or two greedy "stars" and a crowd of hungry nonentities.

TORONTO CHORAL SOCIETY.

THE Toronto Choral Society brought their sixth season to a close with a concert of miscellaneous music in the Pavilion of the Horticultural Gardens on the 4th inst. From an artistic point of view the concert was perhaps the most successful the Society has yet given. The solo vocalists were Mrs. F. P. Whitney, of Detroit, Mme. Cora Giese, of Boston, Mr. F. Warrington and Miss Dick. The orchestra was strengthened by the Mendelssohn Quintette Club of Boston. The first part of the concert was devoted to the performance of Gades' cantata "Psyche," a work distinguished by the elegance and refinement so characteristic of the composer. It received a careful and finished interpretation, the choral singing being particularly good, notwithstanding that the tenors and basses were below the average number. The cantata was favourably received, but it cannot be said that it created a profound impression. Gades' style does not appeal to the masses, although his music is appreciated by musicians. At the Birmingham Musical Festival of 1882, when "Psyche" was first produced, the first portion of the cantata was received in silence, and only two or three numbers aroused anything like enthusiasm. Mrs. Whitney took the principal soprano solos. Her voice is of extensive compass and considerable power, and with the exception that she shewed a tendency to abuse the *tremolo* she sang with taste and skill. Our local representatives acquitted themselves very creditably. The orchestra was unusually good, the only weak points prominent being among the wind and the second violins. In the second part of the programme the Mendelssohn Quintette Club played the fine movement of Mendelssohn's Quintette in "A," Op. 18, in their usual artistic manner. Mme. Giese sang the *aria* "Ah fors'è lui" from "La Traviata" very sweetly and with great flexibility of execution. Her voice is of light *timbre*, and she is deficient in dramatic power. Mr. Giese gave a violoncello solo by Servais, which he played magnificently. A part song by Smart, charmingly sung by the Society, and the "Inflammatum" from the "Stabat Mater," the solo by Mrs. Whitney, completed the scheme. Mr. Edward Fisher conducted with more than his usual care, and must be congratulated on the varied effects he got from his chorus. The audience was large and fashionable.—*Clef*.

On Tuesday, June 2nd, the Mendelssohn Quintette Club gave a concert at the Grand Opera House, London, Ont. The opening number, Mendelssohn's Quintette in "A," was played with a grace, delicacy and oneness which almost made one wish to hear nothing more to break the charm. The next concerted piece was "The Miller's Pretty Daughter" (by Raff); this also was exquisitely played, especially the "Declaration" of the

violoncello and the violin responses of the "Fair Maid," deliciously given by Mr. Sam Franko. Weber's "Invitation à la Valse" was less pleasing, the effect of the clarinet mingling in the rapid running passages with the more delicate tones of the violin being too violent a contrast. The "Gypsies' Serenade" was extremely charming, with strange harmonies here and there. The last concerted number was "Slavonic Dance" (by Dvorak), very characteristic, and doubly interesting from the fact of its being the first time that any composition by this talented Bohemian has been played here. Wieniawski's somewhat hackneyed violin solo "Airs Russes" was splendidly played by Mr. Sam Franko, whose musical fire never allows his playing to become careless or his sympathetic tone to deteriorate. His encore solo was Bach's noble air from "Suite in C." Mr. Thomas Ryan, who is always greeted as an old friend in London, played his clarinet solo with great brilliancy, and bowed his acknowledgment of a hearty encore. In the violoncello solo "La Fille du Regiment" (by Servais), Mr. Fritz Giese gained a perfect ovation, to which he responded with "The Last Rose of Summer," which displayed his magnificent tone to fullest advantage. The songs of Madame Cora Giese, especially the "Der Freischütz" (Scena), were highly appreciated and encored, but this lady's voice seems rather tired. Altogether this Mendelssohn Concert was one to cherish in one's musical heart of hearts.—*Marcia*.

MRS. JOHN E. M. WHITNEY, of Montreal, has composed and published "The Otter Grand March," the stirring martial strains of which are offered up in honour of the brave men who are so bravely commanded in the North-West. The Anglo-Canadian Music Publishing Company send "Three Wishes," song, words by Clement Scott, music by Ciro Pinsuti; "Surely," words by M. Mark Lemon, music by A. H. Behrend; "Mariana Valse," by Emile Waldtenfel; and "Tender and True Waltz," by P. Bucalossi. Of the pianoforte pieces, though both are pretty, the latter, a "singing waltz," will probably prove most attractive. Preference must be given, of the songs, to "Three Wishes," both music and words to which are extremely sweet and appropriate. Like "Surely," it is suited for a mezzo-soprano voice.

BOOK NOTICES.

ZOROASTER. By F. Marion Crawford. London and New York: Macmillan and Company. Toronto: Hart and Company.

It may well be supposed that in dedicating "Zoroaster" to his wife Mr. Crawford was well satisfied with his latest literary offspring, nor would it be rash to predict that his parental predilection will be endorsed by many novel-readers. His course in selecting for a hero a personage at once so mythical and yet so celebrated will commend itself to those who are wearied with the beaten paths of fiction-writers, whilst the many evidences of recondite research with which the work abounds will further commend it to the intelligent reader. Of the methods favoured by the author of "Mr. Isaacs" it is happily unnecessary to speak; they are not only known but admired. In "Zoroaster" he depends little upon plot, though the book has incident enough to interest and to spare. Zoroaster, the Persian prince, knight, prophet, is lifted out of his obscurity, as it were, and, previous to assuming the character assigned to him by history, is made to live and love like a soldier, in which period of his career he meets with disappointments that turn his thoughts from mundane affairs, and are the ultimate cause of his formulating the religion of the "Zend-Avesta." The character of Darius, considerably varying from the conventional king of history, is painted in attractive colours, not the least interesting part of the book being that in which he calls for Zoroaster's assistance in formulating the Magian religion. Nehushta—a Hebrew princess, betrothed to Zoroaster—the heroine of the Drama, and Atossa, queen to Darius, are the other principal actors, and are each powerful creations. Not in vain has Mr. Crawford travelled with his face to the rising sun. His descriptions of Eastern scenery—of Persian manners and ceremonies—of Hebrew habits and character, not to say the flowing Oriental language in which they are conveyed—testify to his scholarly not less than to his constructive ability. "Zoroaster" is likely to be one of the novels of the season.

A MARSH ISLAND. By Sarah Orne Jewett. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

Miss Jewett has learned that which so many writers miss, and without which success can never be won except by haphazard. She writes well within herself—does not attempt work beyond her knowledge. Her novels are thus finished if unpretentious books. "A Marsh Island" is fragrant with sea breezes and comforting with placid thoughts prettily expressed. The plot is of the simplest rural kind, wherein a city-trained artist appears on the Marsh Island—in Essex Co., Massachusetts—to become the rival of "Doris'" rural swain, and to plant in his petulant breast the green-eyed monster; of course, all ends pleasantly, except to the wicked, false lover. But the real charm of "A Marsh Island" lies in its picturesque word-painting of scenes actually known to its author, whose descriptions of the New England prospect are warm with the love she evidently bears for its marshes and dunes.

VAIN FOREBODINGS. By E. Oswald. Translated from the German by Mrs. A. L. Winter. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

Mrs. Winter has already become well and favourably known by her admirable translations, and this last is amongst the best of her work and of her selections. "Vain Forebodings" is the story of a young German soldier who, jilted by a heartless beauty, lapsed into a state of mania, from which he was rescued by a doctor who had years before been jilted by the Herr Lieutenant's mother. The one-time patient is made to fall in love with and marry a daughter of his benefactor, which puts an end to much heartburning. There is an entire absence of excitement in the book, but in place is a portraiture of German rural and domestic life infinitely more charming and healthful.

SHOEMAKER'S DIALOGUES. Edited by Mrs. J. W. Shoemaker. Philadelphia: National School of Elocution and Oratory. Toronto: William Briggs.

A collection of entirely new and original grave, sprightly, or broadly humorous dialogues adapted to the needs of the home, the school-room, the literary society, and the social circle. Every appearance of irreverence, and every suggestion of coarseness, has been carefully excluded.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE next numbers in the Riverside Aldine Series will be Lowell's "Biglow Papers." MR. EDWIN ARNOLD, C.S.I., author of "The Light of Asia," has prepared a translation in verse of the well-known Sanskrit work the "Bhagavad-Gita," which will shortly be published under the title of "The Song Celestial."

MISS CLEVELAND'S book will be published by Funk and Wagnalls before the end of this week. She is said to be the first Lady of the White House who has ventured, while an occupant of that mansion, to invite the judgment of the public on her literary achievements.

THERE are various rumours as to whether Gen. Butler is or is not to write a book, but at any rate he is to appear in literature in the July *Harper's* upon a subject on which he is an authority, that of yachting. The number will be largely devoted to out-door matters.

"VICTOR HUGO: HIS LIFE AND WORK," is the title of a volume which has been in preparation for some months by Mr. G. Barnett Smith, author of "Shelley: a Critical Biography," "Poets and Novelists," etc. It is now in the London press, and will be issued almost immediately.

THE Louisville *Electra*, of which the June number is to hand, shows a much more intelligent conception of the Anglo-Russian incident than many of our Canadian contemporaries; but, then, the Kentucky Magazine is probably not blinded by party zeal, or dependent upon the coloured cablegrams of the New York *Herald*.

HOBART PASHA, who is, the *Athenaeum* says, perhaps the only Englishman who has commanded squadrons or single ships in a war where torpedoes were used as offensive weapons, has contributed to *Blackwood* for June an article on "The Torpedo Scare," in which he relates his experiences in the Black Sea during the Russo-Turkish War.

THE English Philological Society makes an appeal for subscriptions to relieve Dr. Murray from a debt of £500 incurred in preparing the first part of the "New English Dictionary." The delegates of the press have agreed to pay £100, and it is hoped the public may mark their sense of the importance of the work by subscribing the rest.

THE proprietor of a household article recently informed the publishers of a well-known monthly magazine of large circulation that the insertion of a small advertisement twice in the pages of their magazine had brought in more than eight thousand enquiries. And yet some people are still wondering if newspaper and magazine advertising pays!

A MEMORIAL window, which has been placed in the chancel of Stratford-on-Avon Church at the exclusive cost of American visitors to the poet's tomb, was unveiled early last month by Mr. Howard Porter, of New York, on behalf of the American Minister. The subjects represented in the window are Shakespeare's "Seven Ages," illustrated from the Bible. The project originated with the late Vicar, the Rev. Dr. Collis.

MME. ADELINA PATTI, who is spending the summer at her castle in Wales, is not idling there, as one might suppose she would after an arduous season, but is busily engaged upon a series of articles for *Harper's Magazine*. This series will be largely autobiographical, containing many reminiscences of the *diva's* interesting career. Miss Clara Louise Kellogg also is engaged upon literary work, and has just finished an article for a popular youths' paper, in which she describes some of her professional experiences.

A REMARKABLE incident occurred recently says the *Era*, during the performance of "The Lights o' London," at Bolton Theatre Royal. The play had reached the point where the unfortunate waif breaks down at the workhouse door, and his devoted spouse is unable to trudge a step further. The tension of the audience having been wrought up to the highest point, the bobby appeared with his authoritative "Move on," but all at once there burst from a stentorian throat in the audience a cry of "Let her alone." This gave completion to the touching realism.

AMONGST the papers left by the late Prof. De Morgan, says the *Athenaeum*, was a MS. volume entitled "Newton; his Friend; and his Niece." The MS. appears to be quite ready for publication, having been revised and enlarged by Prof. De Morgan several times during the last ten years of his life. It contains a store of interesting information with respect to the domestic life of Sir Isaac and his niece, "the famous witty Miss Barton," who, Prof. De Morgan supposes, and brings strong evidence to prove, was privately married to Charles Montague, Earl of Halifax, Newton's friend and the patron who obtained the Mastership of the Mint for him. The work will be published by Mr. Elliot Stock.

ACCORDING to the *St. James's Gazette*, Mr. J. A. Froude before leaving New York was interviewed, and among other matters discussed was his "Carlyle." He was asked if he still thought of writing a complete biography of Carlyle. Mr. Froude is reported to have said: "I do not. As I have already said, I don't think the time has come for such a book to be written. I have placed all the material for it before the public, and may add a few touches to my own part of the work; but that is all. Carlyle was opposed to the spirit of the age in which we live, or at least to the aims and ideas of the accepted leaders. Before a true life of him can be written we must have learned from facts whether he was right or they were right." Another conversation reads: "You ask for reminiscences. Well, I will tell you one of your much-valued Emerson. It was the last time I saw him. He said that he went to see Carlyle, and in the course of conversation the subject of George Sand was brought up. 'What do you think of George Sand,' said Emerson. The venerable philosopher took his pipe out of his mouth, and, shaking his head, replied, 'She is a great woman—a great, improper female;' and no amount of persuasion could induce him to alter his opinion."

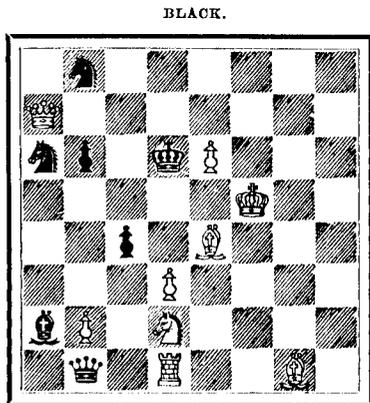
ONE'S confidence in the genuineness of the Shakespearean autograph that is said to have turned up in Chicago, says a writer in the *Critic*, depends mainly upon which side of the line of possession he looks at it from. "If I owned it, cart-ropes couldn't drag me from the conviction that it was written by William's hand; but as I don't own it, I am inclined to think that its genuineness is extremely doubtful. Mere resemblance, no matter how close, cannot create authenticity. There must be strong collateral proof to support it. In a friend's library is a quarto 'Hamlet,' printed in 1611, which bears the autograph 'William Shakespeare' on the title-page in a good court-hand, much more closely resembling the poet's other autographs than this in Chicago. The present owner paid a good round sum for the book, but a sum by no means as round as he would have paid had not the book, at one time, as it was believed, been in the possession of the forger Ireland; for the trail of that serpent is over all that he owned. The world is full of Shakespearean forgeries. Within the past month the catalogue of a Berlin bookseller—Albert Cohn—has reached this country, with an offer of a 'genuine autograph' of Shakespeare, from the collection of the 'Rev. Mr. Cotton,' which may be had for the small sum of 350 marks (about \$90)."

CHESS.

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

PROBLEM No. 104.

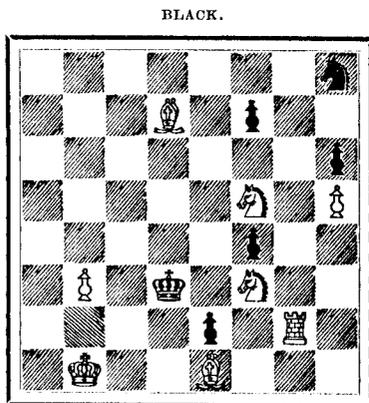
By A. Rosenbaum.
From the *Chess Monthly*.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 105.

Composed for THE WEEK
By E. H. E. Eddis, Toronto Chess Club.



BLACK.
White to play and mate in three moves.

EVANS GAMBIT.

Played at Weisbaden in December last.

(From the *Chess Monthly*.)

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
Ph. Hirschfeld.	General v. O.	Ph. Hirschfeld.	General v. O.
1. P K 4	P K 4	14. B B 2	P B 3
2. Kt K B 3	Kt Q B 3	15. Kt Kt 3	B B 2
3. B B 4	B B 4	16. Kt Q 4	Q Q 2
4. P Q Kt 4	B x P	17. Kt K 6 (c)	R B 2
5. P B 3	B B 4	18. P B 4	Kt Kt 3
6. Castles	P Q 3	19. Kt B 5	P Kt 4
7. P Q 4	P x P	20. Q Kt 4	B R 3
8. P x P	B Kt 3	21. P K R 4	P Kt 5
9. Kt B 3	Kt R 4	22. P R 5	Kt B 1
10. B Q 3 (a)	Kt K 2	23. K Kt x P (f)	R x Kt
11. P Q 5	Castles	24. B x P (l)	Kt Kt 3
12. B Kt 2	P Q B 4 (b)	25. B x R	and wins.
13. Kt K 2 (c)	P B 5 (d)		

NOTES.

- (a) Leaving to the usual line of play arising out of 9 P Q 5. Rosenthal and Tschigoin favour here 10 B K Kt 5.
- (b) Premature; Black should continue with 12. . . . Kt Kt 3.
- (c) For White may now increase his attack by opening the diagonal of his K B with 13 P K 5.
- (d) Again premature; the Pawn at B 4 prevented the hostile Kts from entering Q 4.
- (e) Whenever in this opening the White Knight unfurls his colours at K 6, Black may prepare to take his down.
- (f) A pretty coup which in connection with White's next move settles the day.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF CANADA.

ASCHER vs. PHILLIPS.

While in Toronto recently Mr. J. G. Ascher, of Montreal, paid a visit to the Toronto Chess Club rooms. At his request Mr. C. W. Phillips, the local champion, though unfit for play, contested a few off-hand games with him, the whole not occupying more than an hour. The score stood Ascher 4, Phillips 1. Elated no doubt by this unusual result, Mr. Ascher had the score published in the *Globe*. To this, however, no objection could have been taken. But the Montreal *Herald* of June 2nd contained an item to the effect that Mr. Ascher having defeated Mr. Phillips, "the champion of Ontario," the Montreal representative was now the "champion of Canada"!!! On this Mr. Phillips wrote to the *Mail* and *Globe* explaining the situation, strongly objecting to the arrogant assumption made on behalf of Mr. Ascher. That gentleman replied June 6th joining issue on several points, and saying he was ready to play a set match at any time.

Now we have drawn attention to this in order to point out several peculiarities of this squabble.

- 1. Mr. Ascher is the champion, not of the Province of Quebec, but of one of the Montreal clubs.
- 2. Mr. Phillips is the champion, not of Ontario, but of the Toronto Chess Club—the strongest club in Canada.
- 3. The Toronto Chess Club was not a member of the Canadian Chess Association at the time of the tourney referred to by Mr. Ascher, and consequently Mr. Phillips could hardly be said to have had an opportunity of meeting Mr. Ascher there.
- 4. Mr. Phillips having challenged Mr. Ascher to a set-match during the month of July next, that gentleman in fairness must either accept or cease making claims to championship honours on the strength of games played at the rate of five to the hour.
- 5. The haziness in which the question of chess supremacy is involved, suggested the following as a practicable expedient: Let the various leading clubs—say the Waverley, Montreal, Quebec, Hamilton and Toronto—each select their strongest player, and let these gentlemen meet at some convenient date during the next four months in a tourney to settle the vexed question of the championship. What say the clubs?

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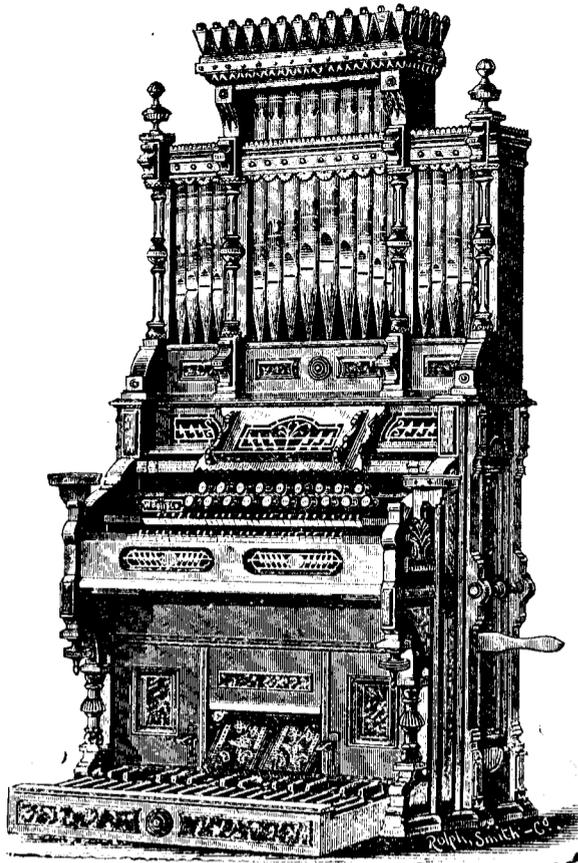
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WHAT IS CATARRH?

From the Mail (Can.) Dec. 15.

Catarrh is a mucous-purulent discharge caused by the presence and development of the vegetable parasite amoeba in the internal lining membrane of the nose. This parasite is only developed under favourable circumstances, and these are:—Morbid state of the blood, as the blighted corpuscle of urebala, the germ poison of syphilis, mercury, toxines, 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 mucous 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,

Messrs. A. H. Dixon & Son, 305 King St. West, Toronto, Canada, and inclose stamp for their treatise on Catarrh.

What the Rev. E. B. Stevenson, B.A., a clergyman of the London Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, has to say in regard to A. H. Dixon & Son's New Treatment for Catarrh.

Oakland, Ont., Canada, March 17, '85.

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I consider that mine was a very bad case; it was aggravated and chronic, involving the throat as well as the nasal passages, and I thought I would require the three treatments, but I feel fully cured by the two sent me, and I am thankful that I was ever induced to send to you.

You are at liberty to use this letter stating that I have been cured at two treatments, and I shall gladly recommend your remedy to some of my friends who are sufferers.

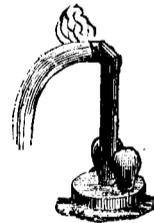
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