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The Week,

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE.

Edited by W. PHILIP ROBINSON.

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

"THE whole policy of Great Britain is opposed to aggressive war; and in any other war the people of Canada will be ready to take their share of the responsibility and the cost"—when Sir John Macdonald said this the war in the Soudan had already commenced, and was therefore covered by the words characterizing British wars as aggressive. It is not upon a distinction of this kind that any practical rule for our conduct on this momentous question can be based. What constitutes an aggressive war? The first blow or the original provocation? Was the Crimean War aggressive? Was the war with the Sepoys? Was the war in Afghanistan, which was commenced by Lord Beaconsfield for the purpose of securing a scientific frontier, and which, like the war in the Soudan, must apparently be held to be covered by the words of Sir John Macdonald? International morality has so far advanced since the days of Sennacherib or Timur that every government at the present time would disavow aggression; and it would be impossible for the Prime Minister of Canada to declare the Imperial Government guilty of that which it disavowed. What war is aggressive, what defensive, it is impossible to determine. Need is the only practical criterion, and at this moment England is apparently in need. But all this is little better than idle talk. Suppose the Mother Country were to be assailed by a manifest aggressor, suppose her to be actually threatened with invasion, what force military or naval would Canada be able to send to her assistance? England has been told that we have an army of forty thousand men, that we have an army of four hundred thousand men, nay that our whole population is organized on a military footing and ready to spring to arms. Lord Dufferin was allowed to transmit a formal offer of ten thousand men, to which nothing corresponded but a scroll of names. On each of these occasions there was a burst of jubilant gratitude from the British Press, and an impulse was given to an ambitious and dangerous policy. Twelve days of drill are nothing, nor would it be worth while for such a consideration to carry a Canadian militiaman across the Atlantic. The reasons for not undertaking to contribute to British wars are perfectly intelligible and it is not surprising

that they should prevail, though the refusal is totally fatal, not only to any formal project of Imperial Federation, but to the theory of a United Empire. Only let us look facts in the face, suit our professions to the facts, and if we cannot give real assistance to the Mother Country at her need, at least abstain from luring her by light promises into a policy which may prove her ruin.

TOBOGGANING by moonlight has been denounced by a priest in Quebec. He does not propose to legislate against tobogganing, and in warning his flock against anything which in his opinion leads to immorality, he is simply doing his clerical duty. The ecclesiastics in Quebec wield the spiritual sword with vigour; they forbid waltzing, and their prohibition is not ineffectual. They keep a tight hand, too, on the theatre. A bishop thunders against Opera Bouffe, calling it the Vestibule of Hell, wherein, perhaps, though his phrase is somewhat Dantesque, he is not very far from the truth. Quebec, like New England a religious colony, has remained a theocracy, while New England has lost that character. A full measure of praise is due to the clergy for their fearless and conscientious efforts to make their congregations moral; nor are they unsuccessful; from immorality of the sensual kind at least the people of Quebec are remarkably free. Yet the result of ecclesiastical discipline administered through the confessional can, at best, hardly be anything but a Paragony. Take these sheep out of the fold in which they are so paternally tended, and they will show but little power of self-control. Even within the fold, if they ever revolt against the crook, their downward course is apt to be as precipitate as that of a toboggan.

MR. CLEVELAND'S career as President has opened happily by the appointment of Mr. Bayard to the Secretaryship of State. Mr. Bayard is not a demagogue, but a patriot, a man of honour and a gentleman. While Foreign Affairs are in his hands we need fear no Ostend Manifestoes, no filibustering or blustering of any kind. He will no doubt uphold the rights and the honour of his country firmly and with dignity, as he would uphold his own; but he will not try to make capital by an overbearing demeanour or insulting language towards foreign governments. Such at least is the promise of his whole career. The United States are the great power of this continent; it would be absurd to ignore their position or to suppose that they will allow the powers of the Old World to interfere with them in the field of their legitimate influence. The idea that the communities of this hemisphere are colonial, that they belong to a grade inferior to that of nations, and are under the patronage and subject to the intermeddling of communities the rank of which is established, has ceased to agree with facts and will have to be finally abandoned. But we may be sure that while his government is treated with respect and justice, Mr. Bayard will treat all other governments in the same spirit. With the Fisheries Question in prospect Canada may think herself fortunate in Mr. Cleveland's first appointment.

THE union of the Conservatives with the Parnellites on the Vote of Censure was not a fortuitous concurrence of atoms: it was a combination for which the more violent of the Conservatives have long been manoeuvring with the connivance of their leaders. A flag has been repeatedly waved to the Parnellites from the Tory benches. Such a coalition, it may safely be said, had not before been seen. That of Fox and North, on which the vials of historic wrath have been poured, was in reality much less profligate. Fox and North had been opposed to each other on the question of the American War, and their opposition had become personal enmity, at least on the side of Fox; for North's lymphatic nature was scarcely capable of animosity: but the American War was over, and personal enmity, however bitter, may always be laid aside without dishonour. At the time of the coalition no question of principle separated the two men. The Parnellites are avowed enemies of the realm; they are in league with a foreign organization which has twice invaded the Queen's dominions; and, as has been already said, they openly sympathize with the Mehti in the war which it is the ostensible object of the Conservatives to prosecute

against him with more vigour. Yet the party of loyalty does not hesitate to accept their aid in overthrowing the Government and clambering into power. Behold, we say once more, the fruits of the Party system. Behold also the benefits of aristocracy. See whether unearned distinctions of rank, entailed estates and privileged idleness beget in men a higher sense of public honour. Lord Salisbury has half a million of dollars a year, and he is the type of patrician pride. Would an honest mechanic, when his country was in peril, behave as the Marquis has behaved? Could such intensity of ignoble selfishness be bred in one who had undergone the wholesome training of equality? Aristocracy may have had its uses in the Dark Ages; it has now become utterly worthless to humanity. The world must learn to look elsewhere for a high standard and Conservative influences. A third lesson is taught by the conduct of the Irish. Mr. Gladstone has immolated himself to the Irish cause. By nothing which he has done has he more incurred the hatred of the Tories. Not only has he given Ireland religious equality; not only has he passed the Land Act and its supplements; but by his persistent adherence to the language as well as the policy of conciliation he has brought upon himself the suspicion of being unfaithful to the Union. His rewards are torrents of savage and venomous abuse, unvaried by the slightest expression of gratitude, daily threats of assassination, and now, for the second time, an attempt to overthrow his Government by supporting in a vote of censure the Tories, the ancient enemies of Ireland. It is hardly necessary to point the moral.

It would have been sheer treason on the part of Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues to allow the Government to be overthrown by the motley, discordant, and unprincipled combination which formed the large minority on the vote of censure. This was just one of the occasions on which, if the Government feels any doubt about its own moral position, after a division on a special question, its obvious course is to challenge a direct vote of want of confidence, which in the present instance neither anti-Chamberlain Whigs, nor disaffected Radicals, would venture to support. It is doubtful whether even the Parnellites would continue to vote against the Government when the immediate consequence of their vote would be to transfer power to Tory hands, since they must know well that when the Tories, by their help, were once surely installed, the result to the Irish cause would soon be a whiff of grape-shot. Ministers owe it to their honour to resign at once when national opinion has fairly declared itself against them; but they owe it to the public interest to hold their ground against any mere cabal or fortuitous concourse of political atoms: anything like stability in government under the Parliamentary system would otherwise be out of the question. Different sections of the Opposition in this case were diametrically opposed in opinion to each other on the very question at issue, some being, or professing to be, for a more vigorous prosecution of the war, others being against the war altogether; while the Parnellites take no pains to conceal their sympathy with the Mehdi. Another class of malcontents, represented probably by Mr. Goschen, and consisting of holders of Egyptian bonds, was acting in its own commercial interest, and not on national grounds at all. Nor would an independent and patriotic citizen, however bent on the prosecution of the war, have any practical motive for desiring a change of government at this time. Sir Stafford Northcote affects a burning desire to smash the Mehdi, though if the Mehdi could only see Sir Stafford and hear him speak, he might be disposed to thank Allah for not having suffered the unbelievers to provide themselves with a more formidable sledgehammer. But Lord Hartington is also determined to smash the Mehdi, if he can, and he is likely to be a far better war minister than anybody on the other side. The fall of the Government would not have undone what Egyptian treachery had done at Khartoum, while it would have caused a dangerous break in the military operations and probably have put heart into the enemy, who would have regarded it as a confession of defeat. The state of Mr. Gladstone's health and the pressure on his aged frame of a fearful burden of care, aggravated by incessant vexation and insult, as well as by the threats of Irish assassins, could alone render the decision doubtful. But, as was said before, London opinion is not that of England, and from the country at large Mr. Gladstone probably receives assurances of support and sympathy which sustain his spirit against the conspiracies and invectives of enemies immediately around him.

THE Report of Sir Leonard Tilley's Budget Speech reaches us too late for critical examination in detail, and it is only examination in detail that the speech invites. It is deficient, as Sir Leonard's Budget Speeches are apt to be, in breadth; it evinces conscientious industry, but it gives no general view of the situation or of the policy of the Government. "National

Policy" means nothing. Every policy adopted by a National Government, is National. Sir Leonard Tilley's policy is Protectionist: this he now plainly avows, though he and his chief have advanced very gradually to the avowal. But what is his theory of Protection? What special industries are to be protected, and for what particular reasons? Why is the manufacture of cotton, for instance, to be forced into existence in a Province which has no coal? What does the community gain by the artificial diversion of capital from other lines of production into this? Again, if importation is stopped, and it is the object of protection to stop it, what is to become of the import duties? How is revenue to be raised. Sir Leonard complacently ascribes to his Protection policy the effects of a series of good harvests, and those of the reduction of the rate of interest throughout the commercial world caused by the temporary deficiency of lucrative investments. In comparing our financial position with that of the United States he leaves out of sight the facts that the United States set out with an enormous debt which is being rapidly reduced, while ours is being as rapidly increased. But more of this hereafter. In the meantime Sir Leonard Tilley's surplus is gone. Next year he will, in all probability, have to announce a deficit, and then perforce, will have to give us a clear estimate of the situation.

It is announced that the Prince of Wales intends to visit Ireland, taking his consort with him. The step is right; but it comes too late; it will have lost its spontaneity and grace; its political motive will be too apparent. Moreover the Prince of Wales is not the Queen. Most calamitous, as well as most inexcusable, has been the obstinate neglect by the Court of its gracious duty towards the Irish people. Political grievances since the abolition of the State Church, and the establishment of religious equality, Ireland has had none. If there are defects in the machinery of local self-government, they have their counterparts in England, and for both countries alike Parliament has shown itself perfectly ready to pass measures of reform. In the absence of sedition, which entails the necessity of exceptional safeguards for order, the laws and their administration are exactly the same upon both sides of the channel. The Irish Land Law is pronounced by Mr. George, who on this point is a competent authority, more favourable to the tenant than the English. But there is one thing of which the Irish people have too much reason to complain: they have been treated with cold and insulting neglect by Royalty. They have never seen the Sovereign for whom their allegiance has been claimed; a void has been left in the political imagination of a people with whom imagination is not less powerful than reason; the throne of the Irish heart, abdicated by its rightful possessor, has been abandoned to the usurping demagogue. When the Queen did visit Ireland she was received with an enthusiasm which showed how much good it was her power to do, and at the same time strewed with roses the not very arduous path of royal duty. But she has turned a deaf ear to all entreaty, and to give her honest counsel on this subject has been an offence. Nor has any tangible excuse been advanced by her defenders. It would have an excellent effect if Parliament itself, which after all is now the real sovereign, would hold one or two short sessions at Dublin, for the special consideration of Irish questions, and thus fulfil in a way little desired by the agitator the agitator's promise of a Parliament in College Green.

IN spite of all the industrial depression and distress in England, it turns out that there has been a remarkable diminution of crime. The judges dwell upon the fact as well as the statisticians. This improvement has taken place not only without Prohibition, but in the midst of a general indulgence in drink to which happily we have nothing parallel here. The certain inference is that crime may be reduced by agencies other than prohibitory laws. The probable inference is that though drink is very often the parent of crimes of the more violent kind, the connection between drink and crime generally is less close than Prohibitionists assert. That illiteracy was the source of all crime was once asserted just as broadly, and as plausibly sustained with statistics, by the advocates of popular education. There was a limited amount of truth in that belief; that there was only a limited amount is too clearly proved by the continuance of crime notwithstanding the extension of popular education. It is not the use of beer or wine that leads to crime; the man who has taken his regular glass of either with his meal is no more inclined to crime than he is to suicide. That which leads to crime is drunkenness; of drunkenness the low whiskey saloon is the scene; and the practical effect of such legislation as the Scott Act, as history has repeatedly shown, is to preserve and multiply the low whiskey saloons while it destroys the respectable trade.

GORDON, since his tragic death, has been not only a hero, but a saint and a martyr. Opposition writers in England extol him to enhance the guilt of the Government, and Government writers extol him that they may not be left behind by the Opposition. To form a true idea of him we must carry our minds back a few months. Like all men who have combined religious enthusiasm with practical capacity and energy, Gordon has been compared to Cromwell. The parallel is essentially imperfect. Cromwell was an enthusiast; perhaps in some passages of his life he may be said to have merited the name of fanatic; but he laboured under no hallucination. His religion was no crazy figment of his own brain; it was simply the Puritanism of his day; it was common to him with a man so eminently sound in mind as Hampden. Nor, while he believed, like all around him, in special Providence, did he fancy that he had special revelation about himself. But Gordon had composed for himself a religion which was not the less fantastic because it was eclectic, and it appears that he did believe himself to have special revelations respecting his mission and the safety of his life. He threw himself into Khartoum in reliance on supernatural, or at least mysterious, powers such as no human being ever really possessed, and the result was a fatal disenchantment. Perhaps Gordon was unfortunate in being pitted against an antagonist whose talisman was of the same kind as his own. It is scarcely possible to doubt that with his genius and heroism there mingled a strain of madness. Yet he was one and not the least memorable of the English adventurers whose line, commencing with the heroes of the Elizabethan age, was represented in the last generation by Rajah Brooke, and to whom their country owes not a little of her imperial renown, while their characters, though not always free from a taint of the buccaneer, have on the whole presented a happy contrast to those of gold-seeking pirates and butchers like Cortés and Pizarro. A career of restless enterprise has found a sad close; a bright though wandering star has been swallowed up in night. Gordon would have made an excellent ruler of Egypt. To talk of bestowing a Constitution on the Egyptian peasant, who has not the most rudimentary notions of self-government, is preposterous: all that can be done for him is to give him, in place of the cruel and corrupt tyranny beneath which he has immemorably groaned, a just and beneficent despot, which Gordon would unquestionably have been.

AN American journal announces that there is a growing disinclination among women to marry which it says is not flattering to the characters of the men. It certainly is not flattering to the good sense of the men of the United States, who have done all in their power to pervert the ideas and aspirations of their women, and have been so successful that their race is now seriously threatened with decay. Our contemporary alleges the cause to be that women are growing more critical as to the measure of a man, and it unctuously warns the men that they must come up to a higher standard in order to merit female approbation. This is the sort of cant which is being continually uttered, and, passing for sage and lofty sentiment, blinds the eyes of many to some of the most serious social phenomena of the day. The motive of the American woman for declining marriage and her motive, when married, for avoiding maternity are the same: she dislikes care and loves her ease. That she refuses the men because they do not come up to her ideal is a gallant figment; the American man is at least as worthy of his partner as she is of him, nor does any higher ideal exist in her mind than in his. That the men will by some leadlift effort of self-improvement struggle all at once to rise to a higher standard is what nobody in his senses expects. But they will retain the passion which nature has implanted in them in order to induce them to bear the burden of supporting a wife and family, and if debarred from marriage they will fall into license. This is what has happened before, and in spite of visionary philanthropy it will happen again.

MILTON as a prose writer is rendered almost hopelessly unpopular by his ultra-classical style. Yet in all the works of this man, who united more perhaps than any other man ever did the greatness of the citizen with the greatness of the poet, are things which ought never to be let die. Thanks are due therefore to Messrs. Appleton for including in their "Parchment Series" a well-chosen set of selections from Milton's prose works with a graceful and philosophic preface by Mr. Myers. Milton's grand characteristic is his noble faith in liberty. This it is which makes a renewal of our intimacy with him most salutary at a time when faith in liberty is waxing cold, and many men in their impatience of imperfections and delays are inclined to subject themselves again to paternal despotism under new names and forms. "Were I the chooser," says the author of the *Areopagitica*, "a dram of well-doing should be preferred before many times as much the forcible hindrance of evil doing; for sure God esteems the growth and completing of one virtuous person more than the restraint of

ten vicious." "How great a virtue," he exclaims in another place, "is temperance, how much of moment through the whole life of man! Yet God commits the managing so great a trust, without particular law or prescription, wholly to the demeanour of every grown man; and therefore when he himself tabled the Jews from heaven, that omer, which was every man's daily portion of manna, is computed to have been more than might have well sufficed the heartiest feeder thrice as many meals. For those actions which enter into a man rather than issue out of him, and therefore defile not, God uses not to captivate under a perpetual childhood of prescription, but trusts him with the gift of reason to be his own chooser; there were but little work left for preaching, if law and compulsion should grow so fast upon those things which heretofore were governed only by exhortation." So far, at all events, Liberty has been justified of her children. Where there has been most Liberty there has on the whole been most Virtue, and Virtue of the most enduring kind.

THE DETHRONEMENT OF ENGLAND.

IN one thing at all events our generation surpasses all that have gone before it. Never was there such a coining of phrases. "The Dethronement of England" is the last that has issued from the mint; and whether England is "dethroned" or not is likely to be for some time to come the great question. It might be supposed that some sudden catastrophe had happened and given birth to the need of a new and portentous name. The New-Jingoes, Expansionists, or whatever they call themselves, have been proclaiming their intention of turning all the seas into "waterstreets of the British Venice." Now, finding that something does not go in accordance with their aggressive theories, they proclaim the Dethronement of England. When people are living in a state of political hallucination extravagantly ambitious fancies are naturally succeeded by groundless depression, and a commonplace occurrence is taken for the crack of doom.

The wars which had their origin in the French Revolution ruined all the navies of England's rivals except that of Russia, which was then not of great importance. The navy of Holland met its doom at Camperdown, those of France and Spain together at Trafalgar, that of Denmark at Copenhagen. This was mainly due to the unequalled qualities of the British seaman, but partly also to the disorganization which the Revolution had produced in the naval service of France, and which could not, like the disorganization in the army, be repaired by the enthusiasm of revolutionary columns. With the force which had protected it, the mercantile marine of each nation also perished, and the supply of seamen was consequently cut off. Thus England was left the only maritime power, and sole mistress of the seas. She was also left the only colonizing power, since during her naval ascendancy the colonies and dependancies of the nations which were hostile to her, or which were dragged in the train of Napoleon, had successively fallen into her hands; nor could those nations aspire to the acquisition of new dependencies before their power at sea had been restored. Navies, military or mercantile, are not created in a day. This proud monopoly survived for some time the state of things which had given it birth. But it could not last for ever: it is now gradually departing: the navies of England's rivals have been rebuilt, their race of seamen has been renewed; she is still the greatest, by far the greatest, of maritime powers; but mistress of the seas she is no more. The conditions of naval warfare, moreover, have been altered to her disadvantage since the days of Duncan and Nelson; for, while few pretend to foresee what would happen in a great sea-fight, at the present day it is certain that more would depend on machinery and less on men. As it is with regard to the dominion of the sea, so it is with regard to the exclusive privilege of colonization: it can no longer be maintained, and it had better be frankly renounced. Other nations must be allowed to take their share of the void places of the earth and to find receptacles for their surplus population. Partnership must succeed to monopoly. Nor is there anything hard or disgraceful in the necessity. The Germans, especially, are a kindred and friendly race who will make the best of neighbours, and may not improbably, by blending with the British Colonies on which they border, ultimately swell the numbers and extend the realm of the English-speaking peoples. Instead of denouncing Lord Granville for failing to take Germany by the throat, it would be more reasonable to blame him for not having at once frankly taken her by the hand.

A great military power, we all know, England never was or pretended to be, though the quality of the British soldier has been displayed on many a glorious field and not least on the fields where he has last fought. The armies led to victory by Marlborough were the armies of a coalition, and almost the same may be said of that led by Wellington at Waterloo. Compared with the military force of Germany, France or Russia that of

England is diminutive, nor has she, nor would her industrial and democratic masses endure, the system of conscription which in time of war raises the German muster roll to millions. While her legions are by far the fewest, her position, with all her scattered colonies and dependencies, is even more decidedly the weakest. The strip of sea has hitherto stood her instead of a large army; to a certain extent it does so still; but the conditions of warfare are altered and an invasion of England, though its impracticability has often been demonstrated by the strategists of the pen, is understood not to be deemed so impracticable by the strategists of the sword. A commerce of which the sails are on every sea is on every sea liable to attack; and a mere apprehension of war is enough to cause serious loss. Of the British population a part is still warlike: the volunteer movement is the proof; but the artisans, especially the factory hands, are as devoid as possible of the martial spirit; their main objects are those of the Trade Union, and their general ideas and sentiments are cosmopolitan rather than national. Every war, as they well know, would close one market at least against their labour. It is very doubtful whether they would bear the stress of a long struggle. Wealth, which is the sinews of war, England has in fabulous abundance. But how is it invested? Five hundred millions sterling at least are believed to be invested in foreign stocks; how much is invested in foreign enterprises is unknown. Russia paid her English creditors throughout the war; but other governments might not prove so honourable as that of the Czar; and destroying the assets of your debtor, at all events, is not profitable work. The investments in India and the colonies are also immense, and they would all be placed more or less in jeopardy by war. Should the trade of England decline, and her earnings diminish, her anxiety respecting her investments will increase, and she will more than ever shrink from courses which may lead to war.

Traditional belief in the irresistible power of England naturally survives the fact. But those who would have her shape her policy not by the fact but by the tradition only lure her to disaster and disgrace. They talk to her in mystical phrase of her divine mission. Providence, it has been said, is on the side of the biggest battalions; and the divinity of a mission in a world where competing missions are numerous and all are equally rapacious must be tested by the number and the calibre of its cannon. Positively the strength of England has not declined, but grown greater; relatively it has declined, and may decline still more; at least the dangers and liabilities which deter her from a warlike policy may increase, and that domineering arrogance, the indulgence of which to some seems identical with greatness, may be more and more banished from her councils. She has not been dethroned; but she has gradually descended from an exceptional and accidental elevation. As the parent of nations, and as the source of their political and intellectual life, she occupies a throne from which she can never be deposed, wears a crown which fate can never take from her brow, and is mistress of a dominion on which the star of Empire, however far west it may tend, will never cease to shed its ray.

PROVINCIAL DEMANDS ON THE FEDERAL TREASURY.

WHETHER the financial arrangement between the Provinces and the Dominion was the best that could have been made may be open to doubt; but it is now evident that a grave mistake was made in opening the way to continuous disturbance of the settlement. The concessions which have since been made to the Provinces under the name of "Better Terms" instead of being a cure have proved a running fester. Each time the balance is disturbed half-a-dozen readjustments are made necessary. One successful demand for an increase of subsidy gives rise to half-a-dozen more, and as long as the Provinces can supply themselves with revenue with no more trouble than is involved in the asking they will not incur the odium of resorting to direct taxes. They blind themselves to the fact that when they want more revenue some one must take the responsibility of raising it in some form or other, that it can only be raised by increasing old or inventing new taxes. Everything else the Provinces are jealous in guarding the right to do for themselves; and complaints are constantly made, sometimes with and sometimes without reason, that their local prerogatives are being encroached upon by the Dominion. But the right of levying the taxes necessary for local purposes in the most equitable and least inconvenient way they are willing to surrender. In asking for increased subsidies they in effect call upon the Dominion to give increased activity to those powers of taxation which they themselves voluntarily leave in abeyance. If the Dominion assumes the obligation of raising additional taxes for local purposes it must have the right of deciding upon the form of the taxes and the mode of collecting them. This power may be exercised to the detriment of individual Provinces, and in opposition to

the principles on which they think taxation ought to be based. This voluntary transfer of the local taxing-power to the central authority deprives the Provinces of a weapon of self-protection and places a weapon of offence in the hands of the Dominion. The danger is increased by the existence of a tendency on the part of the central authority to set up an exaggerated form of Protection; but the Provinces in parting with their power of raising their own revenue in their own way at the same time give up the right of criticism and objection. A province whose interests and preferences are in favour of a revenue tariff, having by a surrender of its taxing power licensed Protectionism, has no right to complain when the screw is put on; in parting with its shield of self-protection it voluntarily placed its interests at the mercy of the authority at whose hands it had shown its readiness to accept the dole.

What are the motives which prompt to this effeminate and unsolicited surrender? Moral cowardice and a love of ease are the chief ingredients. Direct taxes are unpopular; but in this respect they are not singular, for taxes in all forms are in themselves objectionable. The unpopularity of the tax is only a question of degree, and direct taxes are often the most economical in collection and take less from the taxpayer in proportion to what they put into the public treasury than indirect taxes. The difference is often very great; an indirect tax sometimes takes from the taxpayer twice as much as it puts into the public treasury, especially when it is not levied solely as a means of raising revenue, while a direct tax adds nothing to the net amount beyond the cost of collection. The effect of the Provinces inducing the Federal Legislature to find ways and means to defray the expense of local administration is greatly to add to their burthens. It is safe to say that, with a tariff already highly protective, any addition to the indirect taxes levied by the Dominion will cost at least fifty per cent. more to collect than the direct taxes which the Provinces might levy for themselves. This consideration ought to induce the Provinces to perform for themselves a duty which they are so anxious to throw on the Federal authorities. In refusing to undertake this duty the Local Legislatures inexcusably sacrifice the interests of their constituents. And for what? That they may escape the criticism which their fiscal measures would undergo, that they may enjoy immunity from the necessity of raising their own revenue, and that they may be free to condemn the Federal Legislature for an increase of the taxes which compliance with their demand upon it made necessary.

When the Provinces entered into the present Union they were aware that the luxury of a Federal Government could not be enjoyed without some sacrifice. For that cost they provided by surrendering the customs and excise duties. But in doing so, they stipulated for annual subsidies to be paid out of the Dominion treasury. These subsidies, it was understood, would not necessarily be sufficient for all their local wants; and they were left at liberty to supplement them by direct taxes, to no particular form of which were they restricted. Such of the Provinces as had been placed in possession of the Crown Lands within their limits retained them for their own exclusive use. Out of these sources of revenue Ontario was at first able to make large annual savings, which, by capitalization, were converted into an earning power. Other Provinces, less frugal or less fortunate, ran heavily into debt, and as a means of escape from the consequences of their own improvidence called on the Dominion for help. The defenders of the Dominion treasury, weakly yielding to the importunity, created the impression that to ask was to receive, and ever since Province after Province has been asking with all the lung power it could command. There was nothing in these demands which should have entitled them to succeed. To the complaint of the Provinces that they were short of revenue, the proper reply would have been that there was a choice of two remedies, economy in the expenditure or an exercise of their constitutional power of adding to their ways and means; that it was the duty of the Provinces, not of the Dominion, to find the means of making up the deficiency. Interest, as we have seen, and duty coincided.

All arguments in favour of an increase of the subsidies, whatever their form, are pleas intended to justify a breach of the constitutional compact in virtue of which Confederation exists. The only thing that could have been urged in favour of invalidating the treaty between the Provinces was the fact that Nova Scotia was not at first a consenting party. But she afterwards accepted the terms of the Union and obtained some modification in her own favour. The chief of the Anti-Confederationists advised his followers to give up a contest which repeated defeats had shown to be hopeless, and he himself accepted office in the Dominion Government. There are absolutely no grounds for departing from the fiscal conditions of the treaty the reasons for maintaining the stability of which are as strong as any that can be brought in defence of its other provisions. Under every form of Government—when the Provinces of Upper and

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Lower Canada were separate, under the Legislative Union, not less than at present—there has always been a question of money. Till the year 1841 the contest between the Provinces was over the equitable division of the customs revenues collected in the Lower Province on goods consumed in both Provinces. Under the Union the complaint was constantly made that Upper Canada was unduly taxed for the benefit of her partner. The disputes which arose over the relative contributions to the revenue and its disposal had much to do in bringing about the Legislative dead-lock in which Confederation originated. The authors of Confederation, on whose minds this fact had made a deep impression, must have intended to settle the financial part of the agreement on an enduring basis. The most frivolous arguments are now used for the purpose of breaking up an arrangement which safety and honour require to be held sacred. The mere statement that a Province has not enough revenue for its needs is sometimes urged why the subsidy should be increased, though it is really no more than a reason why the inactive revenue resources of the Province should be set in motion. Mere impecuniosity no more gives a Province a right to an increase of subsidy than it would authorize a municipality or even an individual or a private firm to draw upon the Federal treasury. The honour of the parties to the compact is as much engaged to observe the terms of this as any other treaty, and repudiation of the obligation is not the less discreditable. When the Federal Government agrees to a breach of the compact, in favour of one claimant, it gives the other partners a claim to compensation which cannot in justice be refused.

The claim made by Manitoba to the public lands of the Dominion within that Province cannot even be stated without a gross misuse of language. If I call my neighbour's property mine, his right or title is not thereby invalidated. The United States purchased Louisiana from France; the Dominion purchased the North-West Territory, including Manitoba, from the Hudson's Bay Company, whose proprietary rights were unassailable. The ungranted public lands of Louisiana became the property of the United States; those of Manitoba and the North-West became the property of the Dominion. Nor were the rights of the original owners of the soil confiscated; they, too—a second purchase—were secured by treaty and paid for. The Indians cannot, as those of Mexico did during the Revolution in which the yoke of Spain was thrown off, claim the lands as theirs. A third party, the half-breeds of Red River, received compensation in the form of individual grants of land. After this triple payment it sounds strange to hear Manitoba claiming the land as theirs by some indefinite right which it would be impossible to state and which no court in the world would recognize. Similar claims were at one time made by some of the new States of the American Union to the public lands within their borders; but Congress met them with an unequivocal refusal. Precedent, as well as law and right, are here on the side of the Dominion. I do not say that Manitoba has no grievances, or that either that Province or the North-West can be governed in a spirit of centralization by the power enthroned at Ottawa, as if it were a dependency, instead of an integral part of the Union—in this direction the impossible has been too long tried—but the claim of Manitoba to the public lands of the Dominion is one that can never be made good.

THORPE MABLE.

THE MYSTERY OF ANNE BOLEYN.

THE history of Henry VIII. has often been treated in a partisan spirit because he has been supposed to belong to Protestantism. But Protestantism has no part in him, his acts or his ministers. Between the decline of Mediaeval Catholicism and the rise of Protestantism there came a dark interregnum at once of faith and morality of which the Borgias were the most characteristic figures and Machiavelli was the political prophet. This interregnum extended in England, so far as the ruling classes were concerned, from the beginning of the Wars of the Roses to the rise of Puritanism under Elizabeth. In the Wars of the Roses Tiptoft, nicknamed the "Butcher," the literary and sanguinary Earl of Worcester, reminds us of the union of culture with wickedness in the Italy of the same period. To this epoch belongs Henry with all the ministers of his just, rapacity, and cruelty, and with the mysteries of iniquity in which his reign abounds. The darkest of those mysteries is investigated, with German industry and judicial impartiality, in Mr. Paul Friedmann's "Anne Boleyn."* Stripped of the fictitious virtues and grandeur with which he has been invested by fabling imitators of Carlyle's Hero-worship, Henry VIII. here appears as he was, one of the vilest of tyrants and of men; highly educated for a prince, and not devoid of talent, but absolutely selfish,

inflated with the most ridiculous self-conceit, the dupe of all who would play upon it, infamously licentious, and the very prince of liars, since, as Mr. Friedmann says, he lied not only like other disciples of Machiavelli, to his diplomatic opponents and the world in general, but to his own ministers, and even to himself. Of his courage and fortitude, though they are vaunted by his advocates, there is in reality no trace: though he loved military parade he never looked on the face of war; and in time of pestilence he showed the most abject fear of death. Moral courage he lacked as well as physical, and he seems to have been always the slave of some controlling influence. Absolutely destitute himself of generous sentiment and disinterestedness, when he happened to encounter them, he could not believe in their existence. In brutality he may be said to be almost without a peer. When Catherine, who had been the truest of wives to him, died, he appeared in the gayest of attire, and by celebrating a succession of jousts and balls, which made his palace ring with gaiety, he shocked even the callous hearts of that vile court. In the same way, when Anne Boleyn was lying under sentence of death, feasts and banquets followed one another in rapid succession, and the dwellers on the banks of the Thames were often roused from their sleep by the music which attended the king's return from his night of revelry. Of his utter hypocrisy in the matter of the divorce there can be no shadow of doubt; his real motives were the love of Anne Boleyn, whom he, with his usual indecency, installed as his destined wife in the face of his rightful queen, and desire of a male heir. His letters to Anne Boleyn are enough in themselves to unmask him, as well as to show the foulness of his lust, and are judiciously suppressed by Mr. Froude. It is morally certain that Anne's sister, Mary, had been his mistress; of this proof is stamped both upon the draft of a Papal dispensation and upon an Act of Parliament; and if, as there is good reason to surmise, the ground of his divorce from Anne Boleyn, which Cranmer pronounced in private, was the incestuous character of his marriage with the sister of his mistress, the picture of hypocritical villainy is complete. Of the majestic Lord who broke the bonds of Rome nothing remains but his corporeal bulk and the grandiose character which always attaches to a despot's crimes. Henry's only excuse is the morality of his age. Marriage was a sacrament, and a divorce in our sense of the term could not then be obtained; but a declaration of nullity of marriage could be bought in the corrupt courts of the Church with a facility which totally subverted the sanctity of marriage. The Duke of Suffolk twice committed bigamy and was three times divorced, began by marrying his aunt and ended by marrying his daughter-in-law; and this, says Mr. Friedmann, was by no means an extraordinary case. The Pope was withheld from granting Henry's petition by regard for the political interests of his Church, which he rightly considered to be bound up with those of the Empire. But he was willing at one time to license the king to commit bigamy, if Catherine could have been persuaded to go into a convent.

Anne Boleyn was murdered. She had failed to bear Henry a son, his lust was sated and his affections, if the term can be applied to anything so bestial, had been fixed upon Jane Seymour. He had already been carrying on flirtations with two other ladies of the court since his marriage with Anne. The arch-villain Cromwell was ready without the slightest compunction to serve the tyrant's lust; probably was all the more ready because he had been Anne's friend and supporter; and it suited his general policy that she should fall. By his infernal skill, and with the help of his all-pervading espionage, the toils were set and at last closed upon his fluttering victim. The hideous indictment which accused the young wife of having repeatedly committed adultery with Henry Noreys, William Bryerton, Sir Francis Weston and Mark Smeton, and of having been repeatedly guilty of incest with her brother, Lord Rochford, had no other foundation in fact than freedom of manners and light words reported by Cromwell's spies. The indictment wound up with an allegation that the treasonable behaviour of the accused, by the sorrow with which it had fill the royal heart, had endangered the life of the king—the king who all the time was rioting in indecent revelry. The treason courts were in those days, as Hallam says, little better than caverns of murderers. A servile and intimidated jury registered the doom which a despotic government had pronounced. The commonest forms of justice were disregarded. Not a tittle of evidence was produced except the confession of Smeton, which had been extorted by fear of the rack. If the rest of the accused did not assert their innocence on the scaffold this, as Mr. Friedmann with justice says, affords no proof of their guilt. The condemned were permitted to speak only if they promised to say nothing against the king or their sentence; and up to the last moment the Crown retained a hold, inasmuch as it could change beheading into hanging, drawing and quartering, or make the family smart for the impertinence of the prisoner. Scarcely any of Henry's victims, Mr. Friedmann says, dared to maintain their innocence. It may be added that all tongues, even those of men doomed to die, were

* "Anne Boleyn. A Chapter in English History 1527-1536." By Paul Friedmann. London: Macmillan and Company.

tied by the general terror. Mr. Friedmann might have cited as a parallel the case of Michael Orombelli, who having been tortured by the tyrant Duke of Milan into a confession of adultery with the duchess, of whom the duke had resolved to rid himself, persisted upon the scaffold in his confession, although it was unquestionably false.

Anne, with her alleged paramours, was murdered; murder is foul; judicial murder is the foulest of all; and the judicial murder by a king of a young wife transcends in foulness other judicial murders. Yet Anne, perhaps, deserved her fate. If she was not an adulteress or guilty of incest she was unchaste; though her cunning held out long she became the King's mistress before she became his wife; her marriage with him was stamped with dishonour; she can hardly have been ignorant of the connection between him and her sister; she did not scruple, when her own influence declined, to throw another woman into his arms. Her conduct in allowing herself to be openly installed as Catherine's rival was infamous; for we cannot hold her innocent, though we may throw the greater part of the blame upon the King. It is to be feared that she pressed the execution of Fisher and More: at that time her influence was paramount with Henry. The shadow of even a greater crime rests upon her. The facts set forth by Mr. Friedmann induce a suspicion that Catharine was murdered by poison administered in small doses, after the method approved by the adepts of that age, who thus made death appear the consequence not of the poison but of disease; and if the suspicion is well founded, it would be difficult to clear Anne's memory of complicity in the crime. Nevertheless pity prevails when we mark the cloud coming over the brief sunshine of the young girl's guilty greatness; when we see her growing conscious of her deadly peril, striving desperately to regain the lost heart of the King, labouring to persuade him and herself that she would still give him a male heir, disappointed of that last hope by a miscarriage caused by the effect of her mental anguish upon her health, looking round in vain for help in that den of ruthless iniquity, at last entangled in the web of treachery, and then villainously butchered. Elizabeth, with her usual heartlessness, showed, as Mr. Friedmann observes, not the slightest regard for her mother's memory, but she inherited her mother's selfishness, immodesty and untruthfulness. She was her true offspring in a still worse sense if the suspicion respecting the death of Catherine is well founded. For there is little doubt that Elizabeth was at least an accomplice after the fact in the murder of Amy Robsart; and there is still less doubt that it was with her approbation that her secretaries wrote their letter instigating Sir Amyas Poulet to assassinate Mary Queen of Scots. The influence both of Henry and his daughter on ecclesiastical polity was unhappily great; but religion has nothing to do with either of them, or with any of their works.

Mr. Friedmann's book is merely a monograph on a large scale; indeed some portions of even his limited subject are treated with less fulness than we could desire, while on others he dilates perhaps rather too much. It is a pity that he or some other accurate and veracious writer does not give us a history of the reign of Henry VIII. Mr. Froude's work is a romance written under the influence of Carlyle's theory of Hero-worship, and having Henry VIII. for its hero. From the impassioned and almost feminine enthusiasm of Henry's worshipper, the memories of his victims receive about the same measure of justice which the victims themselves received from Tudor Parliaments and courts of law. In his treatment of the Catholic martyrs, especially More, and of Pole, literary artifice of every kind is combined with unfair handling of evidence, and the injustice is rendered more repulsive to those who examine his work closely by effusions of unctuous sympathy with the injured. A more untrustworthy writer than Mr. Froude, it may safely be said, never profaned the calling of a historian. The character of his work has been repeatedly exposed by various critics in different departments of the subject; but the criticisms are scattered over reviews, special treatises and foot-notes; people do not read or having read forget them; and Mr. Froude's fiction, being a composition of great literary beauty, and having no continuous narrative to compete with it, holds its ground and fills the minds of uncritical readers with falsehood. A trustworthy history of the period is greatly to be desired.

ART EXHIBITIONS IN TORONTO.

In the Loan Exhibition held at the Art Gallery on King Street, the two pictures sent by Mrs. Alexander Cameron are the chief attractions. The gratitude of all who are interested in Canadian Art is due to this lady for bringing two costly works of first-class artists to a city in which paintings of any pretensions are unfortunately rare. "On Furlough" by Defregger will be allowed by all to be a very pleasing as well as a very skilful picture. The simple story is well told, and every figure in the group repays

close inspection. It would require some time, and perhaps a colloquy with the artist, to reconcile us to the conception of the "St. Cecilia," which is startlingly novel, or to satisfy us with the drawing of the figure, the lower part of which seems to lack form. The name of Gabriel Max however is great. There are several other pictures in the exhibition which afford pleasure to the general public and instruction to the student. "The Inn Yard at Givet" is a charming picture of quiet life, in a tone as quiet, and the sunlit sky over the roof on the left is exquisite. "Windfalls" appears to an artist's eye a skilful treatment of the general effect, which alone is attainable by art, of long grass seen close at hand. The group of sheep with expectant looks, entitled "Somebody Coming," is capital. In "Souvenir du Morvan," "The Moselle" and "Bords de la Marne," we enjoy the tranquil pleasure produced by the faultless harmony of French landscape-painting. "At Porquy" is a village scene in which the same French perfection of quiet treatment appears. "Ostend" on the other hand challenges admiration as a *tour de force*. "In Sweden" by Lindstrom is a good piece of work, especially as regards the trees and sky to the left. The small Salvator Rosa "On the Coast of Calabria" shows how romance was imparted to landscape in the days before the poetry of nature was understood. The portrait of Mr. Stuart, of Hamilton, by Oules, is a specimen of one of the best, perhaps the very best, of our portrait painters. "Base-ball Players" is a clever thing. Nothing can be more helpful to art than these Loan Exhibitions, and we are much indebted both to those who organize them and to those who contribute.

Mr. O'BRIEN affords his friends a great pleasure by allowing them to visit his studio every Saturday afternoon. Of whatever beauty and poetry there is in Canadian scenery he has made himself the master, and the best key to a full appreciation of it will be found in the study of his drawings. If there is not more—if our lakes have flat shores; if we have not as yet, in addition to the beauty of wildness, that of cultivation and finish; if our cities, villages and churches are not ancient and picturesque—the defect is in the subject, not in the painter. Mr. O'Brien's "Windsor Castle" proves that he could find the power of treatment, if we could find him the theme. To the drawings of the scenery on the St. Maurice, which are the present attraction of his studio, an agreeable introduction will be found in Mr. Pollock's article in *Macmillan*, "A Canadian Holiday." Mr. Pollock only skimmed Canada generally, but he formed a closer acquaintance with the St. Maurice, and has succeeded in making his readers share his enjoyment.

SCIENTIFIC JOTTINGS

THE British Association at its late meetings instructed its Council to call the attention of the Canadian Government to the dangers arising from the absence of trustworthy information concerning the tides of the Gulf and adjoining Atlantic coast, and to urge the expediency of establishing stations where accurate and systematic observations might be obtained for tabulation and reduction by the scientific methods of the Association. This action, so far as the Association is concerned, is merely a continuation of its investigations of Tidal motion carried on in various parts of the world for many years past under a standing committee, but relatively to the commerce of the Dominion is an important advance, as many wrecks are annually attributed to mistakes in judging the strength of the tidal currents. The project is being warmly supported by the Montreal Board of Trade and the Canadian Royal Society. A meeting of the Canadian Committee, of which Professor Johnson of McGill is Secretary, has been held, and it is hoped that vigorous action will follow at no distant date.

THE number and violence of recent earthquakes all over the globe are above the average. Several have been reported from various parts of the United States since the new year, notably an extensive convulsion of the Blue Ridge of North Carolina and the northern spurs of the Appalachian range in Maryland, on the night of the 2nd of January. But the disastrous earthquakes in Andalusia, the most southerly province of Spain, from their extreme violence specially awaken our sympathies for the unfortunate inhabitants of the ruined towns, as well as give a renewed impetus to the study of the modern science of seismology. There is no doubt that every phenomenon connected with the disturbance will be carefully investigated, very probably under the auspices of the Royal Society of England, which has in former years sustained committees to investigate the earthquakes of Croatia and the eruption of Krakatoa. The position of the affected district, lying between the active volcanoes of the Azores and the Canaries on the west and those of Italy and Sicily on the east, and traversed by the Sierra Nevada range, should prevent any surprise at the occurrence of disturbances which are now known to be intimately connected with volcanic activity.

THE occurrence of earthquakes in Spain naturally reminds one of the terrible visitation which destroyed half the City of Lisbon, in the neighbouring kingdom, on the 1st November, 1755. First came an earthquake, then a tidal wave fifty feet high rolled in from the Atlantic, carrying destruction alike to shipping and buildings, while to complete the horror the ruins took fire and burned for four days, destroying all those imprisoned in them who had survived the previous catastrophes. It is estimated

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that in the six minutes covered by the shock and wave 60,000 persons perished. The centre of disturbance in this case was out under the Atlantic; in the late Spanish earthquakes the centre has not yet been determined, but will possibly be altogether outside of Spain, to the southward.

An English Professor in the Imperial University of Tokio, Japan, has recently established a station for the observation of vibrations of the earth at a considerable distance beneath the surface, from which interesting results and a large fund of new information are expected. Japan is peculiarly well situated for such work, being in the centre of an immense line of volcanic activity surrounding the whole Pacific Ocean from New Zealand through the Solomon and Philippine Islands, the Kamtschatkan and Aliaskan Peninsulas, the Rocky Mountains and the Andes, to Cape Horn, and being besides so subject to frequent shocks of earthquake that the buildings in the country are specially designed to withstand them.

THE centennial of the first balloon voyage ever made across the English Channel was celebrated at Boston on the 7th of January, by the grandson of Dr. John Jefferies, the successful aeronaut. Within these one hundred years much progress has been made in aerial navigation, and the recent performances of the air-ship of Captains Renard and Krebs seem to promise an early satisfactory solution of the problem. Their balloon is the result of experiments made in the interests of French military science, and conducted for six years past with the greatest secrecy in the forest of Meudon. For this Gambetta's Government granted 100,000 francs. Their balloon is one hundred and sixty-four feet long, by twenty-seven and a-half feet in diameter, furnished with a propeller worked by a powerful but light motor. They have reached a speed of about 6.5 metres a second, equivalent to 14.6 miles per hour, with a five-horse power motor and fifty revolutions of the screw a minute. On the 9th November they went about two and a-half miles with the wind, and returned easily to their starting point against it. This seems to indicate that navigation of the air by means of long balloons provided with propelling apparatus is more than a possibility, though not yet a complete success. In the opinion of those best qualified to judge, fifteen miles an hour is a low average of the speed of the air currents in which even on a calm day a balloon floats, and a solution of the problem will only be approached when the balloon can be propelled for some time at a greater rate. This much at least is demonstrated, that to be practicable and useful, aerial ships must be very long, so as to carry very large machines capable of giving a speed of from twenty to twenty-five miles per hour, allowing of their working in moderate weather. When the wind is high aerial ships must remain in port as other vessels do. The accomplishing of these conditions becomes now only a question of capital. The balloon of Captains Renard and Krebs is by no means the first that has been provided with means of propulsion. In 1852 a steam-screw balloon attained a speed of about four metres a second. In 1872 a speed of 2.8 metres was obtained with a motor worked by seven men, and the Tissandier brothers, with the first balloon furnished with an electric motor, reached a speed of three metres in 1883, and of nearly four in 1884.

It is proposed to utilize balloons in the United States Meteorological Service for taking observations in the upper strata of the atmosphere during storms; the ascensions being made in the immediate centres of storms by aeronauts accompanied by officers of the Signal Service. It is believed that much valuable information as to the nature and direction of storm currents may be obtained by this novel means. The first of these ascensions was made from Philadelphia last month, but, in consequence of a delay of some hours in inflating the balloon, does not appear to have been so successful as was hoped.

DURING 1884 five comets were seen, all of them telescopic. The first belongs properly to 1883 because, although not seen till the 7th January following, it passed perihelion on Christmas day of that year. It was found by Ross, an amateur observer in Australia. The first comet of 1884 in order of perihelion passage was the Pons comet of 1812, found by Brooks at Phelps, N.Y., on 1st September, 1883. The next was found by E. E. Barnard, of Nashville, Tennessee, on the 16th July, and has a period of about five and a half years. The third was discovered on the 17th September by Wolf, a student at Heidelberg, and is still under observation. It has been assigned a period of about 6.7 years, but there is no record of any previous appearance. This is possibly accounted for by the fact that in 1875 it passed so close to Jupiter that it must have suffered considerable perturbation, and may have had its orbit entirely changed. Eacke's comet, the most interesting of all the short period comets, was reported by Professor Young late in the year, but will not reach perihelion till March. A suspected comet completes the list. A faint nebulous object was found by Spitaler of Vienna while searching for the third comet of 1858 of which the return was expected. When the weather permitted renewed observations it had disappeared, and it will remain doubtful whether this was the expected visitor.

TEN new asteroids were discovered last year, which brings the total number up to two hundred and forty-five. To Dr. Palisa, of Vienna, belongs the credit of having found seven of them.

MR. R. A. PROCTOR, who is nothing if not sensational, has come to the rescue of the sea-serpent, which has long wanted countenance, and recognizes the truth that there is no scientific reason why such a creature should not exist, and that there is much good evidence to the effect that it actually does exist. In this, as in many other matters, science appears to be following the usual course of human nature in respect to questions of extraordinary phenomena; that is to say, it first ridiculed, then denied, presently doubted, and now seems on the point of accepting. In short, science is becoming much more cautious than formerly in assigning bounds to nature, and is

tending to that position of suspended judgment in which the criterion of acceptance for novel facts is simply a sufficiency of evidence.

If proof of this were wanting, the present attitude of scientific men towards thought-reading and like phenomena would suffice. A society for psychical research has been for some time in operation in England, a professorship has been established in the University of Pennsylvania, and a man appointed to the chair who shall devote his time more especially to the study of the physical manifestations known as spiritualism, for the purpose of testing their truth; the scientific periodicals are devoting considerable space to the discussion of kindred topics, and since the new year the organization of an American Society for Psychical research has been completed at Boston and a scheme of investigation adopted. For the present the work of the Society will be confined largely to experiments in thought transference, with some investigation of hypnotism.

In the paragraph on incandescent electric lighting in the last "Jottings," an unfortunate omission of a couple of lines greatly exercised some of my correspondents, and with reason. While the first part spoke of electric lights in houses, the last portion was intended to refer to their increasing use on passenger steamships, though as printed this does not appear. In this connection A. C. L., of Montreal, reminds me of several interesting facts brought forward by Mr. Preece at the British Association meeting in that city. He hinted that houses might be supplied by storage batteries charged by companies, and put in much as soda-water reservoirs are put into fountains, the exhausted battery being removed each day and recharged for the next night; while by each house having its own battery the current would be quite harmless, as Mr. Preece had proved on his own children. Then as to cost the difference was more apparent than real. Mr. Preece has outside each door, in a well-lighted hall, a knob, pressure on which closes the circuit and lights the room. When the room is left, even for a few minutes, the light is extinguished in a similar manner, whereas with gas, unless one is willing to carry a light or grope about in the dark for matches, one leaves the light burning whether actually needed or not, and it is estimated that gas is used on the average only about half the time it is kept lit. Many other convenient arrangements for ready use of the incandescent light will suggest themselves to the reader.

GRADGRIND.

HERE AND THERE.

A THREAT of a Fenian raid from Buffalo has just produced a really bright little pasquinade in the *Mail*. Anything serious no one apprehends. The last raid was a farce, evidently got up to make the money come. The first was formidable because there were among the raiders soldiers of the Civil War, and because the American Government at that time being in an angry mood was but half inclined to enforce international law. There is no danger of any such laxity now.

THE "Queen versus Bunting" having been removed from the Court of Oyer and Terminer into the Queen's Bench is now in the nature of a civil action, and comes on at the Assizes beginning on the 16th prox., and not at the criminal sittings in April.

A MARKED difference is noticeable in the results of the several classes of the British American Insurance Company's business. The marine department brought a handsome profit, and the Canadian fire branch shows losses to the extent of only 54 per cent. The English and American business was unprofitable, probably from the great difficulty which arises in the way of control, so much being of necessity left to agents. The lesson is to cultivate the home and neglect the foreign business. The dividend was not paid without drawing upon the reserve, which was reduced from \$173,191 to \$106,646.

THE Ontario Industrial Loan and Investment Company, whose annual statement appears in another column, have earned \$17,218.38 during 1884, which enables them to declare two half-yearly dividends of four and three per cent.—a showing which reflects the greatest credit upon the board which has engineered the company through a period when real estate not less than other businesses has suffered severely from the general depression. The Yonge Street Arcade, it is interesting to note, is already returning five and three-quarters per cent. upon the outlay, with only two-thirds of the building rented.

There were forty-six failures in Canada reported to Bradstreet's during the past week, against thirty-three in the preceding week, and thirty-eight, thirty-nine and fourteen in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883, and 1882 respectively. In the United States there were 270 failures reported to the same firm during the week, as compared with 254 in the preceding week, and with 237, 260, and 152, in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. About 85 per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000.

ODD is the fate of such Canadian writers as have to seek an American market for their wares! Last month the editor of a leading magazine in New York accepted a manuscript from a writer in Montreal. "Young man," said the editor, "take out the references which mark your production as Canadian. Here in New York 'Canada' sounds like 'Vermont,' and as a place of origin it will prejudice your article." The prejudice was one which the editor did not share, although as a sensible man he felt bound to recognize it.

A FRIEND in the New York University Club writes to the *Town Topics*: "You, the world, and all honourable men will be glad to know that John C. Eno, against whom charges of conduct unbecoming a gentleman had been preferred, was formally expelled from this club on Wednesday last." Although it comes late, the expulsion must be most gratifying to all honest men, and especially the members of the club, many of whom have not hesitated to express the wish that the governor of that institution might have been able to act more promptly in the matter.

THE distressing intelligence that General Grant is smitten with an excruciating disease, recovery from which is hopeless, has been received with universal and unfeigned regret. The American people have loved him well, and have ever been glad to forget his errors of administration and temper in the Presidency, in the memory of his paramount and patriotic services in the war for the Union. He has been essentially a popular hero—a man of the people, and by them loved and admired because he was always the same thorough and sincere American, not cast down in adversity, not unduly elated by success; and the misfortunes of his later days have gilt anew whatever of his fame seemed to have suffered tarnish in the corroding atmosphere of politics. It is characteristic of the man that he has set himself doggedly to work to finish his war notes, *colle qui code*, even with the shadow of death interposing betwixt him and the work he rightly conceives to be anxiously looked for by the country of which he is so proud.

TWADDLE by the column has been manufactured by the "special" writers about Lord Rosebery, the latest accession to the Gladstone Government. So far from it being the fact, as was stated by one authority (*sic*), that the budding statesman jumped at the first chance of joining the Cabinet, he has refused on at least one other occasion a pressing offer of office. Lord Rosebery's rise has been a very remarkable one. He first came to the front on the turf, and people began to fear that he would give up to sport talents which belonged to his country. Lord Granville is to be thanked for seeking him out and leading him into politics. "Granville's pet" he was called for a time. Not for long. Lord Granville taught him to walk, but he was soon able to run alone. He developed at once a sharp and genial wit which made him a favourite in the House of Lords. As he discovered his power, Lord Rosebery developed his independence. He grew more Radical than most of his friends around him. He stood almost alone among the younger peers who supported Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy against Mr. Disraeli. He came out well from every trial. Not even alliance with the house of Rothschild, and the acquisition of a large fortune, damped his ardour for his own opinions. He was ahead of many Ministers in his proposals for the reform of the House of Lords. He fought for the Reform Bill last year with an energy which earned the gratitude of the Government. In a social sense, Lord Rosebery is a strength. His are by no means aristocratic parties and select assemblages. One secret of his breadth of view is his constant mixing with all sections of society. He consults the leaders of the working-men rather than the opinions of the "smoking party" in his club. The opinions he gathers he is able to expound with energy and point. When he gains weight by age, Lord Rosebery, who is not thirty-eight yet, will be a good match even for Lord Salisbury.

LITERARY society in Boston is somewhat agog over the recent work of Henry James, "The Bostonians," chapters of which are now appearing. He has offended the *amour propre* of many by literally describing Boston characteristics, his wicked hand tearing away the veil of assumed knowledge and wisdom habitually worn by the eye-glassed average Bostonienne. "If you have not a virtue assume it has long been the motto of the Boston dame, who is in no way superior to her sisters in other American cities," so says an uncharitable American critic. Henry James has shown this, and there is wailing and gnashing of teeth.

As the magazine is ever pressing upon the domain of the book, so now the newspaper is invading the territory of the magazine. Readers are more and more taking their political economy, science or fiction, in small journalistic doses with morning coffee and rolls, or during trips in steam or street-cars. A recent novelty in newspaper enterprise is the purchase of original stories, descriptive sketches and popular essays by a publisher who presents them simultaneously in some of the chief American dailies. A contribution by Lord Lorne to the *Boston Herald*, of the stamp which might appear in the *Nineteenth Century*, and a series of stories by eminent authors in the *Springfield Republican*, mark a new advance by journalistic enterprise. It would seem that book-publication must eventually become restricted to very narrow limits.

THE promoters of the New Orleans Exhibition are experiencing the force of the truth expressed in Addison's famous line "Tis not in mortals to command success." Notwithstanding the liberal aid given by Congress, the financial aspect of the enterprise is most unsatisfactory. Such great things were hoped from it by the people of the Southern States, and the sympathy and help extended by their Northern brethren have been so generous, that this result is much to be regretted. It is the first great industrial effort which has been made since the war by the people who were defeated and nearly ruined in that bitter struggle, and it was designed to be a symbol of, and an assistance to, their returning prosperity. But the depressing influences of the time have been too strong for success. Bad trade has shed its baleful influence over the prospects of the enterprise.

Perhaps, too, the plans were drawn on too large a scale. Originally intended to celebrate the centenary of the establishment of the cotton trade, department after department was added, until the invitations sent out and the preparations made were sufficient for an international exhibition of the largest dimensions, and to the modest title of "Cotton Centennial" was added the imposing one of "World's Exposition." But although the American States and the adjacent countries have sent freely of their productions, the contributions of foreign States have been very small, and a great part of the building is but scantily furnished. Moreover, visitors have not arrived in the numbers that were expected. Other benefits anticipated, however, need not be despaired of. The hearty co-operation of North and South in a common object is a demonstration of national unity which must bear good fruit. It was intended to have a friendly gathering of old soldiers within the walls of the exhibition, when those who had once grappled in deadly conflict might shake each other by the hand, and talk over the hard-fought fields of a war which has left no wounds behind it which time cannot and is not healing. Whether this scheme is carried out or not, we may trust that the efforts made will leave behind them influences which may bring prosperity and peace and goodwill.

THE regimental sobriquet of the 20th Hussars, who have gone to participate in the Soudan campaign, used to be "The Dumplings," owing to the enlistment of men at the time of the Indian Mutiny who were as broad as they were long. This was in compliance with a request by the Indian Government for small-sized men who, being really light cavalry, would be able to overtake Nana Sahib. The 2nd battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who proceed from Gibraltar, will be best remembered as the 103rd Foot, and their familiar designation was the "Old Toughs," from the fact that they had seen much and honourable service in India. The "Red Knights" is the appellation associated with the 1st battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, formerly the 22nd Foot. This name took its origin from the men on one occasion being served out with red jackets, waistcoats, and breeches, instead of their proper clothing. The 1st battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment, late the 39th Foot, once had an amusing experience as mounted infantry. Under the command of Colonel Sankey, they made a forced march, with mules for steeds; and long afterwards they were known by the nickname of "Sankey's Horse." Another title of the regiment was the "Green Linnets," from their pea-green facings. The sobriquet of the 2nd battalion of the East Surrey Regiment, formerly the 70th Foot, who are expected at Suakim from Cairo, had a double significance. From the number of Glasgow men in the ranks and the colour of the facings the regiment was styled "The Glasgow Greys."

Now that the craze for roller-skating is extending over the entire country, readers may be interested to know how roller-skates originated. Mr. Kobbe, writing to the *Saturday Evening Herald* upon this subject, says: "I am told by Herr Hock, the stage manager of the Metropolitan Opera House, that all who enjoy roller-skating are indebted for their sport to the famous composer, Meyerbeer. When his opera, 'The Prophet,' was produced in Paris it was almost decided at one time to cut out the skating scene in the third act as the manager saw no way of converting the stage into a sheet of ice. In this crisis an ingenious stage-hand came forward and suggested that ordinary skates might be placed on wheels. The Grand Opera House at Paris, therefore, was the first roller-skating rink the world has known."

AN hilarious kind of amusement lately introduced in Philadelphia is what is known as a ghost-hunting party. The invitations are printed on coffin-shaped paper and adorned with crossbones, dungeon chains and other cheerful devices. The party repair to some house popularly supposed to be haunted, and the entertainment consists in trying to scare everybody into hysterics. Blue lights, mysterious footsteps, clanking chains and other adjuncts to every well-bred ghost are provided by the hostess, and the guests amuse themselves by firing pistols at imaginary apparitions and in unearthing hypothetical spooks.

EVEN the "Hub" is not quite impervious to mundane influences. The "great craze" there now, we are assured by the *Detroit Every Saturday*, is the "mind cure." The believers in it claim there is no physiological law—that a knowledge of anatomy and physiology is an absolute hindrance to the comprehension and exercise of this power, and an attempt to use our reason is diabolism. It makes no difference to them whether they breathe sulphuric acid gas or the perfume of the rose, as all these can be changed at will by the "mental images." If you believe you are eating potato, it is potato to all intents and purposes, whether it be turnip or squash. It would be interesting to ask these "mind cure" people: if a lunatic would be to drink poison, when he believed it to be soda water, what would result? Would not the mind be found unable to do away with the body altogether?

THE Theosophists in England are still very busy publishing their esoteric doctrines. They published four papers lately. One contribution, by Mr. Sinnett, is an explanation of the relation of Theosophy to Spiritualism. He explains the condition of the departed in language which it would be wrong for a mere outsider to attempt to understand. When a man dies his astral body is in Kamaloca. He is able in some cases to communicate with earth; but it is very wrong to tempt him to do so, for his earthly affections ought to be allowed to die out that he may progress to a final

blessedness which seems to involve a great deal of forgetfulness, if not total oblivion. The practical point is that the Theosophists believe in Spiritualism, but think the pursuit of Spiritualism very wrong.

It may be in good taste for an author to appear as a lecturer and incidentally profit by the curiosity which chiefly gives him his audiences; but when an author reads from long-known works, with the aids of elocutionary trick and theatrical mimicry, his best admirers feel that he has committed indignity. The shrewd hand of the publisher can be usually discerned in courses of "readings," and the scrappiness and general worthlessness of these "readings" show how wide an interest in men in any degree famous a reading public can exhibit. Since the dollar commonly paid to hear an author on the platform is made up say of half-a-dime for his entertainment and ninety-five cents for the pleasure of beholding him, we venture a suggestion: That these peripatetic wielders of the pen simply sit on a stage and permit a stream of curious gazers to pass them at say the uniform charge of one dime. No "readings" would be necessary for an exhibition more profitable than the electionary show, and but little less dignified.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1885.

[January 28 and 26 have both been given as the date of the fall of Khartoum.]

MONTREAL.

BENEATH the clear Canadian winter night
What holds our spell-bound gaze?
A wondrous castle filled with lambent lights
From battlement to base,
And, round about its glittering crystal halls,
In martial pomp arrayed,
Torch-bearing thousands stand, and storm the walls
With mimic cannonade.

Fast flash the hissing rockets to the sky,
Fast fall the harmless showers
Of coloured stars, while fiery serpents fly
About the crystal towers.
But see that lurid radiance wake, and grow
To bathe the turret high—
The castle seems to burn with fiery glow
Against the moonlit sky!

'Mid clouds of smoke and glare of crimson light
We think it shakes and falls—
When lo! they pass, and clear against the night
Still rise the pearly walls:
Still its pure radiance gleams undimmed and fair,
Still do its lustrous towers
Seem fitting shrine for Balder sleeping there
Till spring awake the flowers!

KHARTOUM.

It was a *parable* we smiled to see:
To-day we read it true
In shock of hell 'gainst faith and purity.
For little then we knew
That far away, where Nile's mysterious flood
Winds through his storied lands,
Khartoum had fallen—England's noblest blood
Had drenched the desert sands!

The Christian knight, most dear to Britain's heart—
As faith outweigheth gold—
Had fallen—done to death by traitor art,
As Balder died of old;
And clouds of lurid smoke and streams of gore
Met our sad, tear-dimmed sight,
Where we had looked to see the wrong of yore
Fall conquered by the right.

But patience! for we know God's great designs
Are wrought not in a day;
Through clouds and darkness still His purpose shines
And shall shine on for aye.
And, through long ages, owning firm and clear
The brotherhood of Man,
Humanity shall hold the memory dear
Of Gordon of Soudan!

FIDELIS.

THE brave Dutch admiral, Van Tromp, who was a large, heavy man, was challenged by a thin, active French officer. "We are not upon equal terms with rapiers," said Van Tromp, "but call on me to-morrow morning, and we will adjust the affair better." When the Frenchman arrived he found the admiral bestriding a barrel of gunpowder. "There is room enough for you," said Van Tromp, "at the other end of the barrel; sit down. There is a match, and as you were the challenger, fire." The Frenchman was a little thunderstruck at this terrible mode of fighting; but as the admiral told him he would fight in no other way, terms of accommodation ensued.

DEAN MANSEL'S WIT.

MANSEL'S wit was without premeditation. Take a few samples: It was a Common Room dinner-party. The cook had written in his bill-of-fare "Reforme cutlets." The paper went the round of the table and provoked many a smile. At last it reached Mansel. "O, the man is quite right," (every eye was of course turned in one direction) "Reform generally ends in a *mule*." One whom he was showing round St. Paul's complained of the heathenish characters of the monuments. "Just look at that now," pointing to a huge figure of Neptune, "what has that got to do with Christianity?" "Tridentine Christianity, perhaps," suggested Mansel. He was dining in vacation with the present writer in Oriol Common Room, when a joint of lamb was being hacked at by the Colledge "Dean," who to his other accomplishments did not add that of adroit carving. A pool of brown gravy as large as a saucer speedily adorned the table-cloth. It provoked the ejaculation "Filthy mess." "It's lamb on-table, certainly," rejoined Mansel. Walking round the park with Dr. Evans (now Master of Pembroke) when Gladstone's Bill for disendowing the Irish Church was in progress, "I cannot understand," Mansel broke out, "how he can possibly reconcile to his conscience such wholesale robbery." "He pleads," was the reply, "that he is acting on conviction." "O, then I see how it is," instantly rejoined the Wit, raising his fore-finger in order to give emphasis to his thoughts. "The ordinary process has been reversed. Commonly, you know, conviction follows robbery; in this case it seems that robbery follows conviction." His friend Professor Chandler relates that, on their way through the schools one afternoon, just as they came in sight of the Clarendon building, he observed: "Somebody told me the other day that the statue there," pointing to the figure in the niche, "has no back to it; is, in fact, a mere shell; a front and nothing more." "You mean," rejoined Mansel, "that it is the Hyde without the Clarendon." His sister relates that one evening, Chandler having played something on the piano, was requested to sing, which he declined to do. Another person pressed him and suggested: "If you can think of nothing else, sing us the Hundredth Psalm." "No, I should only murder it." This produced a third entreaty and a more resolute refusal; whereupon Mansel came to his friend's rescue, remarking that "Chandler naturally declines to murder all people that on earth do dwell." Once more. It was a severe day at the end of March, and some one inopportunely reminded the company of the saying that "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." "Umph!" ejaculated the Wit, "It's cold lamb, though."

The conditions of bestowing the degree of Doctor in Divinity had degenerated into a senseless form, which was felt to be discreditable to the University. A proposal was at last introduced in Council to substitute two theological dissertations as the preliminary requirement. While the discussion was proceeding, Mansel wrote and passed to his neighbour:

"The degree of D.D.
'Tis proposed to convey
To an A double S
By a double ess-ay."

Great offence was occasioned by certain graduates of the University of Dublin, who, on obtaining the "ad eundem" Oxford degree, proceeded at once to flaunt in public their Oxford hoods as if they had been veritable graduates of Oxford University. This led, eventually, to the abolition of "ad eundem" degrees; but at first the fees were revised, which occasioned the following:

"When Alma Mater her kind heart enlarges,
Charges her graduates, graduates her charges,
What safer rule can guide the accountant's pen
Than that of doublin' fees for Dublin men."

On another occasion it was proposed to lower the fees upon degrees conferred by "accumulation." Mansel wrote:

"Oxford, beware of over-cheap degrees,
Nor too much lower accumulation fees,
Lest, unlike Goldsmith's land to ill a prey,
Men should accumulate and wealth decay."

The undergraduates having complained, not without reason, of the ugliness of their gown, the authorities, hoping that if the men's costume were made less unbecoming they would manifest less disinclination to wear it, entertained the proposal for a change. Mansel was ready with an epigram:

"Our gownsmen complain ugly garments oppress them,
We feel for their wrongs, and propose to re-dress them."

On the introduction of the Liberal Reform Bill, Mr. Gladstone repeatedly declared that the Government would stand or fall by the fate of that measure. When carried at the second reading by a majority of only five in a very large House, it was evident that the Bill, though actually carried, was practically lost. Pressed on this point, the Minister repeated his former language about standing or falling with the Bill, and added: "But, Sir, we are of opinion that the Bill still stands." Mansel immediately wrote:

"Upon the Bill we staked our all,
With it to stand, with it to fall,
But now a different course we see,
The Bill may lie, and so may we."

About the same time Ministers, though they suffered repeated defeats, pertinaciously stuck to office. Mansel was heard to remark that "Although the Ministry evidently possessed in an eminent degree the Christian virtue of Patience, they had yet to learn the grace of Resignation.—*Quarterly Review*."

THE SCRAP BOOK.

ROMANCE.

My love dwelt in a Northern land.
A grey tower in a forest green
Was hers, and far on either hand
The long wash of the waves was seen,
And leagues on leagues of yellow sand,
And woven forest boughs between.

And through the silver Northern night
The sunset slowly died away,
And herds of strange deer, lily-white,
Stole forth among the branches grey;
About the coming of the light
They fled like ghosts before the day!

I know not if the forest green
Still girdles round that castle grey;
I know not if the boughs between
The white deer vanish ere the day;
Above my Love the grass is green,
My heart is colder than the clay!
—From Mr. Lang's "Rhyme à la Mode."

TOBOGGANING IN THE ALPS.

THE "snowing-in" period is often supposed to be an extremely objectionable and almost intolerable time. Like so many other things, it is not so bad as it is painted. No doubt the thawing of fresh-fallen snow is not pleasant, and the large quantity which often falls tends to make it still more disagreeable; but in a high-lying place, like St. Moritz, for instance, the water quickly runs off, and owing to the extreme dryness of the air large quantities of moisture speedily evaporate. This transition period does not last long. A few days of unsettled weather lead, as a rule, to the heavy downfall, and then a spell of calm, cloudless days will usually follow. Wheel vehicles are replaced by sledges, snow gaiters are put on, and visitors as well as natives give themselves up to the pleasures of tobogganing. The toboggan is a small sledge, about forty-two inches long by fourteen inches wide, on iron runners. The rider drags it to the top of a steep snow slope, on which the snow has been beaten down so as to become hard, sits astride it with feet slightly projecting in front, and allows himself to slide. Soon he is rushing through the air at a tremendous pace; all his attention is bent on turning the corners neatly and with the least possible interference with the motion of the machine. Faster and faster he goes down the steep incline, with a cry of "Anhtung!" to warn anyone off the course; at the same time he keeps a sharp lookout for dangers ahead, until he reaches the long piece on the level which ends his journey. Strange to say, there are very few accidents, although the speed is considerable, often amounting to more than twenty-five miles an hour. The mode of guiding a toboggan is either by pressing lightly with the heels on the snow on the side towards which one wishes to go, or by using one of two sticks held in the hands. By pressing both feet the brake is applied and the machine readily stopped, except when the upper surface of the track is glazed with ice; in this case a halt is made by running off the course into the soft snow on either hand. Toboggan-runs can be made on any sloping ground. The snow requires to be first more or less consolidated on the surface to prevent the runners from sinking in. At St. Moritz, which is the only place in the Engadine where many visitors have stayed in the winter, there are three runs. One goes through the village, then along a road leading to the St. Moritz Baths, and finishes under the English Church. On this course there is always much uncertainty in turning the corner of the village street as to what may be encountered further on, and it is frequently necessary to exercise special care, and sometimes even to slacken speed, in passing sledges, as the horses drawing them are not always accustomed to toboggans provided not only with shouting riders, but often with jingling cow-bells. Another run at St. Moritz leads from the front of the Kulm Hotel, along a foot-path, through a gate padded with sacks to diminish the discomfort of a collision; it then goes down a flight of steps, which, covered over and banked up with snow, give a very steep slope, turns sharp to the left, and so by one or two curves runs on to the frozen surface of the lake. No one who has not tried it can realize how much variety a course like this can supply in a short three minutes. Many were the occasions, during some races held there, on which the toboggan and its rider parted company, the first to perform a journey alone, the latter to be shot forward and buried in the snow. But the favourite run is by a steep foothpath on the way to Samaden. Here, late in the season, when the track has become glazed with ice, the speed is enormous, and there is one corner round which one always looks eagerly for the first peep of the highway to see if there are any sledges coming along the road, which might bring before one, in a very unpleasant manner, the dangers of a level crossing. When the track is in good condition for fastest going this road is altogether cleared by the toboggan, a slight rise on one side of it giving a sufficient elevation to enable the machine to shoot over it, and come to ground some distance on the other side, thence to dash on at express speed towards its final leap. There is a feeling of boundless exhilaration in thus flying through the air which cannot be imagined unless it has been experienced. The only thing at all resembling it is riding on a locomotive engine, but the jolting and bumping in the latter case are absent on a

good, though by no means on a bad, toboggan course, and the rider is much more master of his machine, which, though going at nearly equal speed, can be almost immediately brought to rest. The delight of this exciting sport may be much intensified if it be carried on by moonlight. Then the extreme cold of the night freezes the upper surface of the snow and makes the travelling faster than by day. There is a feeling of weirdness and doubt as one dashes into the masses of shadow projected from wall and gable. The attention is strained to the utmost to avoid any lurking perils that have to be detected by eyes dazed with passing from brilliant moonlight for an instant only into the darkness, thence to emerge with headlong speed into the brightness beyond.—Prof. J. F. Main in the *Fortnightly Review*.

THE FUTILITY OF REVOLVERS.

IF we wish to shoot any one because we think poorly of his political principles, his taste in dress, or the like, it is certain that a "two-scatter shot-gun," at close quarters, "aimed low" (like Considine's cut-class decanter), is much more to be relied on than a revolver. A dagger, too, in a bold, determined hand, possesses many advantages. But it has been demonstrated, in the case and on the *corpus vile* of Captain Phelan, that a dagger is not infallible. Besides, a young and beautiful woman, whose girlish modesty has hitherto kept her from attempting murder, will almost certainly make a fiasco with a dagger. The case of Mlle. Corday has, indeed, been quoted by several hundreds of journalists to prove the reverse; but Mlle. Corday was an unusually strong-minded woman, and her opportunity was of a sort not likely to occur again, especially in the case of an Irish gentleman. Marat was in his tub. Again, a young girl would certainly attract attention if she walked down Broadway with a double-barrelled fowling-piece on her shoulder. She would look less like "an intellectual school marm" than an avenging angel or a deserter from Colney Hatch. A hammer and a nail, also a millstone, have been used with effect by heroines in the remote past, but the opportunities for employing such direct and unaffected methods now very rarely occur. The young girl, rejecting the idea of an explosive cigar, naturally falls back upon a revolver. It is here that her inexperience and retiring character are apt to prove destructive to her hopes. Now there are revolvers and revolvers. In the works of writers who imitate Ouida, the revolver is always a dainty toy, with an ivory handle and blue-steel barrels, set, too, if necessary, with priceless opals and star sapphires. Such weapons (though painfully ineffectual) haunt the imagination of the amateur assassin, but she (or he) can rarely afford to purchase these military luxuries. Accordingly she or he buys a miserable, futile, dangerous toy, a cheap revolver "about the size of a perfume-bottle." These wretched little make-believes carry a bullet about the size of a pea, and inflict a wound which would be despised by the domestic cat. These little weapons should really be prohibited by law. They are sure to get "jammed," the cartridges stick, the cylinder refuses to revolve, and they are only dangerous when they go off by accident. Then they are not only dangerous, but generally fatal. Now the very purpose of a revolver, when used in legitimate warfare, is to stop the rush of an enemy at close quarters. To do this, a sturdy weapon is required carrying a heavy and perhaps round-headed bullet. Suppose a Soudanese Arab with his big shovel-like spear makes a rush at an officer, you might empty a handful of pea-bullets into him without producing the faintest effect. He would not fall down and bellow for mercy, like the chicken-hearted Jeremiah Donovan. But a heavy pistol-bullet may "prevail on him to stop." If ever the Irish so far alter our institutions as to beget the private wars which prevail in France, they will be met by men who do not carry toy revolvers. Already an "English pupil" is said to have assaulted "Professor Mezzeroff" and beaten him into a mummy with his fists. These private but not ineffective weapons, reinforced perhaps by a horsewhip, are not unlikely to be at the service of too noisy Hibernian patriots.—*Saturday Review*.

IF the State of New York can buy the land on the American side of Niagara Falls for the sum named in the appraisers' report, \$1,433,429, there ought to be little delay in consummating the bargain. Private ownership of all the approaches of this greatest of natural wonders has become a public disgrace.—*Philadelphia Record*.

THE way in which these volumes are saturated with what may be called the cant of Freethinking, the goody-goodness of irreligion, the unction of the anti-supernatural, the gush of Positivism and Nihilism, might be disagreeable if it were not so extremely interesting. The moral and intellectual atmosphere is that of the class-room and the tea-party, only that the experiences are anti-Christian and the proceedings are opened with a chapter of Strauss instead of a chapter of the Bible. A very curious incident noticed here is that Miss Evans translated the Crucifixion and Resurrection part of the *Leben Jesu* with a crucifix before her as a relief to the disgust of her subject—an instance of feminine logic which is probably unparalleled. Indeed, the whole book shows how impressionable, how emotional, how illogical, how feminine she was. In an Evangelical *milieu* she was strongly Evangelical. Transferred to the little Freethinking coterie of Hennells, Brays, Brabants, etc., she exchanged the matter of her Evangelicism for unbelief, retaining its manner. It will probably provoke screams from her admirers, but we say hardily that, if at the time when she fell under Lewes's male influence she had fallen under the male influence of an orthodox Churchman, she would probably have been a pillar of the faith and a brand plucked from the burning. The person whom superficial critics long took to be the most masculine of her sex was a very woman.—*Saturday Review*.

MUSIC.

WONDERFUL things are told of a young American pianist, A. Victor Benham, whose power of improvising appears to surpass anything heard in the present generation. He has already achieved the remarkable feat of improvising for forty minutes on the Arietta from Beethoven's Sonata, Op. III., and at the close his ideas are said to have been just as fresh as at the beginning. He has undertaken to give a complimentary Piano Recital at Prince's Hall, London, at which he is to improvise a complete Sonata in three parts, the audience to give three themes, first for allegro, second for andante, and third for final fugue. The art of improvising has appeared to be almost lost, not from want of knowledge, but from the fact that it is now no longer made such a distinct branch of musical education as formerly. Probably the greatest extempore player that ever lived was Beethoven. When in the humour he would improvise for two hours on a given theme, working up his audience to a high pitch of emotion, and then breaking off suddenly with a horse-laugh, and ridiculing his audience for their tears. He was often pitted against other performers, but invariably came off victorious, his transcendent genius counterbalancing the superior technical ability which his opponents often possessed. One of his greatest antagonists in this way was Wolfe, the celebrated pianist. Steibelt, that meteoric pianist, charlatan and kleptomaniac, on the first occasion of their meeting patronized Beethoven, who, not being in the vein, allowed him to get off scot free. The next time, however, Steibelt had prepared an elaborate "Improvisation" designed to crush Beethoven, who, after its performance sulkily allowed himself to be pushed by his friends to the piano, and taking up the cello part of an orchestral work of Steibelt's, turned it upside down on the desk and carelessly drummed with one finger the first few notes that met his eye and on them extemporized in such a marvellous manner as to cause his adversary to leave the room and refuse to meet him again. Mendelssohn also, and in later days Dr. Wesley, the well-known English organist, were celebrated for extempore performances.

A CONCERT was recently given at Prince's Hall, London, England, at which all the performers were American, and the second part of the concert was devoted to the works of American composers. The *Times* critic says: "The *raison d'être* of such a limitation would not be quite easy to discover. The existence of an American school of composers we cannot, with the best intentions of international courtesy, admit. On the other hand, there are many first-rate American singers, although most of them have been trained in Europe, and if all the "stars" of the operatic stage hailing from across the Atlantic were brought together on a concert platform the constellation would indeed be something to be proud of."

THE Ottawa String Quartette Club gave the first of a series of classical chamber concerts last week, the programme consisting of: Overture, "Semi-chamber," Rossini, Ottawa String Quartette Club; Piano Solo, (a) "Lar-rheto" from F Minor Concerto, Chopin, (b) "12th Rhapsodie Hongroise," Liszt, Miss Lampman; Violin Solo, "Concerto in A Minor," Godard, Mr. F. Boucher; Inflamatus, "Stabat Mater," Dvorak, Mrs. J. W. F. Harrison; Quartette, No. 35, "D Major," Haydn, Ottawa String Quartette Club; Piano Solo, Preamble, Promenade and March from the "Carnival," Schumann, Miss Lampman; Song, "The Message," Blumen-thal, Mr. Rowan-Legge; (a) "Serenade," Taubert, Ottawa String Quartette Club. Haydn, (b) "Chanson d'Amour," Taubert, Ottawa String Quartette Club. The members of the Club are Messrs. F. Boucher, C. Reichling, violins; R. Sarginson, viola, and R. Brewer, cello. These gentlemen are all good performers, and as they have practised together for several months the rendering of the quartettes was eminently satisfactory. They were assisted by leading musicians, whose performance added to the success of the concert. The principal quartettes to be performed at the other concerts of the course are the Beethoven Quartette in C Minor, the Rubinstein in F Major, Andante from Op. 11, by Tschai-kowsky, Quartettes G Minor and E flat Major by Schubert, and in D Major by Mozart.

THE new organ which has recently been placed in St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, is one of the most complete instruments in the city. While in its general design it is adapted to meet all the requirements of religious service, it has many special features in the specification which have been introduced with the object of permitting more varied effects in solo music and arrangements of orchestral scores than would be possible with the ordinary schemes. The organ contains forty-four sounding-stops—thirteen on the great, fifteen on the swell, nine on the choir, and seven on the pedal organ, including a contra-bourdon of thirty-two feet, the only one in Canada. There are seven coupling movements operated by draw-stops and three worked by pedals. There are also four pneumatic pistons to the great, five to the swell, and three to the choir organ, besides three combination pedals to the pedal organ. The full organ is drawn on by a pedal held down by a ratchet, which, on being released, returns the stops to their previous arrangement. The whole of the choir with the reeds and mixtures of the great are enclosed in a swell-box. The "krumhorn" (sixteen feet) and the "vox humana" of the swell organ are also enclosed in a separate box opening into that of the swell organ itself. It will be readily seen that by this method of placing the swells many novel and beautiful dynamical effects are possible. Two balanced swell pedals and two tremolos divided between the swell and the choir organs complete the list of stops and mechanical movements. The action throughout—draw-stop, manual and pedal—is pneumatic, each pipe having its own valve operated by a small bellows, while the stop action is of the same light character as that which connects the manual with the wind-chests, the

whole principle having been patented by the builders, Messrs. S. R. Warren and Company, in 1872, both in Canada and the United States. The total number of pipes is two thousand seven hundred and thirty-six. The cost of the instrument was \$12,000. The case was designed by Mr. Storm, architect, of this city. It is forty-two feet in width, and is of cherry darkened to resemble mahogany. The principal arch or bay of pipes is arranged in semi-circular shape projecting over the key-board, while two bays of smaller pipes are arranged on either side, the three arches being separated by four octagonal towers containing two rows of gilded pipes, one placed over the other. The pipes displayed number one hundred and sixty, the largest of which is fourteen inches in diameter and eighteen feet high. These have been handsomely decorated in frosted gold, with burnished gold bands and crimson flock.—*Clef.*

As might have been expected from the conspicuous success which attended their first public performance, the Toronto Amateur Christy Minstrels have again been before the public—on Wednesday of last week, in the Toronto Opera House (the scene of their first triumph), and on the following Saturday in the Hamilton Opera House. The programme was practically unchanged, and the audiences were pretty similar on all three occasions: that is to say, they were large, fashionable, and abundantly gratified.

A SERIES of three subscription concerts is announced to be given in the Toronto Shaftesbury Hall on Tuesday next and the two following Mondays by Agnes Huntington (contralto), assisted by Effie Huntington (pianiste), and the String Quartette of the Buffalo Philharmonic Society. All the artists have won considerable favour "on the other side." At the time of going to press the programme had not been arranged. The concert will take place under the patronage of the Lieut.-Governor and the Right Rev. Bishop of Toronto.

As not having been previously noted in THE WEEK it may be worth while chronicling the fact in this column, that two concerts deserving mention took place in London, Ont., early in the season at Queen's Avenue Methodist Church, under the direction of its organist Mr. C. Verrinder. The first consisted of Handel's "Dettingen Te Deum," its first performance in Canada. At the second concert "The Messiah" was given, the choruses showing careful training. On the latter occasion an additional attraction was afforded by the presence of the eminent organist Mr. Frederick Archer, whose masterly accompaniments were alike a treat and a lesson. Mr. Archer also contributed some fine organ solos by Bach, Hatton, Archer, Tours, and others, to the intense delight of all present. Joseffy is said to be about to visit London shortly.—*Marcia.*

THE PERIODICALS.

THE three leading English monthly reviews, the *Nineteenth Century*, the *Contemporary*, and the *Fortnightly* (Messrs. Leonard Scott's reprints) have each so much good matter that it would be difficult to award the palm for excellence. The *Nineteenth*, however, is particularly strong. First place is given to an elaborate plea for "Imperial Federation" by Mr. W. E. Forster. This is followed by "A Word More about America" from the pen of Mr. Matthew Arnold, which, by the way, also contains some original criticisms upon English politics and people. Mr. Arnold in his own charming way has succeeded in being much more complimentary to our neighbours than might have been expected from so notable a critic. Lord Pembroke propounds a scheme for the reform of the House of Lords; Mr. William Archer writes with a power that carries conviction of "The Duties of Dramatic Critics;" and following are nine articles, every one of which is more or less attractive, either in virtue of its subject or its author.—The opening article of the *Contemporary* is by Mr. Justin McCarthy, "Dublin Castle," of course brightly written, but (as was shown in our last issue), unreliable in incident and prejudiced in deduction. The Hon. Roden Noel contributes an admirable criticism of "The Poetry of Tennyson;" Mr. Arthur Arnold writes of "The Indebtedness of the Landed Gentry;" Mr. Myers has an interesting speculative article on "Automatic Writing;" Mr. Russell writes so well of "The Electoral Future" that even those who dispute his conclusions will admire his vigorous style; and the remaining papers are "Mr. Sardou's Théodora," "Contemporary Life and Thought in Italy," and "Contemporary Records." A paper on "The Ideas of the New Voters" by a triumvirate of writers comes first on the menu of the *Fortnightly*, but cannot be claimed as of value. In a "Review of the Year" Mr. Frederic Harrison gives a hopeful *resumé* of work done and results to be expected by the apostles of his *culte*. Mr. Henry Irving writes sensibly of "The American Audience," pointing out wherein the playgoer of this side the Atlantic either is in advance of or lags behind him of the Old Country. Mr. H. D. Traill gives more reasons for his belief that Coleridge was not a spiritual thinker. Mr. Blunt contributes a wildly prejudiced article on "The Native States of India." The English Navy is paralyzed, according to Mr. Bowles, not on account of its weakness, but by the Declaration of Paris. Other papers of the number are "The Upper Engadine in Winter," "Representation and Misrepresentation," "Jane Austen at Home," and "Scientific versus Bucolic Vivisection." In the last-named an attempt is made to show the absurdity of the position of the anti-vivisectionists, and that the logical conclusion of their tenets is the abandonment of the use of cattle, etc., both as food and as domestic assistants.

The March number of the *Andover* is more than usually attractive. The principal papers are all on subjects of great interest to intelligent readers, and are written by men whose thorough competence is beyond question. Dr. Mark Hopkins writes on "Optimism;" Professor Gerhart continues his interesting and discriminative discussion of "Reformation Theology;" a thoughtful, appreciative, and just estimate of the Chelsea Sage under the title, "The Man, Thomas Carlyle, at Last," is given by the Hon. D. H. Chamberlain; Dr. G. Stanley Hall contributes a second paper on "The New Psychology," and J. H. W. Stuckenberg, D.D., tells in most interesting fashion the story of "The Early Life of Tholuch." The ordinary departments of the *Review* are varied, timely, and concise.

THE March number of the *Magazine of American History* is filled with choice reading. It opens with a graphic account of "The Fairfaxes of Yorkshire and Virginia," admirably illustrated. The most notable portrait is that of Lord Fairfax, the great general of the

Cromwell period, on horseback. Charles I. sitting before his judges is made the frontispiece to the number. The second article, entitled "Personal Recollections of General Nathaniel Lyon," will command a wide circle of interested readers. Following this comes "The Adventure of Monsieur De Belle Isle," a true chapter in the annals of Louisiana: "An Old Masonic Charter," a sketch of quaint and permanent interest; "About Richard Bellingham" and the "Story of Astoria." "Minor Topics" contains several short articles of consequence. "Original Documents" include some important and humorous unpublished letters. Col. Norton's interesting dictionary of Political Americanisms is continued; and Notes, Queries, Replies, Societies and Book Notices are replete with good things.

THE current *St. Nicholas*, with its carefully-assorted stories, poems, and sketches, and fifty beautiful illustrations, easily sustains the world-wide reputation which that gem young folks' magazine has long held.

IN course of a paper on "Worry" in the *Canadian Methodist Magazine*, Dr. Daniel Clark draws attention to the incalculable mischief which is being done in our public schools. "The result is, many never recover from the struggle during the remainder of even a lengthy life." An illustrated travel paper by the Rev. W. S. Blackstock; a description, also illustrated, of the manufacture of tiles; further experiences of "The Challenger"; an article on "American Methodism"; a biographical article on Dr. Richey; and further instalments of "Charles Wesley" and a story complete a very good number.

BOOK NOTICES.

JOHN MARSHALL. By Allan B. Magruder. "American Statesmen" Series. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company.

Mr. Magruder explains that his object in the biography before us is to draw attention principally to the public career of his subject as a soldier, envoy, historian, and statesman—features of the celebrated Chief Justice's life which have been to a great extent overshadowed by the remembrance of his fame as a lawyer. Most interestingly does Mr. Magruder recount the leading incidents of John Marshall's life in the capacities mentioned—a work in which he was assisted by the immediate descendants of "the most illustrious Chief Justice that ever sat upon the United States Bench." It was when he was in President Adams' Cabinet as Secretary of State, we are told, that the President saw and recognized the peculiar fitness of Mr. Marshall for the exalted office which he afterwards so honourably filled. As a soldier Marshall "was the best tempered man" Lieutenant Slaughter "ever knew. Nothing discouraged, nothing disturbed him." At the time when American jurisprudence was as yet unborn Marshall's "legal habit of thought and the power of construction in sympathy with the spirit of English systems" stood him in good stead, and "by the aid of it he afterwards shaped the broad outlines of American constitutional law." A vivid account of his work as an envoy in Paris is followed by a chapter tracing his career in Mr. Adams' Cabinet, which in turn is succeeded by a sketch of his work as Chief Justice and as author of the "Life of Washington." Under the heading "Opinions and Personal Traits" are many things which throw light upon his position as a slave-holder and upon his general personal character.

PERSONAL TRAITS OF BRITISH AUTHORS. Edited by Edward T. Mason. With Portraits. Vols. I., II., III. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: The Standard Publishing Company.

In these volumes Mr. Mason gives a clever condensation of literary gossip referring to the appearance, habits, manners, talk, work, play, strength and weakness, physical and moral, of twenty-one stars of British literature. A fourth volume will, when published, give similar incidents affecting half-a-dozen more litterateurs—all that is proposed to be included in the set. Mr. Mason has not attempted in any way to give connectedness to his material, but has arranged it in paragraph form, with handy marginal notes which enable the reader to see at a glance the nature of the matter collated. Very wisely the authority is given for each anecdote or reminiscence, and an index makes the whole available for rapid reference. Naturally much that is unpleasant, as well as more that is interesting, has been unearthed by Mr. Mason, but he probably would have disappointed the average reader had he eliminated the gossip which bears upon the weaknesses of the authors cited. The first volume groups "reminiscences" of Byron, Shelley, Moore, Rogers, Southey, and Landor, with a portrait of the first-named as frontispiece; Vol. II. has reference to Wordsworth, Coleridge, Lamb, Hazlitt, Leigh Hunt, and Procter, with portrait of Wordsworth; the third volume has a capital vignette of Scott, and personal traits of that author, Hogg, Campbell, Chalmers, Wilson, De Quincey, and Jeffrey. As would be inferred, the "Traits" are not critical but encyclopædic; they are, however, most interesting and valuable, and are presented in very attractive form.

THE HISTORICAL REFERENCE BOOK. By Louis Heilprin. New York: D. Appleton and Company.

The above title embraces a Chronological Table of Universal History, a Chronological Dictionary of Universal History, and a Biographical Dictionary with Geographical Notes, and the whole is especially designed for the use of students, teachers, and readers. In the chronological table of history the events of different countries have been treated separately. Thus for the past year the information is grouped as follows—the United States, the French War in China, the Egyptian War, the Conference of the Emperors, the Crises in Spain, and an obituary record. This is unquestionably the most valuable part of the book, and the usefulness of it is increased by the plan of Part II., which is practically an alphabetical arrangement of the same facts. Considering the difficulties in the way of making a reliable chronological history, Mr. Heilprin deserves great credit for the general accuracy of his book. It is not possible, however, to give unqualified praise to the concluding part—the Biographical Dictionary. Of course within the contracted limits of a "Reference Book" one cannot look for amplitude of detail, but compression may be carried too far. A hap-hazard glance reveals the absence of any reference to the founder of "Erastianism," neither do we find the name of Blumenthal, the eminent strategist, or of Professor Goldwin Smith. Berlioz's name is also given as Hector, instead of Louis Hector. But though the value of the latter part of the work is thus lessened, as a whole it is of the greatest convenience to "students, teachers, and readers."

THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF PHILOSOPHY. By Josiah Royce, Ph.D. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company.

Professor Royce "has no present connection with any visible religious body, and no sort of desire for any such connection," from which quotation the trend of his essay may be concluded. Not, on the other hand, is he lacking in "all due reverence for the faith of other men," nor does he publish his views "for the sake of provoking a quarrel." But

he invites the student of philosophy and such of the general public as may venture on the perusal of so formidable a thesis, "to come to some peaceful understanding with his fellows touching the ultimate meaning and value and foundation of this noteworthy custom—the custom of having a religion." In discussing the doctrine of "philosophic idealism" the Professor follows no master, identifies himself with no current system of philosophy or theology, but propounds his own "doxy," if not so as to carry conviction of its truth, at least in such manner as to show that he is very much in earnest.

MYTHS IN MEDICINE AND OLD-TIME DOCTORS. By Alfred C. Garratt, M.D. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: Hart and Company.

In these days, when an advanced civilization has brought in its train all manner of disease complications, he who would live long in the land must have some knowledge of physical laws and the aims of medicine. A slight acquaintance with the functions of the human frame is sufficient to enable us to take common precautions against every-day complaints, and these it is which are responsible for an aggregation of suffering almost equalling the agonies arising out of acute diseases. Much of the knowledge so useful to the lay mind is indirectly given by Mr. Garrett in course of his interesting *exposé* of medical "myths." It does not detract from the value of his work that it consists largely of quotations, for these are collated with intelligence and direct object. His merciless attack upon Homœopathy in the concluding chapters as one of the most baleful "myths in medicine" is such as to leave the school of dilution and *similis similibus* scarce a leg to stand upon. The work is intended for the younger branch of the medical profession as well as the general public, and probably the most valuable portion of it is that which treats of nervous disorders—a class of disease which Mr. Garrett announces in his preface he has made a subject of special study for over forty years.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE latest additions to the Tauchnitz collection are Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and Mr. F. Marion Crawford's "An American Politician."

THE *March Century* has followed the example of its recent predecessors and gone out of print—this time within two days of issue. A second edition of 35,000 is on the press, making the total 225,000.

HUGH CONWAY'S "Dark Days" has now reached a circulation in England of nearly two hundred thousand copies—surpassing that of "Called Back." Mr. Lang's clever parody, "Much Darker Days," is nearing its twenty-fifth thousand.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, Jun., is the youngest judge that ever has sat on the Supreme Bench of Massachusetts, and, as he looks much younger than he is, old lawyers irreverently talk about what they call the Kindergarten Court.

THE weekly publication formerly known as *The American Queen* and later as *The American Queen and Town Topics* will hereafter be known as *Town Topics* only, and will be published by the Town Topics Publishing Company, at Park Row, New York.

VICTOR HUGO'S newest honour will be a monument by the eminent sculptor, Molière Jetot, which represents the Venus of Milo crowning the author of "Hernani" with a wreath. We thought the Venus of Milo had no arms. Will she locate the laurel with her teeth?

OWEN MEREDITH will shortly issue a new novel in verse, entitled, "Glen Averire; or, The Metamorphoses." The name of his father's play, "Brutus," which the son discovered among Bulwer's literary remains, and which is to be shortly produced in London by Wilson Barrett, has been changed to "Junius."

MESSRS. ROLFE BROTHERS are going to publish next month an English translation, by Madame Paul Bert, of M. Paul Bert's well-known work, "La Première Année d'Enseignement Scientifique." The book has had an extraordinary sale in France, having in less than three years reached its tenth edition, each edition being of 50,000. There is scarcely a school even in the smallest village which does not possess it.

ANOTHER one of the results of M. Max O'Rell's successful books has appeared, in the shape of a little volume by Mr. Alfred Rhodes, an American. It is entitled "Monsieur at Home,"—a good-natured and amusing sketch of life in France, more particularly in Paris, where the author is evidently at home. Mr. Rhodes writes in a bright, fresh fashion; he is frank, but not vulgar, and keeps clear of the trivialities which litter up so many of M. O'Rell's pages.

THE most striking entry in the table of books compiled by the editor of the *Publishers' Weekly* is that presented under the head of fiction, which gives the number of novels published in the United States during the year as 943—certainly an extraordinary showing, even when taken in connection with the 670 titles recorded in 1883. In England, last year, there were 408 new novels printed, and this was a large increase over preceding years; and yet the American figures are double this number. Even though all English novels were reprinted in the States, the American novelists could hardly have supplied the still remaining 535 entries, though it must be admitted that the year has been exceptionally prolific in unimportant novels, which have passed with little or no notice.

"Colonel Burnaby," says the *Book-Buyer*, "was in his literary work as impulsive and energetic as in the practice of his profession. He never could be got to admit that there was any possibility of the failure of a book from his hand. According to popular report that he was right against their will, and casting the most rose-coloured light over enterprises which seemed doomed to prove hopelessly unprofitable. Writing to a London publisher some months ago he said, 'I mean to make one more big travel through Morocco and Timbuctoo, when I will write a book—such a book!—'Khiva' nothing to it—it will make your fortune.' But the journey was never undertaken, and an Arab's spear ended all his plans." It will probably not be long before the novel which Colonel Burnaby left complete in MSS. will be published.

AN interesting reminiscence of Colonel Burnaby appears in the *London Publishers' Circular*. He was, it seems, rather fidgetty in the matter of proofs, and was in a state of feverish impatience until he got them. On one occasion when a slight inelegancy of style was pointed out to him he wrote: "You are probably right about the repetition. . . . I write as I talk, and do not pretend to have any style. You are not the only person who has remarked about the repetition of the word. I have let two or three people look at my Foolometers. They like the book. I think they represent the majority of the reading public." For "On Horseback through Asia Minor," Sampson Low paid as a first instalment \$12,500. Both this and the "Ride to Khiva" had a great success, and passed through many editions.

MARCH 5th, 1885.]

THE ONTARIO INDUSTRIAL LOAN AND INVESTMENT COMPANY (LIMITED).

The fourth annual general meeting of shareholders was held in the company's offices, Toronto Arcade, on Thursday the 19th February inst. The chair was taken at 1 o'clock p.m. by the President, Mr. David Blain. There were present also a number of shareholders from the city and several from the country. The President read the following report to the shareholders:

REPORT.

The Directors beg to submit for your consideration the following report of the company for the year ending 31st December, 1884, with the financial statements, duly audited.

The subscribed capital at that date amounted to \$479,800.00, on which had been paid \$235,135.64.

In the balance sheet the item of \$433,820.62 shows the amount of investments in real estate. A large portion of this is represented by the company's new enterprise, the "Arcade," consideration of which has been before you repeatedly, and met with your approbation; the item \$64,761.33 represents the loans on real estate, mortgages, and the item of \$27,480.80 refers to loans on personal security covered by collaterals.

The real estate and other securities of the company have been carefully inspected and examined, as usual, by the special committee appointed under the by-laws for that purpose.

As will be seen by the profit and loss account, the net profits for the year (after deducting all expenses of management) have been \$17,218.38, to which add balance from last year, \$779.62, making in all \$17,998.00, out of which two half-yearly dividends of four and three per cent. respectively (making seven per cent. for the year) have been declared amounting to \$16,142.54. The Directors recommend that the sum of \$696.51 be written off, to allow for losses or doubtful debts, and that the balance be carried forward to the credit of profit and loss account.

The reserve fund stands at \$27,000.00.

The Directors are pleased to be able to state that the "Arcade," the construction of which was in progress at the time of the last general meeting, is now in complete running order. The cost has been confined within the estimate, and the result of the endeavours at renting have been satisfactory. The rent roll now shows sufficient to ensure an annual net return (after allowing for all expenses) of over 5 1/2 per cent.; and as fully one-third of the building is yet to be rented (all the proceeds of which will of course be additional net profit) your Directors feel safe in anticipating a handsome permanent return upon the investment, increasing as the city progresses.

Upon realizing the advantage and desirability of operating in the buying and selling of real estate, your Directors, after careful consideration, concluded that in no part of Canada could such investments be made with greater certainty, and better prospects of profit, than in the City of Toronto, and have therefore confined their operations entirely to real estate in and around this city.

The depression in the real estate market referred to in the last annual report, unhappily continued throughout the year. Indications, however, are, it is thought, already apparent of greater activity during the coming spring, and no effort will be spared by the management to develop the company's valuable property.

All of which is respectfully submitted.
J. GORMLEY, D. BLAIN,
Managing Director. President.

The financial statements as follows were also laid before the meeting:—

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET.

Liabilities.	
Capital Stock paid up	\$235,135 64
Mortgages on real estate	201,899 16
Deposits	62,036 79
Sundry accounts payable	453 86
Dividend No. 7, payable 2nd Jan. 1885	7,040 72
Reserve fund	27,000 00
Profit and loss account, carried forward	1,158 95
	\$534,725 12

Assets.

Real estate	\$433,820 62
Loans, Mortgages	\$61,761 33
Loans, bills receivable, and collaterals	27,480 80
Interest accrued	1,348 99
	93,591 12
Cash in bank	3,112 81
" on hand	37 60
	3,150 41
Office furniture	348 98
Rents receivable	3,813 99
	\$534,725 12

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.

To interest paid depositors, bank, etc.	\$7,597 27
To cost of management	5,800 63
" commissions	319 13
Net profits for year	\$17,218 38
Add balance at credit from last year	779 62
	\$17,998 00
Appropriated and proposed to be appropriated as follows:	
Dividend No. 6. Four per cent., paid 2nd July, 1884	9,101 82
Dividend No. 7. Three per cent., payable 2nd Jan., 1885	7,040 72
Written off, doubtful debts	696 51
Carried forward to credit of profit and loss account	1,158 95
	17,998 00
	\$31,215 03

Cr.

By balance at credit 1st Jan., 1884	\$2,783 62
Less amount voted to President Directors, and auditors	2,004 00
	779 62
" interest on investments, rents, etc.	19,608 57
" profits on sales of real estate	10,826 84
	\$31,215 03

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We hereby report that we have carefully audited the books and vouchers of the company for the year ending 31st December, 1884, and have found them correct. We have also examined the foregoing statements of account and certify that they furnish a true exhibit of the affairs of the company, as shown by the books. We have also inspected the securities held by the company and have found them in order.

CHARLES B. PETRY, } Auditors.
JOHN PATTON, }

Toronto, 11th February, 1885.

The President in a brief address, moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by the 1st Vice-President, Mr. E. H. Duggan, and carried unanimously.

Resolutions were passed thanking the President, Directors, and officers for their close attention to the business of the company.

The election of Directors was then proceeded with, the following gentlemen being elected:—Messrs. David Blain, LL.D. (President Central Bank), E. H. Duggan, James Langstaff, M.D. (Richmond Hill), C. Blackett Robinson, James Robinson (Reeve of Markham), John J. Cook, A. McLean Howard, Alfred Baker, M.A., John Harvie, James Gormley and Wm. Booth.

The meeting then adjourned.

At a subsequent meeting of the board of Directors David Blain, Esq., was chosen President and E. H. Duggan, Esq., and Jas. Langstaff, Esq., M.D., Vice-Presidents.

BRITISH AMERICA ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of this Company was held at its offices, Front street, Toronto, on Wednesday, February 18th. There was a very large attendance, among those present being the following gentlemen:—J. Morison, H. S. Northrop, Hon. Wm. Cayley, Geo. Boyd, J. Y. Reid, John Leys, Chas. D. Warren, G. M. Kinghorn (Montreal), Henry Taylor (London), T. R. Wood, Wm. Adamson, W. J. Buines, A. H. Campbell, Rev. John Douce, R. C. Fitzgerald, H. C. Hammond, H. L. Hime, Walter S. Lee, John Lyman, Thos. Long, W. J. Macdonald, J. W. Miller, Jas. K. Osborne, Henry Pellatt, E. H. Richardson, A. J. Somerville, John Donnell, Robert Thompson, Alex. Brown, R. H. Tomlinson, Richard Dunbar, Chas. Duckett, Turner, John Duncan, Jas. Fraser, C. H. Gilpin, C. H. Greene, Robert Gill, E. D. Howe, A. Myers, Rev. T. W. Paterson, T. H. A. Martens, Wm. M. Wills, J. H. Taylor, Hugh Moore, James Mason, Samuel May, J. J. Macdonald, Dr. Hugh Robertson, Ald. Steiner, John Sinclair, T. R. Wood, Percival F. Ridout, Wm. Ross, Alex. Mills, James Scott, Wm. Thomas, John H. Taylor, George T. Alexander, C. H. Ritchie.

The Governor of the Company, Mr. John Morison, occupied the chair, and Mr. Silas P. Wood acted as Secretary. The Directors presented the annual report for 1884 as follows:—

REPORT.

The Directors have the honour to submit their annual statement, giving the results of the business of the Company for the year ending December 31, 1884. They have the satisfaction to inform the Shareholders that the business done in marine shows a very handsome profit, and to state that the fire business done in Canada shows a loss ratio of only fifty-four and a-half per cent., which may be considered a very gratifying result. It is to be regretted that the Company's fire business in the United States has been unprofitable, but almost without exception every large English and American company doing an agency business there has suffered in an equal degree. In closing up the fire business in Europe and other foreign countries, under arrangements made by a former management, the Company is still sustaining a loss, but the Shareholders will be pleased to know that the foreign business is now greatly reduced, and there is every reason to hope that future losses from that source will be considerably light. The Directors anticipate a satisfactory business during the ensuing year, as fire insurance companies were never more in accord with each other. Boards have been organized throughout the United States and Canada for the purpose of securing an increase in rates, and for the establishment on a better basis of insurance business generally. As the manufacturing and commercial interests of the country improve, the Directors confidently look for a corresponding improvement in the business of fire insurance. All of which is respectfully submitted.

SILAS P. WOOD, Secretary. J. MORISON, Governor.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1884.

Assets.		Brought forward	
Cash in hand and in banks	\$74,750 37	Old balances of agents written off	18,306 84
Mortgage on real estate	1,849 33	Rent account (including taxes)	3,671 89
Municipal debentures	65,215 22	Balance	5,467 78
Bank and other dividend-paying stocks	169,536 10		\$805,689 27
Real estate—Company's Building	90,000 00	Premiums, fire	\$724,983 63
United States bonds	569,540 66	Less re-insurance	48,109 76
Office furniture	14,273 27		676,873 87
Bills receivable	19,588 21	Premiums, marine	90,049 71
Agents' balances	36,567 25	Less re-insurance	4,257 31
	\$1,041,319 95		85,792 40
		Interest	36,389 29
		Rent account	7,043 71
			\$805,689 27
			SURPLUS FUND.
		Capital stock	\$500,000 00
		Losses under adjustment	86,602 01
		Dividend No. 81 (Balance)	2,725 33
		Dividend No. 82	20,000 00
		Balance	431,692 61
			\$476,992 61
		Balance from last statement	471,524 83
		Profit and loss	5,467 78
			\$476,992 61
			RE-INSURANCE LIABILITY.
		Balance at credit of surplus fund	\$431,992 61
		Reserve to reinsure outstanding risks	325,315 99
			\$757,308 60
		Net surplus over all liabilities	\$106,616 02

AUDITORS' REPORT.

To the Governor and Directors of the British America Assurance Company: GENTLEMEN.—We beg to report that we have carefully audited the books, accounts and vouchers of the Company, up to the 31st December last, and find the same to be in their possession as set forth in the statement and balance sheet as hereto annexed.

ROBERT R. CATHRON, } Auditors.
R. C. FITZGERALD, }

Mr. Morison, in rising to move the adoption of the report, said: GENTLEMEN.—When a merchant at the end of the year takes stock and finds that he has lost money during the year, he certainly is not in a very happy frame of mind, but as he has no one to blame but himself he tries to do better the next year. When, however, the Directors of a Company bring in a statement at the end of a year whereby they show that they are poorer than they were the year before, it is quite another matter, for you as Shareholders naturally think there ought to be a profit. However, I will be brief as I possibly can, and will state simply where we have lost money during the year, and where we have made it. I shall, therefore, take up first the marine business.

CANADA.		UNITED STATES.	
Net premium	\$51,140 44	Net premiums	\$34,632 38
Losses or 74 per cent. of the premiums	37,911 31	Losses	6,747 03
Expenses or 104 per cent. of the premiums	8,489 80	104 per cent. of premiums	3,617 03
Making a profit of	4,747 77	Expenses	19,268 85

But, gentlemen, the Marine Manager ought to be credited with \$9,892.50 paid in losses last year that occurred in the years from 1878 to 1880. If you remember, I told you that for five years before 1882 our marine business was in a very unsatisfactory state. We had lost \$50,000 in five years, and we then determined to do a smaller business and not so extended, and try to make money out of it. In our judgment we had reason to anticipate a profit; the result is that we show a profit for these three years of \$41,136.78. But for the \$9,893 of old losses that we paid last year, \$8,364 of similar losses that we had to pay in 1883, and nearly \$12,500 of the year before, all of which losses were not provided for by the former management, you will see that we ought to have had a profit in the last three years in our marine business of about \$71,000. Now, gentlemen, we come next to the fire business. In Canada we have a handsome sum to our credit for amount of business done.

CANADIAN.		UNITED STATES.	
Net premiums	\$156,035 19	Net premiums	\$525,155 05
Losses (54 per cent. of premiums)	85,225 57	Losses (75 per cent. of premiums)	\$393,785 44
Expenses (21 per cent. of premiums)	37,124 14	Expenses (34 per cent. of premiums)	181,087 06
Leaving \$33,685.48 to our credit, after deducting \$7,473.73 losses outstanding at the end of the year.			574,872 50

I am sorry that I am not able to say the same of the United States.

Leaving \$49,716.85 to our debit, which includes \$76,188.32 losses outstanding at the end of the year. This also includes *pro rata* share of home office expenses for conducting that business. Now, I hear you say: "What are you doing to try and stop this loss?" I can simply answer that we believe we have as able men as any other company; that we are doing as well as most foreign, and a great many American, companies in the United States; and that we have given our American business the greatest care and attention. The Secretary says he is prepared to let the facts in connection with every loss be seen by anyone, and that he would take the same risks again if they were offered to us, so that you can see that the loss is one of those things your Board have no control over. In many small places where we would only get about \$50 to \$100 per year, and where we believed the expense of this business and the taxes on it were not justified by the class of business, we retired; and instead of having, as we had two years ago, 940 agents there, we have reduced them to about 500, so that you see our aim is to try to concentrate our business into the larger cities where there is not only business for us to do, but where we can also get a fair share of the best risks of the year. When we started in these smaller places where older companies had been located for years, there was nothing left for us but perhaps special hazards, and our policy is now to try and get our full share of the better class of business. For that reason we are not extending our business or increasing in volume, but what we try to do is to get a good risk where there had been a poor one before, and the Secretary has instructions to come out of any place, State or city, where he sees by experience he is not getting that class of business from the agent that we should receive. We certainly expected a profit from the United States the past year, but though we are disappointed we are not discouraged, because in looking over the loss ratio are on a par with the best of them. We have also to report a loss of over \$11,000 on European business during the past year, but I am sure you will be glad to hear that we are getting that business greatly reduced. Now, gentlemen, I think I have told you where we have lost and where we have gained this year, and I think if you will take those old matters out, you will find that we

are just about even. But there are the facts that show that we have gone behind. The Directors have no excuses to make, nor apologies to offer. We believe that we have worked as well as men could. We have given our best judgment, and though we have been disappointed it has not been for want of care.

On motion of Mr. Morison, seconded by Mr. Northrop, the report was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Robert Thompson, seconded by Mr. H. L. Hime, it was resolved "That the thanks of the Shareholders are due, and are hereby tendered to the Directors for their attention to the interests of the Company during the past year."

Moved by J. Y. Reid, seconded by W. S. Lee, "That Messrs. Hime, Pellatt, Macdonell, and Balnes be appointed Scrutineers for taking the ballot for Directors to serve for the ensuing year and that the poll be closed as soon as five minutes shall have elapsed without a vote being taken."—Carried.

The vote resulted in the following gentlemen being elected Directors:—Messrs. John Morison, H. S. Northrop, Hon. Wm. Cayley, John Leys, J. Y. Reid, Geo. Boyd, and T. R. Wood, of Toronto; Henry Taylor, of London; and G. M. Kinghorn, of Montreal.

At a special meeting of the Board held on Thursday, February 19th, at which Messrs. Morison, Northrop, Cayley, Reid, Leys, and Taylor, were present, Mr. Morison was unanimously re-elected Governor, and Mr. Northrop Deputy Governor for the ensuing year.

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HENRY H. CROFT.

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From the Mail (Can.) Dec. 15.
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by the presence and development of the
vegetable parasite amoeba in the internal lin-
ing membrane of the nose. This parasite is
only developed under favourable circum-
stances, and these are:—Morbid state of the
blood, as the lighted corpuscle of uraemia,
the germ poison of syphilis, mercury, toxo-
mos, 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 mem-
brane of the nose in a constant state of irrita-
tion, 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; burrow-
ing 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.
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forty years' standing, after much experiment-
ing, 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, with-
out delay, communicate with the business
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and inclose stamp for their treatise on Catarrh

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Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied and signed with their actual signatures. Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque, made payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, equal to five per cent. of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party declines to enter into a contract when called on to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned. The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order, A. GOBEIL, Secretary.

Department of Public Works }
Ottawa, 19th February, 1885. }



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