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THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.

It is somewhat unfortunate that the discussion of the volume of Scripture Readings, prepared for the use of our public schools, should have come up at this particular moment. Undoubtedly, a good many of those who are taking a prominent part in the controversy feel a real and deep interest in the subject, apart from all political or personal considerations. They brought the matter before the public, in the newspapers, and they kept it there, when there was no prospect of a dissolution and a fresh election; and only the most unscrupulous partisan feeling could lead their antagonists to charge them with unworthy or hidden motives. Having brought their charges against the Provincial Government quite openly, and on grounds which they clearly explained, they can hardly be blamed for repeating these charges on the eve of an election, or for using them to influence the result.

It can hardly be denied, however, that another class, probably a large class, have simply taken up the question as an election cry; and this need not surprise us. Nor, in fact, need it occasion any great amount of indignation. It is what both political parties are continually doing. It is the curse of party government and party spirit that men come to think almost any means to be lawful, if they can only gain their ends. The howl which is raised by the organs of one party when the organs and friends of the other party make capital out of Scripture Extracts, Prohibition, No Popery, or any other cry, is not hypocritical only because party spirit blinds the eyes of the critic, and makes him forget that he is ready to do the same thing himself.

As the Provincial election will be over before these lines appear in print, it is clear that they can be suspected of no partisan motive; and a few calm and temperate words may perhaps not altogether uselessly be spoken, even before the storm has quite subsided.

A good many different questions have got mixed up in this dispute apart from the gross and bitter personalities which have been very uselessly imported into it. These we may pass over in silence, simply remarking that the good or bad faith, the pure or corrupt motives, of this man or of that, have really nothing at all to do with the questions at issue :—(1) whether it is desirable to have a book of selections published; (2) whether the selection actually made is a good one; and (3) whether it was made in the proper manner. We believe that few men, in their hearts, have any doubts whatever of the sincerity of Inspector Hughes or Canon Dumoulin. But no amount of mud-throwing at these gentlemen will dispose of their arguments, if they are valid.

As regards the propriety of making such a volume of selections, a great deal may be said on both sides, and much unnecessary heat has been imported into the discussion of this point. On the one hand, it would certainly seem sufficient to draw up a calendar of lessons. Such a method would be respectful to this collection of books which holds a unique position in the estimation of every Christian Church. It would also sufficiently meet the quite reascnable view that all parts of the sacred volume are not equally adapted for the use of children.

A good deal of nonsense has been uttered on this subject. Controversialists have spoken as though one passage in the Bible, whencesoever taken, was as good and as useful and as necessary as another. We are reminded of the good man who diligently read his Bible through, from the first verse of Genesis to the last of the Apocalypse; and then began at the beginning again, steadfastly plodding through every page and every line, as though the list of names in the Book of Nehemiah were as edifying as the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount, or the consolations in the 1st Epistle of S. Peter. Very few people nowadays really hold this theory, and still fewer act upon it. Most—perhaps we may say all—reasonable teachers will set children to read, or else read to them, those passages which are best suited to their intelligence, and which will be the most instructive. All this, however, might be regulated by a mere calendar.

On the other hand, we are not able to understand the strong feelings entertained by some against the publication of extracts. Every Christian communion has done this to some extent. To say nothing of the Roman Breviary, or the English Book of Common Prayer, we have had "Scripture Promises," the "Words of Jesus," collections of texts suitable for use in free prayer, and the like, and most people have agreed to consider such publications as helpful and edifying. Whether, therefore, a selection was necessary or not, we cannot agree with those who make the mere compilation of passages a serious offence.

Whether the actual compilation made is the best possible, or is as good as might be expected in the circumstances, is a more difficult question. Indeed the extreme difficulty of doing the work, in the actual circumstances of the religious condition of this country, is perhaps the strongest argument against the attempt and in favour of the adoption of a calendar. It would be easy to find fault, to follow the course of the book from page to page, and criticise and carp at every turn. For this we have no mind. The historical portion of the book seems very well done. Except that intolerable vulgarism of "Our Father who," instead of "which," which sets every English scholar's teeth on edge, there does not seem to be much fault to be found with this part of the work.

When, however, we turn to the part of the volume which represents the Epistles, we stand aghast at the result. We could understand certain epistles being omitted, or even parts of a certain epistle; but here we have nothing but shreds and patches. Moreover, we could understand something being made of these fragments if they were arranged in any kind of order. Surely something might have been done, upon which the learned clergymen employed in the revision could have agreed, to mould these parts into something like an ethical system. If no other method was possible than the one adopted, we are inclined to think it would have been better to keep to the historical portion alone, and leave out the epistles altogether.

As regards the manner of doing the work, a very few words may suffice. We think some of the Protestant advocates have gone too far. The Roman Catholics, if they are willing that their children should read or hear the extracts, have a distinct interest in their selection. There are parts of the country in which there are no Separate Schools. But it is said, with what truth we cannot now pretend to decide, that practically no Roman Catholic children are allowed to take part in this religious instruction. If that be so, there seems reason in the objection that a Roman Catholic Bishop is hardly the man to decide what parts of the Scriptures shall be read by Protestant children ; and we quite admit that this is a matter which Mr. Ross's critics have a perfect right, and are strictly bound, to look into.

There is another point. If Roman Catholics are willing that their children should take part in the religious instruction of the Public Schools in places where there are no Separate Schools, then undoubtedly Roman Catholic divines have a right to be consulted in the selection of the passages. But they ought to be consulted precisely in the same way as the pastors of other churches. Either some of them should be placed upon the committee, or they should send their recommendation to the committee or to the Minister of Education; and this should be done openly, and without any disguise or mystification.

It is impossible for the inhabitants of any country to regard the interference of the Roman Catholic Church in the Government with the feelings that would be reasonable in the case of other Churches. The Roman Church puts forth claims and pretensions which are unique and supreme. They may seem to be suspended for a time, but they are never abandoned or lowered. The clergy of that Church cannot reasonably complain if their pretensions are kept in remembrance by those who refuse to concede them.

LETTER FROM ITALY.

WE are now in the country of what our Parisian friends would call *l'homme de cœur*. Men's blood here seems at once thicker, darker, warmer, than that of the Transalpine nations. One may find no mean index to a character in the treatment of an enemy—British boxing, French ridicule, Swiss sarcasm, and Italian—murder. "These dear, interesting, picturesque, loveable, lying Italians." As one contemplates their soft, glorious eyes, and listens to their exquisitely musical tongue, the same effect is produced as that by beautiful, dangerous ravines, and glinting torrents—they are all best seen in the sunlight.

From Geneva to Turin there is not much time for the study of guides, which, a foreigner once laughingly remarked to me, the English invariably consult at the very moment of passing the object of interest, seeming rather to prefer the description of a mountain to the mountain itself! Following the right bank of the Rhone, we must wait till we cross it, and, having entered Savoie some time before, we now come into the midst of rugged scenery, the wild grandeur of which is only enhanced by the recent falls of snow. On either hand it is but a succession of giant mountains, with lonely little villages crouching in the valley at their feet. Before reaching the Mont Cenis the only town of interest is Aix-les-Bains—bare and desolate enough now, but very fashionable and popular in warmer months, on account of its sulphur springs.

If in our New World we bow in admiration before the works of nature, here a thrill of no mean pride passes through us when we contemplate the achievements of man. Humanity is not of such base metal after all, thanks to the few worthy souls that save it. Shortly after passing Modane we enter the wonderful tunnel, seven and three-quarter miles in length, that pierces the Col de Fréjus. For thirty minutes we rush along the dark passage with feelings not a little peculiar! And when once again the train issues into the free air, a sensation is experienced as of having passed through the Valley of Death, for in truth a veritable promised land is reached. It grows toward evening, and the land assumes that silent, solemn air given it by snow and slowly rising mists. Far below, every here and there, are clusters of melancholy houses, and beyond, like mighty waves of a troubled sea, the mountains break upon the blue shores of the sky. Ere long a single silver sail is descried upon this fantastic occan, and the foam-capped billows and dark vales are bathed in moonlight.

It is an infinite relief to be at length in a country where the people are by nature what they are, and see no reason for torturing themselves into foreign states of feeling. If men sing here, it is because eating even is hardly more necessary. An artistic sentiment needs not to be implanted, and then fostered and encouraged, by a thousand and one lectures, all of more or less maudlin calibre. No, it appears as little surprising to discover frescoes in a farmhouse as in a palace, and every available inch is decorated. To the Italian, beauty and sweet sounds are as natural as—dirt. One has a right to doubt a disputed talent. This child-like nation, with its naïve, unquestionable genius, gives one all the pleasure of an unspoilt prodigy. Instead of the bristling British damsel, with her "we are artistic," we have the passionate sun of Italy, in whose every word and gesture lies a world of inspiration. Most estimable Gauls and Englishmen, it is a bad sign when you attempt to persuade the world of your capacities.

A very serious, busy little town Turin. The wide streets intersect each other at right angles, and are lined, the principal ones at least, with arcades on either hand. We are no longer in the land of disrobed churches, where nothing is lacking in the *mise-en-scène* which everywhere is of bewildering beauty. The most curious feature of the Duomo, or cathedral, an edifice in the Renaissance style, may be considered the Cappella del Santissimo Sudario, which, standing above and behind the high altar, is separated from the body of the church by a huge glass screen, so that viewed from below, while any service is being conducted in it, nothing can seem more strange than the effect produced—a sort of martyr's vision. This chapel contains, besides the tombs of the Dukes of Savoy, the Santissimo Sudario, part of the linen cloth in which Christ's body was wrapped.

An interesting and exquisitely beautiful monument, that commemorating the completion of the Mont Cenis tunnel. Situated in the Piazza dello Statuto, one of those picturesque squares that abound in Italian cities, a bronze Genius of Science soars above a pile of granite rocks, clinging to which the conquered giants of the mountain look towards her with vain defiance.

It would be difficult to imagine a church more ideal in every respect than the Duomo of Milan. Embodying all that such a structure should possess, there is a fitness, a beautiful uniformity, a vast, dreamy grandeur, that must fulfil the desire of the most ardent worshipper in art as in religion. Picture to yourself a marvellous pile in marble, a pile adorned with ninety-eight Gothic turrets, and upwards of two thousand statues, all glistening under an Italian sun, and rising, as it were, a maze of petrified lace against an Italian sky. In the interior of this cathedral, the largest in Europe after those of Seville and St. Peter's in Rome, one experiences those delicious feelings of wondering awe, of peace, the resurrection of a thousand sweet beliefs and visions which, after all, but few scenes on earth can recall. As we wander in the dim light, listening to the dull roar of the city without, that for nearly five centuries has beaten like some sullen sea about these mighty walls; as the notes of the organ "fall like rain upon the longing, pleading hearts," for a moment in the incense clouds and soft lights, the mists and rosy tints of faith and love that floated round us in life's morning make once again the dear, long-lost, unreal world.

In Milan a new face has been put on the clock, its pulses beat with all the nervous action of modern towns, and its inhabitants, some three hundred thousand, appear proudly aware that they belong to one of the wealthiest manufacturing towns in Italy. Nowhere is the Milanese taste of to-day manifested to better advantage than in the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, a huge glass-covered arcade in the form of a Latin cross, in the centre of which, over an octagon, rises a cupola, one hundred and eighty feet in height. The gallery is lined with shops that exhibit endless pretty and original ideas which even Parisians might envy.

Facing the Theatro della Scala stands a beautiful monument to Leonardo da Vinci—a statue of the master in Carrara marble, surrounded by four of his pupils. The vast theatre is now in wild confusion preparing for the approaching opening at Christmas, as only then and during the Carnival do performances take place.

In 1457 Francesco and Bianca Maria Sforza founded the Ospedale Maggiore, one of the largest hospitals in existence. Half Gothic and half Renaissance, the artist's skill has unfortunately been expended only upon the exterior, which, however, with its exquisite mouldings in terra-cotta is remarkably fine; interiorly, the arrangements are primitive in the extreme, and a surprisingly pauper air pervades the whole.

To the north-west of the city, the Alps in the far background, lies the Cimitero Monumentale. Through a beautiful entrance we come into this Campo Santo, a cemetery fifty acres in area. It is cut into huge sections by rectangular paths that are lined with the tombs of the richer classes, while in the centre of these sections the countless graves of the poor, arranged in regular rows, are marked by small, dark head-stones. Similar Campi for the children, or bambini, present an appearance strangely pathetic, the tiny tombstones, frightfully numerous, being plain white. Quite at the extremity of the cemetery stands the Tempio di Cremazione, an edifice constructed for the cremation of the dead of Milan - a very simple building, in the style of an ancient temple. The porch of semi-circular shape contains several urns, and an inscription above the door informs us that the structure was presented to the town in 1876 by Mr. Albert Keller, a Swiss resident. The first room we enter holds a glass case, beneath which the few bleached, crumbling bones show to what our bodies can be reduced. The walls of an adjoining chamber, from floor to ceiling, are divided into scores of "pigeon-holes," on the slabs of marble closing which the names of those whose ashes lie within may be inscribed. Below the pavement is a space assigned to the poor, who, by the way, are cremated gratuitously. In the largest apartment of this temple we find two ovens built into the side wall, and heated with fuel placed at the back. The first of these is more recent, three flames at the head consuming a body in fifty minutes; the second takes two hours to perform its work. Cremation seems here to be by no means unpopular, and one may only hope an ill-directed sentiment and childish conventionality, will not long hinder its universal favour in other lands.

Among the sad proofs of unscrupulous rapacity which Napoleon has left at every turn, it is no small pleasure to come across some of the results of a gentler humour. The Arco del Simpione, begun in 1804, was destined as a termination to the Simplon route. Like the Arc de Triomphe, standing up against the sky, it is worthy to be an entrance of Paradise. On the glistening white marble, of which the arch is entirely made, are sculptures mostly of Marchesi's.

But only "in the after silence on the shore" can one begin to realise this labyrinth of beauty, through which, alas, it is the fate of so many to rush wildly. Sometimes we may be half inclined to feel that in hope and dreams alone we live our happier life. L. L.

Melano, Dec. 12, 1886.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

THE coming Jubilee year of the Queen is duly heralded by loyal publications. In the Jubilee Edition of Mr. G. Barrett Smith's "Life of Queen Victoria"* will be found fully chronicled and set forth all the doings and sayings, habits and customs, joys, sorrows, cares, love makings, ceremonies, pageants, etiquettes, and costumes of Royalty. Some of the anecdotes are to us at least new. That of the first death warrant is both new and pretty. The first death warrant, it seems, brought the Queen for signature was that of a soldier condemned for having three times deserted. The Queen, we are told, asked the Duke of Wellington, who laid the warrant before her, whether there was nothing to be said in the man's excuse. The Duke could only say that evidence had been given to the prisoner's character, so that he might be a good man, though he was a very bad soldier. The Queen fervently thanked him for his words, and wrote "Pardoned" across the warrant. The chapter on "Wedded Happiness" may be read by Her Majesty's subjects, not only with interest but with profit, when so many examples of Wedded Unhappiness are being painfully thrust on their attention. Prince Albert was supposed to be very liberal, and even latitudinarian, in religion. By the Ritualists he was always regarded as an enemy. We are rather surprised therefore to find that he had a very strong feeling about the solemnity of the Sacrament, and did not like to be in company either the evening before or the day on which he took it. He and the Queen on those days always dined alone. It is rather amusing, by the way, to find Her Majesty, on mounting the Throne, solemnly disavowing a belief in Transubstantiation, and swearing that she has not procured and will not procure a dispensation for her disclaimer from the Pope. Suppose the Roman Catholics were now to agitate for a repeal of the law limiting the Crown to Protestants, what would the politicians do? An Irish Par. liament would unquestionably repeal that law; and if the British Parliament refused to do the same, the "golden link" would become a link of a very Irish kind. For our part we would far rather read Mr. Barrett Smith than be at Court. We can never think of Court life without wondering at the attractions which it evidently has for a great many people, and the willingness of any one who can live free in a cottage of his own to wear the fetters of daily etiquette.

THE "Life of Queen Victoria" has, as its companion, "The Ministers of Queen Victoria," by the same writer. So tenacious is the constitutional illusion, that we may doubt whether the author himself was perfectly conscious that, in writing the histories of the Prime Ministers, he was writing those of the real kings. The theory, and not only the theory but the common belief, is that the wearer of the Crown governs, calls, and dissolves Parlia. ments, ratifies or vetoes laws, makes war and peace, appoints all the officers of State, all the Bishops, all the Judges, all the commanders by land and sea. The fact, as appears from the history of Sir Robert Peel, is that she has not the power of appointing her own waiting women. While the reputed sovereign rides in a gilt coach of state, with lords and ladies in waiting, and escorted by a glittering escort of cuirassiers, the real sovereign may be threading his way on foot unnoticed through the crowd. At the opening of Parliament she reads the speech to the august assemblage, while he whose speech it really is, perhaps, listens humbly among the Commons at the Bar. It is a curious and delicate arrangement, this of the king who reigns without governing ; yet it has been adopted by almost the whole of the civilised world, though, as we cannot doubt, merely as a bridge by which society is to pass from Monarchy to Democracy. In England the seclusion of Royalty for twenty five years has estranged it from the hearts as well as from the eyes of the people, and the Prime Minister has almost become ostensibly as well as really king. Mr. Gladstone's progresses were royal, and it was said that the people kissed his hand when he put it out of the window of the railway car. Royalty, however, still has the advantage of a consecrated name and of representing the nation, while the Prime Minister only represents a party; and the masses which now enjoy the franchise in England require a personal object of allegiance, which of late they have been finding in the G. O. M. It is conceivable that Royalty might again play a really considerable part, if there were upon the throne an able and active king, or if the Court had advisers who understood the times, and were competent to play the political game. But the lady to whom the throne belongs has practically left it vacant for any one who chose to mount it, and the real advisers of Monarchy at this crisis of its fate, unless English society is much deceived, are members of the household whose advice, as they are sure to flatter the Royal inclinations, must be worse than nothing.

* London and New York : George Routledge and Sons.

LIGHTS OUT!

THE sentry challenged at the open gate, Who passed him by, because the hour was late-"Halt! Who goes there ?"—"A friend !"—"All's well,"— "A friend, old chap!" a friend's farewell, And I had passed the gate. And then the long, last notes were shed, The echoing call's last notes were dead-And sounded sadly, as I stood without, Those last sad notes of all : "Lights Out ! " "Lights Out!" Farewell, companions! We have side by side Watched history's lengthened shadows past us glide, And worn the scarlet, laughed at, paid, And buried comrades lowly laid, And let the long years glide; And toil and hardship have we borne, And followed where the flag had gone. But all the echoes answering round about Have bidden you to sleep : "Lights Out!" "Lights Out!" And never more for me shall red fires flash From bright revolvers-Oh the crumbling ash Of life is hope's fruition : Fall The withered friendships-and they all Are sleeping ! Fast away, The fabrics of our lives decay The robes of night about me lay-A cold air whispered, as I stood without, Those last sad notes of all : "Lights Out !" " Lights Out ! "

ROGER POCOCK.

THE POPULATION OF IRELAND, AND EMIGRATION.

SOME of the facts that follow have been obtained from a searching article by Mr. Albert J. Mott, F.G.S., in the English *National Review*. It is strongly recommended for perusal by all within whose reach it may come. It seeks by incontrovertible facts to disprove the aspersions which are cast on England by Irish orators, for the lessening of the population of Ireland. It is written without bias, and deals with truths.

At the close of the last century the population of Ireland was estimated at between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000. At the first regular census in 1821 it was 6,801,827; at that of 1831, 7,767,401. It is to be noted as a striking fact that in Leinster, a comparatively prosperous province, the increase in the ten years was at the rate of 9 per cent. ; while in Connaught, where the numerous peasantry are permanently in a very depressed condition, the increase was 22 per cent., or nearly twice and a half as great. (Chambers's "Information for the People." Edinburgh: W. and R. Cham-bers, 1842.) This Province is described as "containing large tracts of mountainous and sterile land," and part of it, Connemara, as "a vast tract of mingled bog, lake, rocky moorland, and mountain." Other parts of the west coast of Ireland are little, if any, better, such as Donegal and Kerry, and the country is broken in parts by other bogs and mountains. estimating the capacity of Ireland to sustain a large population, these facts must not be lost sight of. It is at present 160 persons to the square mile. This may not, perhaps, convey a very definite idea. It can be got at by comparison. A certain range of land in Canada lies under close observation. It is five miles long by one wide, and therefore contains five square miles. The land is good, and the situation central and favourable, lying along the shore of navigable water. It was originally laid out in what were called 100-acre lots, in fact, the sixth part of a square mile containing 640 acres. There were, therefore, thirty of these. The ten-dency has not been, as is so unhappily the case in Ireland, to divide and subdivide the lots, but in the opposite direction, as the tract now consists of only twenty-four farms. It is a very old settlement, dating back nearly 100 years, partly settled by United Empire Loyalists from the United States, partly by Irish. The inhabitants have seen four generations, and there must have been a very large increase of population. But it has been kept within due limits by emigration to other parts of Canada, and to the States. It numbers now, all told, though a baby or two may escape notice, 210 souls, including clergyman, store-keeper, farmers, mechanics, schoolteachers, and hired labourers (very few of these), with all their families, where they have any, thus averaging 42, or about one-fourth of the Irish population to the square mile. It is in all respects a fairly prosperous community, possessing moderate abundance but little wealth, a picture in little of the Province of Ontario, that is, outside of the cities and towns. Here, then, we have emigrants, to and from, with the most satisfactory results. And yet a proposal for enlarged emigration from Ireland is stigmatised as barbarous. Imagine, for a moment, that there had been no emigration from this settlement under notice; that the Irish plan of division and subdivision of the land had gone on. We should have had a wretched impoverished community, working under every possible disability, discouragement, and disadvantage-a practical farmer alone knows how great; a hive of starving bees, from which the swarms have not gone forth, striving to wrest an impossible subsistence from honey only enough for a fourth part of their number. Had these people been driven by insufficiency of land to the cultivation of the potato, as an almost exclusive article of diet, the same shocking results would have occurred, when it totally failed in the years 1847-48, as came to pass in Ireland, where even a fourth part of the people are said to have perished by famine and consequent pestilence, in spite of every effort made by the Government to stay the calamity, and by private benevolence. Money, not to be reckoned when human life was at stake, was poured forth like water, to the amount of eleven millions of pounds, as it was, indeed, when what was called the "cotton famine" happened in the manufacturing districts of England, during the American Civil War. The population of Ireland fell off to about 5,000,000. In the face of all these indisputable facts, Irish orators would have us believe that that country is capable of sustaining a population of 10,000,000 to 12,000,000, and that British misgovernment is all that stands in the way. It could only be by miracle. As we have seen, there are now in Ireland 160 persons to the square mile, 42 in our Ontario tract, a miniature of the Province at large. But let us go farther afield. In Portugal and Hungary there are only three-quarters of the present density of population in Ireland, in Spain only half. Of these countries Mr. Mott says : "They are chiefly dependent upon agriculture, though each of them has other sources of income much greater than those of Ireland."

At the time of the famine in Ireland the population was 8,000,000 at least-267 to the square mile. In the State of New York-one of the most flourishing communities in the world, with every advantage of trade, commerce, and manufactures, with enormous riches, the channel through which great part of the immense production of the Great West is poured, with the vast combined cities of New York and Brooklyn, and all its other cities and towns,—there are no more than 106 people to the square mile; while Ireland, according to this pro-mised miracle, might support 326, more than three times the number. What real benefit can be counted on from such wild exaggerations? That Ireland is depopulated and impoverished by the Government inat ireland is depopulated and impovensied by the Government surely demands proof very different from this sort of thing, from which no possible good can ever come. Mr. Mott discusses the "resources of Ireland." He says: "The people already employed upon the land are more numerous, than the best cultivation will maintain in comfort." They are 65, while all is done in England by 45. The fisheries have declined, presumably because they have not been profitable. The wholesale value of the product of all the hisneries, not only round the whole British coast, but from many foreign seas as well, is about £12,000,000 a year. The utmost that Ireland could add could only be a small proportion, too limited for its profits to affect the nation generally. "There are," Mr. Mott says, "no forests to cut down; few minerals of special value to dig up." "Irish miner appleviated 1.650 persons after all the stimulus that mining update mines employ just 1,650 persons after all the stimulus that mining under-went some fifteen years ago. "Trade may increase, but it is impos-sible that anything important can be looked for till some special cause arises; even its probable nature cannot be suggested." "The decay of former manufactures is spoken of in a vague way. What, in real figures, did they ever amount to ? Where were they ? Where are the ruins of the deserted mills? The Ulster linen trade is the single exception of any national importance. Fifty years ago, some 12,000 persons were employed in woollen manufactures; the present number is probably less, but what are 12,000 in 5,000,000 ?" Mr. Mott lays bare the question of rent and absenteeism with similar acuteness, as evils, in their degree, doubtless, but out of real comparative magnitude; but space does not admit of our following him so far.

The existence of manufacturing prosperity and of other industries in Belfast, is positive proof that there is no governmental difficulty in the way, because the Government is the same in Ulster as in the other provinces. For all manufactures there must be the essential conditions. England is a manufacturing country, but draw a line across the kingdom south of the a manufacturing country, but traw a fine across the kingtoin south of the Trent, including about two-thirds of the whole area, and where will you find a manufacturing population or great cities, with the one exception of London i "Who thinks," asks Mr. Mott, "of bringing the cotton trade to Kent, or the iron trade to Lincoln i" The Irish cannot hope without a miracle to be exempt from the conditions by which all other people are bound. "It is the case precisely," says Mott, "of a family too large for the family income; unable sufficiently to increase it, but all continuing to live at home." In other words, the table is not large enough, nor the provisions abundant enough, for those who have to sit down to it. Why not go where an abundant meal can be provided ? Ask those who are partaking of it now, whether they would go back to short commons. All this is no disparagement of Ireland or the Irish, who have many excellent and engaging qualities; the present writer, who lives among Irish people, can speak to that. Why should Ireland be asked to perform impossibilities ? There may be hardships in emigration and a tugging at impossionness relief may be narusings in emigration and a tugging at the heartstrings; there is—the writer can speak to that too—but there is no disgrace. Large as is the Irish element in the population of the United States, the German is larger still. A great emigration is always going on from England, chiefly to Australasia. Mr. Mott says in conclusion, "I cannot here discuss the method by which the Irish could be induced to lessen their number sufficiently to cure their own distress. If it is a question of money, it is worth to England as well as Ireland almost anything that it would cost. But what is wanted is some kindly and far-seeing system .hat will not only bring the population to the proper number now, but will prevent it from increasing again except as the means of living increase."

D. F.

WE cannot banish from us the divine breath-we must love.--Amiel.

JOTTINGS OFF THE C.P.R.

I AM indebted to Colonel Baker, late of the Blues, who has resided for two years in Kootenay, and was this summer elected by a Conservative majority to represent the district in the Provincial Parliament at Victoria, for the following information about this part of British Columbia, with the subjoined particulars of its climate, resources, and capabilities:

His ranche of Cranbrooke is situated near Joseph's Prairie, and not far from the Kootenay River, upon an elevation of 3,068 feet above the level of the sea; it contains 10,000 acres, 400 enclosed, and lies in the centre of a gold-bearing region, of which Perry Creek, nine miles distant, is the most remarkable example, several hundred thousand dollars having been taken from it. At Palmer's Bar, in the immediate vicinity, \$10 a day are still obtained.

The soil in this extensive property is a rich vegetable loam, differing from the Kootenay bottom lands, which are rich sand loam, while the large benches on both sides of the river are a rich sandy loam. The fertility of the land about Cranbrooke is evident from the fine quality of its vegetables, roots, and grains. Pease and cucumbers, grown in the open air, were produced in constant succession from the middle of June till the middle of September, when I enjoyed them both. Potatoes and cabbages attained an abnormal size, one of the latter, which was weighed during my visit early in September, when then not fully developed, reached twentythree pounds. A sunflower measured three feet seven inches round the seed bed. The black wax bean (a delicate plant) grows to perfection. Hops cover the houses in wild profusion. The quality of beetroot produced is extremely rich in saccharine matter, and heavy crops have been raised without any irrigation. Alfalfa, a species of lucerne, has been cultivated with great success.

The winter is short, snow usually appears about the end of December, and disappears at the beginning of March, never exceeding fifteen inches in depth; occasionally there are snow falls in November, but these are soon dispersed by the warm sun. The weather during this season is, on the whole, comparatively mild; but cold waves of a few days' duration do occur, and the thermometer has fallen to as low as 30° below zero. The maximum and minimum temperatures in the shade on the 29th January, 1886, were 57° and 33°, Fahrenheit. The geological strata is of the Laurentian and Cambrian, merging into the Carboniferous, systems as the Elk River district is approached. The timber is composed chiefly of large pines (the *Pinus ponderosa*), which often attain to four feet in diameter, and make excellent lumber. The Douglas Fir also reaches a diameter of three feet, and there is a valuable variety of larch, commonly called the tamarack, which differs materially from the species of that name common in the low country. This mountain kind is remarkable for its durable qualities in water, and also makes first-class wood for building purposes. Among the deciduous trees are the poplar, elder, and birch. It is thought that the larger fruits, such as apples, pears, and plums may be successfully cultivated, as the smaller berries, including currants, gooseberries, raspberries, and strawberries, grow abundantly.

The capabilities of the Upper Kootenay Valley and the Columbia Lake region for cattle ranching and horse breeding are of a very high order, especially the latter, as horses can range at large during the whole winter without extra food or shelter, and thrive in a wonderful manner upon the natural bunch grass of the country. With regard to cattle it is considered advisable to provide open shelter sheds for the cold weather, and to furnish them with a moderate amount of fodder, which can be procured in abundance from the hay marshes extending throughout the country. A very necessary item in stock-raising is the quantity and quality of the water. It prevails everywhere; large rivers flow in every valley, and numbers of fine creeks are met with in all directions, containing water as pure and clear as can be met with anywhere in the world, as well as excellent trout. Although there is any amount of game in British Columbia, such as

Although there is any amount of game in British Columbia, such as cariboo, elk, bear, black and white tailed deer, and mountain sheep and goats, it is very difficult to obtain, on account of the dense forests which are to be met with in the mountain region, and the number of Indians who are constantly engaged in hunting. It should also be borne in mind that it is well nigh impossible to have any sport without the guidance and assistance of some experienced Indian well acquainted with the country. White men, with very few exceptions, are practically useless.

White men, with very rew exceptions, are practically useless. The Gold Commissioner, Mr. Vowell, of Donald, and the Indian Com-missioner, Dr. Powell, of Victoria, with Mr. Smythe, the Premier of British Columbia, arrived at Kootenay a week after we did, and camped upon the ranche, with the exception of Mr. Smythe, who became like ourselves a guest of Colonel Baker's. On the day before the Premier's departure a deputation of the settlers in the district waited upon him to welcome him to the country, and to request his able assistance with the Provincial Government in furthering the development of Kootenay. These views were admirably expressed and laid before Mr. Smythe by Colonel Baker, their representative, who called his attention to the pressing need of a waggon road between Golden City and the Upper Kootenay, to facilitate the conveyance of supplies at present carried by pack trains, and also to place the settlers within reach of a central market on the Canadian Pacific. Mr. Smythe replied to Colonel Baker's address in a short and concise speech, saying he had come among the people, and penetrated into the interior of the country, which he believed no Premier had ever done before him, to try to ascertain what were the urgent requirements of the settlers, and bring them before the House when it met. He hoped to connect the Upper Kootenay Valley with the outer world both by land and water, through the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers, which could be joined by a canal, and made navigable from Golden City to the interior.

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I saw also last month in the *Canada Gazette* that "application is made for the incorporation of the Golden City and Kootenay Railway Company, to build a line of railway from Golden City up the Columbia River to the head of Columbia Lake, and then down the Kootenay to St. Mary's, and thence to Cranburgh" (presumably meant for Cranbrooke). E. S.

BERMUDA.—I.

THE question of winter resorts is one often mooted at this season of the year, when many Canadians are anxious to escape from the trying ordeal of our Toronto climate, which certainly possesses features of its own distinct from those of other portions of the Dominion. Of late years a great variableness of temperature has been the leading meteorological characteristic, especially in contrast to the steady cold of Ottawa, Montreal, Here we are visited by three or four cold waves during the and Quebec. winter, which move the mercury for a few days down below zero; then a reaction appears to set in, and up rises the silver ball, often far above We are treated to vagaries of rain and damp of the most freezing point. English description and most colonial unhealthiness. Indeed, the marked prevalence of infectious and throat diseases during the winter months is in itself an inducement to many persons to absent themselves from their homes after the Christmas season has passed. Then the point of pilgrimage must be located, and much discussion arises over the various merits and demerits of the Southern States and California, on this continent, and the West India Islands ; the great trouble being to octain really useful, truthful, and important information about any of the three.

Bermuda is generally classed under the head of the West India Islands, and supposed to form one of the group. In point of fact it lies exactly half way between New York and St. Thomas, the most northerly of these islands, and is in the latitude of Charleston, South Carolina. Having spent several winters on the island, which is comparatively little known to Canadians, I feel qualified to give the latest and most practical information as to its climate, accommodation, society, and resources. One great attraction of the trip is the reasonable and inexpensive journey from One great Toronto to Bermuda, which takes just four days and costs \$50 for a return ticket from New York, good for six months, to be procured at the office of the Company, 51 Broadway. Our party has twice left here on a Wednesday at noon, caught the Atlantic Express on the Erie Railroad, and arrived in New York at eight o'clock the following morning, in ample time to catch the Bermuda boat which did sail from the pier of the Quebec and Gulf Ports S. S. Co., No. 40 North River, every alternate Thursday at three o'clock. We preferred the Erie to the New York Central route, because the ferry depot of the former is only two squares from the dock in question, while that of the latter lies on the other side of the city, and entails a large expense for the transshipment of heavy baggage. On the last occasion we quitted Toronto in November, and took our passage in the steamer Orinoco, a fine vessel of 1,900 tons, with excellent accommodation, good table and service ; since then the Quebec and Gulf Ports Co. have supplemented their line by the addition of a new ship, the *Trinidad*, which I saw. This is a first-class boat of 2,200 tons, broader and heavier in build than the Orinoco, and specially adapted for this route. Her saloon is larger and her cabins more luxurious, and she is provided with electric light and bells, and all modern improvements.

We were favoured with exceptionally fine smooth weather on our trip, which has the credit of being a rough one, as I, however, have never found it in the months of November or May; but we did not succeed in arriving on the traditional sabbath, as a misty fine rain set in on Saturday night, and Sunday morning revealed a prospect of untold dreariness,—soaking decks, dripping rigging, vast expanses of wind-tossed waves, with a very limited horizon, and our good ship toiling along under full sail. Towards evening we slackened speed, as our captain feared we were nearing land and the Bermuda coast is a dangerous one to approach, being protected by a line of coral reefs which stretch far out to sea. It continued to rain in thick squalls all night, and we laboured heavily in the trough of the sea. Monday morning, however, broke bright and clear, and I awoke to the pleasant tidings that the pilot was on board, and we were off St. George's. When I went up on deck we were, in Bermuda parlance, coming up the north shore, and lay to off the dockyard to deliver mails for the admiral and fleet.

The stranger's first impression of these islands is apt to be one of disappointment; he will lose sight of the fact that they are only semitropical in character, and expect visions of palm trees and orange groves, which will meet his gaze only much further south. Instead of such tropical products his eye will rest upon dense, heavy masses of red cedars, which are indigenous to the soil, and clothe the low hills he is passing with a tint of unbroken green, amid which appear here and there patches of brilliant white, like the remnants of some recent snowfall ; these are the scattered residences of the black and white population. Fortunately for us, the tide was favourable to our reaching Hamilton, the principal town, at once per Orinoco, instead of being transferred to the Moondyne, the steam ferry which conveys passengers from Grassy Bay when the water is too low to allow the steamship to pass through Timlin's Narrows into the harbour. We found ourselves at nine o'clock as near terra firma as we could get, being a matter of some fifty feet or less from the pier; a number of blacks proceeded to remedy this defect by constructing, with wonderful dexterity, a primitive landing-stage of heavy poles of timber hauled on to the steamer's upper and lowerdecks; on these they straddled above the water, lashing boards to the under sides, and over this remarkable gangway passengers, luggage, and freight were all safely and rapidly landed. Those who are in haste or prefer it can go ashore in

boats, which swarm about the vessel's sides. The motley throng of white and coloured inhabitants, with their background of white houses and high jalousied green verandas, gave a very foreign appearance to the Front Street of Hamilton, Bermuda.

We had taken a furnished cottage for six months, which stood in a quaint, old-fashioned garden full of roses and narcissus (both in full bloom when we arrived), about ten minutes' walk from the centre of the town. The house contained a drawing-room, dining-room, and four bedrooms and a kitchen; it was well supplied with everything but silver, linen, and cutlery, which we brought with us, and for this we paid the modest sum of £7 sterling a month, or about \$34, English currency being alone in use. There is a branch of the Merchants' Bank of Halifax in Hamilton, which can be utilised by means of letters of credit from any Canadian bank upon their New York agents; also the Hamilton Banking and Exchange Office, manager P. C. Allan, which issues sight drafts on New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Halifax, Montreal, and Toronto. All American money should be changed into bills before leaving the States, as there is a considerable loss upon silver, though none upon greenbacks.

The Bermudas, as they are geographically expressed, consist of one principal island some twenty-five miles long, which extends in a broken line for twelve miles north-east to Hamilton, situated in the centre of this long strip, which is never wider than a few miles across. The lie of the land from here describes an elongated shepherd's crook, which almost encloses the town; the top of the crook is formed by the end of the harbour, where the water diminishes into a tidal pond; while the handle stretches away through the parishes of Paget, Warwick, and Somerset, to the dockyard at the extreme west end. The largest island, on which is Hamilton, terminates really at Somerset; this with Boaz and Ireland Island, the seat of the dockyards, are connected with the mainland by bridges, as is St. George's at the east end by a fine causeway; St. David's being the only important island that stands alone. The irregular conformation of Bermuda causes it to form a large open stretch of water called the Sound, lying between the dockyard and a long channel full of small islands, 365 in number, which guards the approach to Hamilton, and terminates in an open sweep of water opposite the town and parish of Paget and the tidal pond above mentioned. There is a constant ferry service by row boats between these two points, the fare being $2\frac{1}{2}d$.

being $2\frac{1}{2}d$. The islands have a population of 14,000, more than half of which is coloured. There are two large hotels; the Hamilton, situated on a hill in the centre of the town, has been in existence for ten years, and has lately added an extensive wing to the original building. This has provided a added an extensive wing to the original building. very handsome drawing-room, with wide verandas and a fine billiard room below it, while upstairs the bedrooms are of good proportions, with adjoining sitting rooms if required. The prices were from \$17.50 to \$20 a week, according to the situation of the rooms and length of visit con-templated, but Mr. W. Aiken, the new proprietor, may charge differently. The Princess Hotel, proprietor A. A. Jones, was finished and opened two winters ago, and is of quite a different character, being about ten minutes from the town and immediately on the waters of the channel; it is built entirely of wood (an experiment in these islands, where the native limestone is used), after the style of many American summer resorts, and professes on this account to be impervious to the damp air (which is a peculiarity of the Bermuda climate), and is, therefore, warranted to secure an amount of dryness for clothes, boots, shoes, and other personal attributes, which is certainly conducive to comfort and amiability. It is remarkably well furnished throughout, and has a beautiful veranda on two sides of the house, from which, as well as from the windows on the south-east, most lovely views can be enjoyed looking up the channel, with its numerous lovely islands, to the dockyard lying a white line in the distance. A great recommendation to this hotel is that sea water is led into the house for several large tank baths, which are invaluable to visitors. The temperature of the water is always delicious, but the difficulties in the way of bathing for ladies are almost insuperable. The rooms at the Princess, and the general arrangements, are similar to the Hamilton, with the exception that the terms are more reasonable, being from \$15 to \$17.50 a week, according to the location of rooms. The table at both hotels, I believe, is L. C. excellent.

SIR F. H. DOYLE relates of General Sherbroke that he came once upon some baggage-waggons [this was in the Peninsular War], and the baggage-drivers were walking past a sick officer, left helpless upon the road, with as much indifference to his fate as if he had been one of the garrison of Sinkat. Sherbroke seized the trunks that were in transit including, I believe, some of his own—and flung them right and left into space, seating the officer on the waggon in their stead. When he arrived at his destination he took the sick officer into his own quarters, and watched over him with the utmost tenderness until he died. In due time it became necessary to read the funeral service over his body. Sherbroke dressed himself in full uniform, and began his task with the solemnity of an archdeacon. He arrived safely at "Ashes to ashes ;" but then, unluckily, some impish little Spanish urchins came upon the scene, laughing and jumping and chasing each other up and down the churchyard. The soldier-priest's temper went like a rocket ; he began pelting the lads heavily with stones, interpolating into the Prayer Book this kind of unclerical language : "You d—d young blackguards, I'll teach you to skip and grin whilst I read the funeral service over a British officer ! 'Take that—and that—and that !" accompanying the pelting with a volley of curses. Having thus discharged his wrath, the archdeacon in red resumed his functions, and the service went on, "Dust to dust," etc., just as if nothing had happened. AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE. TERMS:-One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00. Subscriptions payable in advance. ADVENTISEMENTS, unexceptionable in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4 per line per annun; \$2.50 per line for six months; \$1.50 per line for three months; 20 cents per line per annun; \$2.50 per line for six months; \$1.50 per line for three months; 20 cents per line per annun; \$2.50 per line for six months; \$1.50 per line for three months; 20 cents per line per an Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage pre_aid, on terms following:-De year, 12s, stg; half-year, 6s, stg. Remittances by P. O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher. All advertisements will be set up in suc'. style is to insure THE WEEK's tasteful typographical appearance, and enhance the value of the advertising in its columns. No advertisement charged less than FIVE lines. Address-T. R. CLOUGHER, Busine-s Manager, 5 Jordam Street, Toronto. C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

EXTRAORDINARY bitterness was imported into the contest for the Mayoralty of Toronto by the violent and denunciatory language which was used on one side. People do not deserve and they will not bear to be branded as morally infamous and children of Satan, because of two perfectly respectable candidates they support the one whom they prefer, or because they wish the affairs of the city to be managed on business, not on religious principles. Ministers of religion who permit themselves to forget the rules of charity, and to take part in assailing the character of half the community, do not consider what feelings they are exciting against themselves or their churches, or how deadly and lasting are the social enmities of which they are sowing the seeds in the community. Things have been said which are likely to rankle long in many hearts.

WE welcome the appearance in Toronto of large stores on the readymoney system. Co-operative stores, though they have been immensely successful and are doing an enormous business in England, have, for some reason, which we find it difficult to ascertain, not been successful on this continent. Their good effect is twofold; they not only redeem the working classes from the bondage of debt, but they make them commercial proprietors, thereby giving them an interest in property, and at the same time familiarising them with the operations of trade, and fortifying them against economical fallacies, and the infusion of socialistic venom. A store of the ordinary kind, conducted on the ready-money system, does not make the artisan a proprietor, but at all events it redeems him from the bondage of debt. We noticed the other day in one of our journals a letter on some point relating to the constitution of our debt courts, which seemed to assume that debt was almost the normal condition of the artisan. A more miserable or degrading condition there cannot be, nor could anything be more dangerous to society than to have large masses of the people in this state. Once more, then, we welcome the appearance of large readymoney stores, as an improvement, not only economical, but social, of the most important kind. It is only to be hoped that they will steadily adhere to the ready-money rule. The worst of it is that a great change in any department of commerce or industry throws out of employment those who have subsisted by the old system, and the introduction of large stores will be hard on the small retail tradesmen. Many, however, of these, we may hope, will find employment in the large stores as clerks, and their subsistence in that capacity will be less precarious and anxious than we fear it often is in their present.

IF half of what the Globe has been saying is true, the Conservative party of this Province must, during the last month, have been committing or abetting infamies, in depicting which the English language breaks down, and a new and portentous vocabulary is required. Supposing the Globe's own party to be sinless, such a demoralisation of nearly half the community would furnish a sufficient answer to the charge levelled by the Globe against THE WEEK of showing a want of proper spirit by wishing not to have a faction fight oftener than is needful. But if the Globe will attend to some other phenomena which fall immediately under its notice, if it will consider the language which the leading instructors of the people have used in the course of this contest, their treatment of vanquished opponents, their encouragement of letter-stealing and of the betrayal of confidential documents, it can hardly fail to admit that there are grounds for doubting whether the effects of a faction fight on the character of the community are altogether elevating and wholesome. If such is the temper into which the highly educated, and even clergymen, are betrayed by the excitement of the scuffle, what must be the temper of the masses ? War. to which Sir Richard Cartwright compares politics, is barbarous; but it is not unmanly; it calls forth noble qualities-courage, fortitude, self-devotion, even humanity; and it is often graced by chivalrous generosity and courtesy towards a gallant foe. A faction fight calls forth qualities the reverse of noble, and of the chivalry displayed in it towards opponents we have some attractive specimens before us. Could a better instrument than a quick succession of these slandering matches be devised for degrading the political character of a people?

THE Farringdon Debating Club, at Brantford, has attained the very respectable antiquity of twenty-five years, and has given to Ontario a great number of speakers and politicians. On Thursday last it celebrated its success by a banquet, followed by speeches, in which the advantages of debating societies were eloquently set forth. Advantages debating societies undoubtedly have, when the world is largely governed by rhetoric, and the art of speech is as necessary to all who take part now in public life, as the art of fencing was to a gentleman in former days. Facility of speech, however, is apt, as was remarked at the banquet, to become a fatal facility, and fluency is sometimes acquired at the expense of freshness of style. The best way of avoiding prolixity and flatness, probably, is to practise with the pen at the same time that you practise with the tongue.

A PROHIBITIONIST journal says that high licenses, where they have been tried, have not much diminished intemperance. We can well believe that if they have been carried to an extreme point, and introduced too suddenly, they may, instead of diminishing intemperance, have even increased it. This question must, like other questions, be dealt with in a practical way if any good is to be done. You cannot by legislation extinguish the demand for drink, and if you suddenly diminish the legal supply by suppressing a large number of licensed taverns, either directly or through the operation of excessively high license fees, unlicensed and unregulated drinking-shops will to a moral certainty spring up. The consequence of this again, as abundant experience shows, is an increase of intemperance, while the injury to health is also aggravated, since the liquor sold at these low places is of the worst kind. To say that in the Scott Act counties the law is inoperative would be a mistake, but its operation is almost entirely mischievous : it ruins the responsible trade, and calls into existence an illicit trade which is often plied in the most objectionable and demoralising ways. In reply to practical arguments, we are always told that this is a matter of principle ; but surely no principle of a rational kind can enjoin us of two evils to choose the greater.

THE Mail has the good sense and fortitude to confess without disguise the magnitude of its defeat. It admits that its party is "almost annihilated." In truth, this was the most telling appeal that it could make to the sympathies of independent men. Whether Party Government in any case is the best, is a question upon which there is a difference of opinion; but every one, we presume, will admit that Party Government without an effective Opposition is about the worst. Where the fly-wheel is wanting how can the machine work well? No irresponsibility is so complete as that of a party leader with an overwhelming and docile majority. If a Dominion election were to take place, we should, on independent grounds, wish the Opposition at Ottawa to be strengthened; for the same reason we deplore the increased weakness of the Opposition in Ontario. But what grieves does not surprise us. We have said all along that the leader of a Provincial party could not possibly succeed on an Anti-Provincial platform. Mr. Meredith is rolling the stone of Sisyphus.

With many a weary step, and many a groan, Up the high hill he heaves a huge round stone ; The huge round stone resulting with a bound. Thunders impetuous down and smokes along the ground.

The *Mail* says it will not, like the Grits when they were defeated, cashier the unfortunate general. Its resolution is magnanimous, but it will have to cashier the compromising connection and the ruinous tactics. The day might have gone better for the Conservatives than it did if the Prime Minister of the Dominion had not taken the stump in the Province.

In the Provincial Election the Catholic vote was cast almost solid for Mr. Mowat, and, of course, in majorem Dei gloriam. But it does not by any means follow that in a Dominion election the Catholic vote would be cast for Mr. Blake. The priests have already got what they could out of one side : there is nothing in their political morality to prevent them from swinging round and performing the same operation in the Church's interest on the other side. Nobody would be surprised to learn that they were already making overtures to Sir John Macdonald. They must be aware, notwithstanding their late victory, that they have gone about as far as it is safe for them to go, that a genuine spirit of resistance to their influence has been aroused, and that to make the Conservative party in the Dominion, as well as in the Province, their enemy, would be a policy fraught with peril to their domination. They will probably at once trim, and very soon begin to veer. It is probably the presentiment of this that makes some of the Conservatives still favourable to an early dissolution. Reciprocity being blocked at Washington, so that they will not have that inducement to hold out to the people, they think that nothing is to be gained by delay, and they are anxious, while they may, to reap the advantage of the personal popularity of Sir John Macdonald. This last reason we suspect to be the most operative with the party. The brevity of his own remaining span of political life is not likely to occur to the Chieftain himself as an argument in favour of hastening the march of events, nor is any one likely to suggest it to him. He is, no doubt, watching anxiously the course of events in Quebec. The Ross Ministry, it seems, now counts on a majority of two. Even if that expectation is fulfilled, a Government which is itself hobbling on so weak a crutch can hardly be a very strong support to its confederate at Ottawa. But it will still have the patronage in its hands. The uncertainty as to the time of the next election is, therefore, not yet at an end. It is needless to repeat the arguments which appear to us to prove that there ought to be no uncertainty about the matter, inasmuch as it is the duty of the Governor-General to refuse a causeless and irregular dissolution.

THAT the Home Rule movement in Nova Scotia has been pounced upon for party purposes is very likely : party pounces on everything, even the cerebral conformation of Riel. That the movement is altogether factitious and hollow we do not believe. In the Nineteenth Century Mrs. Fellows sets forth reasons for dissatisfaction with Confederation, which to a Nova Scotian, at any rate, may seem solid. To begin with, when Nova Scotia entered Confederation, her debt was eight or nine millions ; her share of the Dominion debt to-day is twenty-eight millions, and of the increase of Dominion debt she sees no end. What is worse, her trade, instead of increasing, has declined ; her wharves have lost value ; and she says with bitter sarcasm that two blades of grass have indeed been made to grow where only one grew before-in the streets. The true commercial relations of Nova Scotia are not with Quebec and the Provinces beyond it, but with New England; that is the real ground and burden of Mrs. Fellows's complaint. We can easily believe that the attempt to force industries unfavoured by nature into existence by Protection has proved no compensation for the loss of natural trade. The feeling that she was sold (as assuredly she was) by Joseph Howe, and dragged into the Confederation by the hair of her head, naturally rankles in the mind of Nova Scotia since the result has been disappointing. The Nova Scotian Home Rulers do not want to go out of the Empire; they want to make their Province again a British colony, managing its own affairs under the protection of the Mother Country. What has Nova Scotia or any Province gained by being brought under the Government of Ottawa except a vast increase of debt, and an equally vast increase of corruption? In what respect would Manitoba, for example, have suffered if, instead of being a dependency and too often a dust-bin of Ottawa, she had been working out her own destinies under a governor appointed direct from England, who would have been, as they all were, a man of honour, have perpetrated no jobs, and kept on good terms with the Indians? The Grits, after their victory in Ontario, are shouting that the end of the system of corruption is at hand. That the end of a system of corruption is at hand must be welcome news to all good men. But when corruption is gone, and the Grits and purity are in power, what is the bond which they hope will take the place of corruption in holding all these Provinces together ? The attachment of French Quebec to a British nationality ? The sense of common interest which binds the commercial classes of Nova Scotia ?

"JOHN A. MACDONALD is politically a dead man," shouts Gritism after its triumph in Ontario. This is rapturous, but premature. Experience proves that the vote of Ontario may go one way in a Provincial, and the other in a Dominion election. It would not be very surprising were Sir John Macdonald, a few months hence, to sweep the Province as triumphantly as his enemy sweeps it now, if he can only offer the people something that they really want. A principal cause of the defeat of the Provincial Conservatives was their poverty of leading men. Something also was done by the Gerrymander, which, in the Dominion election, would be on the other side. Still, it does appear that the enthusiasm, which greeted Sir John on the stump, and raised the hopes of his party so high, was, at all events, more personal and less indicative of political hold upon the country than his followers imagined. It certainly was not called forth by the political contents of his speeches. The Conservatives have undoubtedly to look to the near future, and to consider how and on what basis, when Sir John has withdrawn from public life, their Government is to be reconstructed. Among other things they must bear in mind that their party has hitherto been a one-man power; that principles or questions will have hereafter to take the place of personal influence, and that, while the one man not unnaturally prefers personal dependents, sometimes not of the highest order, reconstruction will require the support of men who have some moral hold upon the country.

WE are threatened with an avalanche of knighthoods and gewgaws of all descriptions in honour-it would be nearer the truth to say in ridicule--of the Queen's Jubilee. The report that an effort is being made to limit the number to two thousand sounds like a satirical canard, but we will venture to say that there are at least twice two thousand aspirants. Any one who happens to have seen the private correspondence of a British Minister must have formed an enlarged idea of the silly vanity of mankind. It is futile, we fear, to repeat that rank not conferred by the public voice, whatever may be its uses in old countries, is utterly alien, not only to the democratic prejudices, but to the soundest instincts of society in the New World; that it has been sometimes lavished by the inevitable blindness of the Home Government on the most conspicuous undesert, and that its general effects are evil. There is a special absurdity in the creation of hereditary titles, which, as we have happily no entailed estates, may be borne in the second generation by a shoeblack. By refusing knighthood Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Blake have rendered a service to this community which ought never to be forgotten. Honour bestowed because a man happened to be in office in a particular year is surely as perfect a travesty of the system as satire could devise. Any attempt, by the introduction of aristocratic distinctions, to set Canada against her democratic neighbour can only be mischievous. It is by her friendly vote in the councils of her own continent that she can give real assistance to her Mother Country.

THE last advice from the British Minister at Washington casts a gleam of hope on the unblessed Fisheries question; but we fear the gleam will prove delusive. The difficulty is not diplomatic, but political. The American Senate being Republican will block any treaty or arrangement made by a Democratic President. Reciprocity is blocked in the same way, while domestic legislation at Washington is blocked by the antagonism between the House, which is still Democratic, and the Senate, which is Republican. Moreover, the Government itself begins to feel the influence of the coming Presidential election. Mr. Blaine's programme is a spirited foreign policy; that is, a policy of insult and menace to Great Britain. Of course he watches the negotiations on the Fisheries question with malignant vigilance, and would pounce at once upon anything like concession to Great Britain. The disposition of the President and of Mr. Bayard is undoubtedly friendly to an honourable settlement; but even they cannot emancipate themselves from the tyranny of faction.

A CORRESPONDENT suggests that it would be an improvement if the office of Lord Lieutenant in Ireland were neutralised, instead of being a party appointment. Party, he says, will be sufficiently represented by the Secretary. But whenever a vacancy occurred, the Prime Minister for the time being would still have to make the appointment, so that the odour of party would still adhere to the office. The only effectual mode of doing what our correspondent recommends, so far as we can see, would be to make the Prince of Wales or the heir to the Crown, whoever he might be, *ex officio* Viceroy of Ireland. But nothing that could be done with the office of Lord Lieutenant would make, we apprehend, much difference in the situation.

THE real political grievance, as we have said before, is the necessity of resorting to Westminster for Irish Private Bill legislation, which unquestionably involves a provoking amount of trouble, delay, and expense. It is as a remedy for this evil that Lord Monck and others, who are not Separatists, propose an Irish Parliament with restricted powers. But an Irish Parliament, restrict its powers as you may by statute, will be under existing circumstances an extremely perilous, as well as a most cumbersome and inordinately expensive, instrument for the accomplishment of so limited an object as the reduction of the trouble and cost of Private Bill legislation. Many sessions of such an assembly would not be held before the struggle to break through the supreme legislative power would com mence, and all the arguments which are now used in favour of the concession would acquire double force when used in favour of yielding to the demand that the concession should be made complete. An Irish Parliament would involve the institution of an Irish Executive, with a whole apparatus of government and all the attendant expenditure. The natural. sufficient, and at the same time safe and inexpensive, remedy, as we submitted before, is a Grand Committee of the Irish Members for Irish Private Bill legislation, which should be empowered to sit at Dublin during the recess, and upon the report of which, Parliament should pass the Bills. As the Committee would be appointed from year to year, and would have no power of legislating, but only the power of reporting to Parliament in favour of legislation, there would be no fear of its attempting to break its constitutional bounds, and grasp the functions of the supreme legislature.

Should it threaten anything of the kind, the simple omission of Parliament to re-appoint it would bring its existence to a close. At the same time, some satisfaction would be afforded to the Nationalist desire of a Parliament in College Green. The milder and less perilous expedient might at all events be tried, before recourse was had to a measure at once so tremendous and so irrevocable as the reconstruction of the United Kingdom on a federal instead of a national basis.

MR. GLADSTONE, as even his admirers must allow, has brought his country into what must be regarded, on any hypothesis, as a situation of extreme peril; and now he sits down, between two Disunionist and Agrarian agitations, to write a critique on Tennyson's poem. It was in the midst of a former crisis which he had brought on, though not one so perilous as the present, that the walls were placarded with announcements of his forthcoming essay on "Ecce Homo." Like Brougham he loves to display his versatility, and show that he is master of all subjects, and foremost in all lines. In such peril every thought of Pitt or Peel would have been engrossed by the danger of the country. That levity is a characteristic of Mr. Gladstone's mind and renders the nation unsafe in his hands, may seem a paradox, to some, perhaps, an impious paradox. It was, nevertheless, the remark of an eminently shrewd and calm observer who knew Mr. Gladstone well.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL'S move developed, it seems, into an attempt to drive out of the Cabinet two of the members who were opposed to him, and put two of his creatures in their places. We cannot help still thinking that with this motive there mingled the effect of the Irish crisis upon his lordship's nerves. The violence with which he preached civil war at Belfast was, on a previous occasion, compensated by an equal degree of tameness in council. The plea of dissent from the Estimates was palpably hollow. No man in his senses would throw the Government into confusion, at a moment of great national peril, on account of a difference on a question of expenditure which seems not to have amounted to half a million. Had Lord Salisbury given way, he would have shown a want of the common spirit of an English gentleman, and have compromised principles of public life more vital than the greatest of particular issues. Where is the use of being a Marquis with half a million of dollars a year if you can be driven to eat dirt for the sake of office ? Lord Salisbury must have seen, moreover, that he had to deal with an intriguer, whose ambition was not less insatiable than treacherous, and of whose plots he was sure himself to be the ultimate victim. Lord Randolph has involuntarily rendered the country an inestimable service in the hour of its sorest need. A strong and respected Government has become a necessity, the alternative to which is nothing short of national ruin ; and there was only one way in which such a Government could be formed. Lord Randolph's auspicious departure has rendered possible the accession of Mr. Goschen, and Mr. Goschen has half drawn Lord Hartington with him. The name Coalition, if it implies a compromise of opinion, would be ill applied to a Government the members of which would be at one with regard to every vital principle, and perfectly unanimous in their opposition to Disunion and revolution. Lord Hartington-though, under the pressure of national peril, he has exerted himself nobly-is by nature unambitious, shrinks from the burdens of office, and would be sure, in any doubtful case, to incline to the negative side. But, apparently, he still clings to the hope of a reorganisation of the Liberal party on the basis of Union and moderation. This hope, we are persuaded, is fallacious. Every day the extreme Radicals are committing themselves more desperately, not only to Separation, but to social and agrarian revolution. Instead of seeking reconciliation, the violent and ambitious aspirants of the section show themselves bent on widening the breach and preventing the restoration of a leadership by which they would themselves be once more thrown into the background. Their last step is the establishment of a revolutionary rival to the Scotsman, which has long been the great organ of Scottish Liberalism, but refuses to be the organ of revolution. Revolution and opposition to revolution are the lines upon which parties must be henceforth formed, and there can be no doubt to which of those camps Lord Hartington and all who agree with him belong. The Liberal-Unionists will, by their junction with the Conservatives, modify Conservatism in a Liberal sense. Tory-Democracy, we are told in wailing tones, departs from the Cabinet with Lord Randolph Churchill. As Tory-Democracy is charlatanry and fraud, it is devoutly to be hoped that the presentiment may prove true. It is high time for the Conservative party to leave the slippery paths of hypocritical intrigue, and get back to that firm ground of principle and honour on which it stood unassailable under Peel, and by adhering to which it might have retained its ascendancy to this hour. Attempts seem to have been made in opposite quarters to

prevent the junction. Mr. Gladstone did not shrink from trying, through an emissary, to cajole the man over whose defeat in the election by a man of doubtful character he uttered a shriek of delight. On the other hand, Tory place-hunters protested against a partition of the political spoils, forgetful apparently of the fact that their party has not a majority, and without the Unionists, could not retain the spoils for an hour. They are like sailors fighting for the rum when the ship is on the rocks. Mr. Chamberlain appears to have opened negotiations with the Gladstonites, the course of which it will be interesting to watch. In holding out the olive branch he proclaims agreement on ninety-nine questions out of a hundred. The hundreth question, however, is of such magnitude that at present it swallows up the ninety-nine.

IF any one wants to know the difference between the aristocracy of the peerage and the aristocracy of nature, let him compare the conduct of the patrician, Lord Randolph Churchill, with that of the Quaker manufacturer, John Bright. John Bright left the Gladstone Cabinet on the question of the Expedition to Egypt. But he contented himself with a simple statement of the grounds of his conscientious secession. He betrayed no resentment or selfish feeling of any kind. He uttered not a word against the colleagues whom he left, nor did he do or say anything to embarrass the Government. Only his private friends knew how strong his feelings on the question at issue were. The real tendency of artificial rank, in most cases, is not to implant a higher sense of honour, but to make the possessor fancy that he can do questionable things with impunity.

AGAINST the current of modern science, scepticism and Radicalism, there runs a backstream of spiritualism, romance, and chivalry. Of this Newman is the theologian, Ruskin is the art writer, and Mr. Shorthouse is the novelist. "Sir Percival" (London and New York : Macmillan and Company) has been, not without plausibility, interpreted as an allegory. Constantia being Christian spiritualism, while scepticism and socialism are embodied in the witch Virginia, Sir Percival being the young knight who has to choose between the services of the two. The only weak point in this theory is that Virginia, though she professes scepticism and socialism, is made to show that she has the root of Christianity in her by sacrificing her life in attendance on a woman dying of an infectious disease. All the rest, and especially the finding of the Holy Grail by Percival when he meets a chivalrous and martyr death in attempting to rescue the Bishop from the heathen savages, easily resolves itself into allegorical representation. . It goes without saying that there cannot be much of a story. Delineation of spiritual character and aspiration is the writer's aim, and in this the author of "John Inglesant" does not fail to show his peculiar power. The style suits the subject, and has its points of resemblance both to that of Mr. Ruskin and to that of Sir Thomas Browne. Like some other novelists of the day Mr. Shorthouse is, as we venture to think, overmuch given to word painting. The word-painter cannot appeal, like the painter with brush and colours, to our sense, and when we are called upon ourselves to construct a mental picture out of a number of details, the draft upon our imagination is severe, and is apt not to be honoured.

"KING Solomon's Mines," "Kidnapped,"," The Treasure Island, " and "The Phantom City" all belong to the same new departure, being tales not of character, but of adventure and highly sensational. They have a strong affinity to each other; indeed, almost the same incidents are reproduced. The old pirate's enigmatic plan of the island in which his treasure is hidden is clearly a reproduction of the enigmatic chart in "Solomon's Mines," and both are repeated in the Indian's report of his sight of "The Phantom City." Both, we may add, have their manifest prototype in the leading incident of Edgar Poe's "Gold Bug." Edgar Poe is in fact the real father of what seems an entirely new departure in novel writing. Nor have any of the offspring equalled the teeming imagination of their sire, who may claim Gaboriau also as one of his literary progeny. The hidden treasure in "Monte Christo" and the deciphering of the old Cardinal's will, which leads to its discovery, are also close counterparts of the main incident in "King Solomon's Mines" and "The Treasure Island." "The Phantom City" is little more than "King Solomon's Mines" played over again with variations. The isolated and mysterious people, the good prince, and his victorious struggle against sanguinary superstition with the strangers for his allies are the same in both. "Kidnapped" has special claims of its own as a picture of the state of Scotland after the Highland rising of '45, and has in that respect been greatly praised. Otherwise we should say that "King Solomon's Mines" was still the best of the group.

A DREAM.

WEARY and soul-faint with longing, At the close of the dreary day, My heart sad memories thronging

In the gloom of the twilight gray : I lay on my lonely pillow,

And naught else could I do but pray. Then slowly to dreamland drifting,

My spirit went roaming away, Where cloud after cloud was lifting

From the pearl-capped gates of Day. In the joy of my new-born freedom I revelled in sights and sounds,

And wander'd through roseate regions That seem'd without limits or bounds.

At length I stood on the sea shore, Where the tall cliffs rose pile on pile;

Below them the sun-lit ocean Stretched out for many a mile. I paused in rapturous wonder,

And gazed with delighted eyes; I heard not the waves' deep thunder,

As I looked at the smiling skies,

And scanned the world of waters, With sight to which space was as naught, Or before which distance scatters,

As time flies us in realms of thought; And beheld in wondrous splendour,

Yet away on the farther shore, A temple with spires more slender

And lofty than earth ever bore.

On its walls soft light was gleaming, And flashing o'er tower and dome; O'er it Love's banner was streaming— Yes; there was my idol's fair home. My breast with glad rapture swelling,

I stood enthroned on the rock;

No fear in my world had dwelling-I dream'd not of hurricane's shock.

Sweet music my senses ravish'd, I heard not the thunder's deep roar; My heart Love's whisperings cherish'd, Nor noted the surf on the shore. But soon the gloomy clouds gather'd

O'er the blue sky so fair and sweet; The tempest my bright fane shatter'd,

The waves wash'd the wreck to my feet.

With cry of anguish half utter'd, My heart throbbing wild with pain,I woke, when lo! there had flutter'd To my couch Love's message again.

Fast fled, like a breath from a mirror,

All my fears born of doubt and delay; . . Alas! short-lived was my error, For my joy was more fleet than they.

A type of the false and unreal Was my palace beyond the sea; As fair and as false, my ideal Of true love has proved to be.

M. J. D.

THE HAYWARD LETTERS.

THE Hayward Letters,* the appearance of which was so eagerly expected, are now before us. The editor has certainly done his part well; indeed, his portion of the work is a model of its kind. But we doubt whether the Letters themselves will fulfil expectation. Interesting they are, no doubt, and the list of celebrities, with whom Hayward corre. sponded, is magnificent; it sounds like the muster-roll of all that was most eminent, renowned, and bright in the generation which is passing away. But those who looked for social reminiscences, knowing Hayward's vast opportunities in that way, will be somewhat disappointed by finding, to a great extent, political and general matter in their place. The Letters are in no sense a diary of Hayward's social life. He had too much literary work always on hand to do anything elaborate of that kind. Therefore he will live as a social essayist, not as a St. Simon or a Horace Walpole. The notion that he would indulge his satiric and sarcastic vein at the expense of those with whom he lived is wholly belied; for there is not a

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*"The Hayward Letters," edited by E. Carlisle. London: John Murray; New York: Scribner and Welford.

malicious word in the book. It is something to have a man who, with such opportunities and such powers of using them, has left nothing malevolent or treacherous behind him. Social confidence, which has received some severe shocks of late, will be revived by his example. There are, however, many rich plums in the book, such as the following account of Brougham's lecture on Optics before the French Institute (vol. i., p. 146):---

Mr. Hayward, having occasion to go to Paris on business, managed to make his visit one of pleasure also. In the following letter to his sisters he mentions his visit to the *Institut* with Lord Brougham, and the dinner afterwards at Philippe's. But on referring to Mr. Hayward's article in "Lord Campbell's Lives of Lord Lyndhurst and Lord Brougham," ' we find these two incidents more fully related, and that one morning Mr. Hayward called for Lord Brougham by appointment at Meurice's about twelve, and found him in a squabble with a Frenchman whom he had engaged to translate a scientific paper to be read that day at the *Institut*, and which he ended by calling *bête comme une oie*. They then got into a *remise*, and drove to a celebrated optician's in the Faubourg St. Germain quarter, where Brougham occupied a full hour in testing an experiment which he had anticipated in the paper, but which did not turn out exactly as could be wished. What he wanted to establish was, that light, falling upon or encountering a flat surface, after passing through three or four successive apertures in boards, or pieces of pasteboard placed some paces apart, would be fringed or uneven at the edges. "Voila les franges," repeatedly ex-claimed Brougham. "Je n'en vois pas, milord," invariably replied the optician, who was himself a member of the Institut. To cut the matter short, Hayward gave his voice for the fringes, and all three started for the Institut in the remise. Before they had gone far, Brougham stopped the carriage, and, in spite of the optician's protest, who said they were already late, insisted on calling to see the Duc Decazes, who was too ill to see him. Their destination was reached at last; and dragging Hayward (who was not even a corresponding member) after him, he hurried into the centre of the assembled savants, and began introducing Hayward right and left to all of them. This ceremony ended, the business of the day began by Brougham reading his paper, which (barring accent) was not a bad or unsuccessful performance. No less a person than Arago remarked, in answer to a timid inquiry from Hayward, "C'est bien, mais il n'y a rien d'original la dedans.

The most marvellous and grotesque of human beings has hardly ever been more vividly portrayed. This also is a good story of old Quentin Dick, who, by the way, had sat in "Grattan's Parliament." Louis Blanc, who had come to England as an exile, was athirst for information about the British Constitution, and was receiving large doses of it from different members of the company. Dick, becoming bored at last, said : "Sir, you have heard many explanations; they are beside the mark. I will tell you how it works. At my last election I spoke to my constituents as follows :--- 'Gentlemen, my opponent is a very poor man with a large family. I am a rich man, and, thank God, all I care for in this world I cover with my hat.' I put my hat on my head and they returned me." Many of the letters of Hayward's correspondents, Mrs. Norton's among the rest, are fully as interesting as Hayward's own. We find a curious consistency and definiteness of purpose in what might have seemed to be a desultory and rather aimless life. Hayward knew from the beginning of his career exactly what he wanted, and what he wanted he thoroughly attained. He chose not to go into Parliament, having made up his mind that for any but a wealthy man it was vanity and vexation of spirit. He chose to combine a moderate amount of work as a lawyer with literary activity and the highest social enjoyment. This he did to perfection, and he probably managed to skim the very cream of life. His status as a Q. C. and a writer of acknowledged eminence secured his position, and prevented his falling to the level of a professional diner-out. The price which he had to pay was celibacy, for which he seems to have partly indemnified himself with flirtations of the fancy if not of the heart. But his family relations were most affectionate; and, when he was dying, his pillow was smoothed both by devoted friendship and by a sister's love. His vitality must have been extraordinary: at eighty-three he wrote for the Quarterly Review an article which showed no decline of power.

NOTES FROM MONTREAL

MONTREAL musical circles had a rich treat in the two concerts of the Philharmonic Society given on the 15th and 16th Dec. "The Spectre's Bride," by Dvorak, was given the first evening. It shows a wonderful conception, and is most difficult to render; but, under Professor Couture's guidance the performers proved equal to the difficulties of the piece. Miss Pyk, the soloist, from New York, was a decided disappointment to all, but, if not equal to what she had undertaken, yet her voice is very sweet and flexible.

On the whole the second night was the most enjoyable; Miss Pyk was in good voice, and sang with confidence, appearing "in touch" with the audience. The programme was composed of "Hymn to St. Cecilia." by

Spohr; "Midsummer Night's Dream," Mendelssohn; "Pastoral Symphony" by Beethoven. This is of wonderful beauty : the music so characteristic that in the "Tempest" you can see the wind rending the trees, showing the backs of the leaves, while the air is all a dull gray. "May Day," by G. A. MacFarren, is very bright and taking ; some of the orchestral effects in it being especially beautiful.

Montreal owes Professor Couture a debt of thanks for the conscientious work he does, and must also be grateful that it has in its midst one who so thoroughly knows music to the smallest details, which are yet so great.

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"THE MIKADO," which was to have been given on the 20th of this month, in aid of the "St. Margaret's Nursery," has, owing to the fire at Nordheimer's Hall, been postponed to the 10th of January. The amateur company was rehearsing in the Hall when the alarm of "fire" was given, but fortunately all escaped without difficulty or danger.

CHRISTMAS has again come upon us, and passed us, or rather, we have passed it.

Time stays, alas ! we go !

The world is always fresh and fair; it is we who grow old and weary, falling away from childhood's faith and purpose, till nature's purity touches us as a reproach, and gives us a heartache for all the possible things we have made impossible. Christmas is undoubtedly the children's time : it is marked to older people by so many memories. Youth is so happy, because youth is always expecting something. The ills of to-day are extinguished by the hopes of to-morrow. When we grow older this expectancy leaves us, and we know the future holds but simply echoes of the past.

TOBOGGANNING is in full fling now, and, wherever you look you may see blanket coated figures hurrying off for a slide. What glorious sport it is, and what a grand climate is this, which gives us such enjoyment.

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Canada's cold, clear, crisp air Defies all dread and dark despair.

Montreal, December 25th, 1886.

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FERRARS.

MUSIC.

IT would hardly be practicable to condense into the columns of a weekly journal the proceedings of the second annual convention of the Ontario Music Teachers' Association, held last week in this city. As the daily press has already noticed the concerts and recitals given by various well-known professionals and amateurs, it may be perhaps more in order for us to review the objects of the Society, its aims, characteristics, and virtues or faults of organisation, than to indulge in criticism of performances more or less excellent in themselves, though secondary in importance to the essays, discussions, and business meetings occupying so prominent and significant a place on the programmes.

The Association certainly deserves the co-operation of all genuine professors of music as well as the toleration of the critic, and the intelligent and appreciative sympathy of the public. In the first place it creates, or tends to create, a national spirit. It creates, or tends to create, a standard, which, though variable, and at first uncertain, is still a standard, and as such of untold benefit to the large class of provincial teachers present at the meetings.

It serves also as an incentive to many in the musical profession who are limp and inert, disheartened and cold, or old-fashioned and dogmatic, stimulating them to fresh study and renewed endeavours. And lastly it creates, or should create, a spirit of kindly good fellowship and tolerant criticism which may yet go hand-in-hand with the spirit of healthy antagonism and honest inquiry. For there are "inquirers" in music as well as in religion, and that question of standard is to be greatly helped, it is hoped, by these meetings. The fashionable teacher in the large town may take a concert at the Gewandthaus or a Monday Popular Concert for his standard, travel and foreign study may so empower and permit him; but the cheap teacher in the small village or the public school can alone look to the fashionable professor in the city for guidance and instruction, following his example and imitating his caprices either to everlasting weal or woe. Let then the Society's programmes be drawn up as carefully as possible; inferior performances rigorously excluded, and perfect execution insisted upon. Let there be but two concertos in the whole week, but let them be performed just as perfectly as it is possible in Canada to have them performed. By avoiding multiplicity of details, and unnecessary crowding of items, infinite good will be done. Cranks must be suppressed, and individuals with grievances ignored. The "encouragement of Canadian composition" is not yet so important a matter as some would insist upon ; at any rate it is not so important as the fundamental aim of the Association, i.e., the examination, certification, and limitation of teachers.

This triple object will, if attained by judicious co-operation and legis-lation, materially affect the interests of music, and, it may be said, of music teachers themselves. For, although it may be a comparatively easy matter to summon provincial teachers for examination into the town, and having made them study a little harmony and a little fugue, write a little part song and play a little sonata, thereby turn them out first-class certificated teachers, it will be a very difficult matter for the examiners themselves.

Who is going to examine them? Will they be referred to the University degrees, in England, or must they sit in judgment upon one another? Supposing a "first-class man" is imported from England, or abroad, for the post of chief examiner, or head of the conservatory or association, how his coming will dwarf the prominent—and deservedly prominent—conductors of our local philharmonic societies and church choirs. "What!" say some of these gentlemen, "have I taught for years, turning out good pupils, reading the complicated scores of the modern masters, contributing in thousands of ways to the formation of a correct musical taste in the Dominion, and all for very little money, only to be turned out by the newly certificated fledgling of a local institution, or made to walk up for my examination like a school boy before his elders and betters ?"

Such a problem will be answered soon enough. No innovation is ever made, it is quite certain, without offending some and bewildering many. This much seems clear, that if the standard of our local musicians is to be that of Oxford and Dublin, very few of them will ever attain it, and the majority of them had better hasten to make their hay while the sun is shining, before the advent of the brilliant foreign constellations that may soon appear above the colonial horizon.

Nothing was said at any of the meetings about the limitation of pupils. It is an open question whether a music master is justified or not in accepting every pupil that comes to him. As music is now held to be an important factor in general education, it will be conceded that he is right in so doing, and yet, it is pitiful to think of the days and hours actually wasted, thrown away, wilfully and wantonly sacrificed, by dozens of country girls at our colleges and schools, in the pursuit of an art for which they have no aptitude.

As regards the scope of the Association, it might be a little broader. In fact, to merit the new name, "Canadian," which is, we understand, to replace "Ontario" in the prospectus, it must include the other Provinces, and especially the towns in Quebec, which are so highly musical. Just so in music as in art, literature, commerce, the professions, the trades, and the crafts, what is so badly needed in Canada is a Canadian spirit-that national spirit which we cannot too strongly urge upon our people to Why is it that books published in Montreal never find their cultivate. way here; that concerts given here are never heard of there; that the citizen of Winnipeg is ignorant of the ways of the *habitant* of Quebec; that there is no reciprocity between the different cities, but that each lives its only single life, self-existent and self-sufficient?

Let the Music Teachers' Association be the first to take a step in the only wise direction by opening its doors to the French-Canadians, clever, highly gifted, enthusiastic, and creative, as well as to the resident professors of German origin, or those occasional Americans who settle (very wisely) in Canada, and make such splendid citizens. SERANUS.

HAMILTON.

THERE have been a few changes in choirs here of late. Mrs. George Hamilton has been engaged as solo soprano of Centenary Church, while Mr. F. W. Wodell, who has held the position of solo baritone and assistant leader in that choir for some years, announces his resignation after Jan. 1. Mr. W. E. Fairclough, who has been studying the organ and church music in London, England, and passed brilliant examinations, spent Christmas at his home here. He leaves immediately to take charge of the music in St. George's Church, Montreal. While here he played in Christ Church Cathedral, and showed a mastery of the true English style of church organ playing. Mr. J. H. Stuart, one of the best bassos in Canada, a member of St. Mary's Cathedral Choir, and second basso of the Imperial Quartette, leaves the city to take charge of an agency of the Bank of Hamilton at Cayuga on January 1. He will be greatly missed in musical circles, especially in connection with the Philharmonic Society, of which he is Vice-President.

ON December 14 a very good concert was given in the James Street Baptist Church, at which Miss Laura McLaren, a young violiniste of Guelph, made her début before a Hamilton audience. She is of the true artistic temperament, has so far been well taught, and, with continued study and riper judgment, should prove a really artistic player. Mrs. Wigmore, pianist; the Littlehales family, instrumentalists; Mrs. Martin-Murphy, soprano; Miss Armstrong, contralto, and the Imperial Quartette also assisted at this concert.

THE commercial travellers deserve the thanks of the musical public of this city for engaging such first class talent as they secured for their conversazione at the Opera House, December 23. Mrs. Gertrude Luther, the eminent Buffalo soprano, and Miss Barnes, contralto, of the same city, were the special attractions, delighting their hearers, and, with the assistance of the Imperial Male Quartette, the members of which are all capable of the Imperial Male Quartette, the members of which are all capable soloists, giving a most enjoyable programme. Mrs. Luther's songs were "Because of Thee," by Tours; "The Dream," by Rubenstein, and "My Star," by Hackh. Miss Barnes sang "The Tear," by Stigelli, and "O Loving Heart," by Gottschalk, and joined Mrs. Luther in the duet, "Venezia," by Pinsuti. C. MAJOR.

"STRANGE," said one author to another, "your works are only to be met with in your library !" "And in your works," was the reply, "one meets with nothing but your library !"

LITERARY GOSSIP.

MISS ALCOTT'S story of "Jo's Boys" has passed its fortieth thousand, and orders for the edition of 10,000 now on the press have already consumed more than one-half of the number.

THE first edition of Mr. Howells's latest novel, "The Minister's Charge," consisted of 5,000 copies, and is nearly exhausted. A second edition of 3,000 copies is being printed by the publishers.

THE Harpers have in hand nearly the entire manuscript of Bret Harte's new romance, which will be published serially in their *Weekly*, beginning with the next number. The romance deals with life in California in the days of '49, and is considered by the novelist's publishers as a strong piece of fiction.

JEFFERSON DAVIS has an article in the January number of *Donahoe's Magazine* on "The Irish Element in the Southern Confederacy." Mr. Davis's estimate shows no stint of praise for such men as General Cleburne, who fell at Franklin, and Captain Atkins, of the Louisiana Tigers, who went to the Green Isle to die of American wounds.

The death of General Logan has given a fresh impetus to his published book, and the Messrs. Hart, New York, are in receipt of more orders than they can comfortably fill. Nearly 65,000 copies of the book were sold up to the day of the author's death, and it is probable that the present awakened interest will add two or three thousand to this number. Almost the entire sum due the author on his royalty account was paid him only a few days before his decease, and, by virtue of General Logan's contract with his publishers, accruing royalties will be paid to his widow.

CONSIDERABLE interest is being manifested in Boston literary circles in the new novel by Mr. John T. Wheelwright, the young lawyer of that city, who, together with John Boyle O'Reilly, Robert Grant, and "J. S. of Dale," wrote the novel, "The King's Men.', Mr. Wheelwright's new story is to be published by a New York house, and will be entitled "The Child of the Century." Mr. Wheelwright is one of a circle of young novelists that are attracting no small degree of attention by their creditable work, and his latest book, it is believed, will do its author more credit than any of his previous writings. The novelist is a very young man, who has already won distinction in the Boston law courts as an able lawyer and speaker.

CONOMENNING General Lew Wallace's new romance, the announcement is interesting that the soldier-author will hereafter devote himself exclusively to literary work. Hitherto General Wallace has given such moments of leisure to his literary pursuits as his legal profession and public duties permitted, but his success has been so large as an author that he has decided to become a permanent addition to the literary ranks. The author's methods of work are not uninteresting. He shapes his plots, conceives his characters, and completes his works, all but the mere writing, entirely on his feet while walking across the floor of his study, or rambling through the garden attached to his Indiana home. His residence is a wooded estate, where the author can roam at his leisure, and be as quiet as if he were a thousand miles in the wilderness instead of in the centre of commercial activity. He is not fond of lecturing, and, after the engagements which he already has of this character, he will accept no further ones, but retire to his home and complete his new Turkish romance.

SOMETHING more substantial than increased fame has resulted to the famous American generals who have turned their pens toward writing their memoirs, or who have had their experiences embalmed in literature. The large financial returns which General Grant's work brought for his widow are known by the public, and there is every prospect that she will be made the recipient of a third cheque in the early part of the year. General McClellan's book, while it has not, of course, reached the sale which the Grant volumes have enjoyed, is selling beyond even the anticipations of the publishers, who report a sale already of 43,000 copies. The advance orders for the book consumed over 15,000 copies, and the second week after publication proved even more profitable than the first. It is the expectation of the publishers that 100,000 copies will be disposed of before the work is "shelved," and, to accomplish this, the Websters have nearly 3,000 agents employed in canvassing the volume. The largest number of copies has thus far been sold in New Jersey, General McClellan's native State.

GENERAL JOHN C. FREMONT'S "Memoirs," of which the first volume has just been issued by Messrs. Belford, Clarke, and Company, is enjoying a boom that promises a handsome return for the author. One hundred thousand copies will be printed of the first volume, and a similar number of the second. An order just received by the publishers from one dealer in Ohio calls for 2,400 copies of the first volume. A larger part of the second volume of the work is already in print, and the remainder the author is daily engaged in completing. It is expected that this volume will be ready by the 1st of March. "We are employing care and time," said a member of the firm a few days ago, "in the preparation of the work, and shall not hurry the second volume in any way. General Fremont personally supervises the manufacture of his work, and is constantly flitting between New York and Washington, now his permanent home, devoting the most careful attention to every minute detail. He is very exacting, and nothing is done on his work without its first receiving his personal approval." The work, when completed, will consist of 1,280 pages of letterpress, and will be embellished with over 400 illustrations. A week before his death General Logan ordered that a copy of the work be specially prepared for him, to be bound in half morocco.

THE Trow presses are busily printing the second number of the new Scribner, which will be issued on February 1. Contrary to all expectations, it has been found need to print the demand of whit to print 125,000 copies of the second number to properly fill the demand, of which the publishers have already received substantial indications. It was my privilege yesterday to examine a complete set of advance sheets of the February number, and it required but a glance to say in the set of advance sheets of the February number, and it required but a glance to see, what a more careful subsequent examination convinced me of, that the publishers had succeeded in overcoming the difficulties which they naturally had to contend with in issuing their first number. The printing of the illustrations is much improved, the work accomplished bearing comparison to any before the public. The leading of the work accomplished bearing comparison to any before the public. The leading place in the number is occupied by an article by Mr. J. C. Ropes, entitled "The Likenesses of G Likenesses of Cæsar," which is profusely illustrated with reproductions of photographs in Mr. Ropes's unique collection. The "Reminiscences of Minister Washburne" is con-tinued, and the state tinued, and the "Glimpses at the Diaries of Gouverneur Morris" comes to a conclusion in a second paper. Among other notable articles is one on "Our Naval Policy," by Lieu-tenant J. R. Salar a second paper. Among other notable articles is one on "Our Naval Poincy," by Lieu-tenant J. R. Soley, forming an admirable supplement to Captain Greene's article in the January number. The second instalments of "Seth's Brother's Wife" and "The Story of a New York House" appear, the latter with well-executed illustrations by Frost, Edwards, and Hopkinson and Smith. "J. S. of Dale" begins a novelette, which is to run through four number, and there are also some striking short stories and poems by run through four numbers, and there are also some striking short stories and poems by Octave The stories and there are also some striking short stories and poems by Octave Thanet, Louise Chandler Moulton, and others, with a review of Russian novels by Thomas C by Thomas Sergeant Perry.



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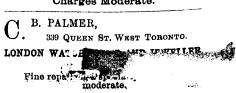
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