

THE WEEK:

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Table listing correspondence items and authors with page numbers. Includes 'A Common and Foundationless Fallacy', 'A Farmer's View', 'A Motto Translated', etc.

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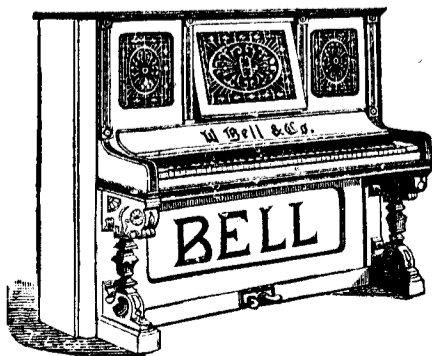
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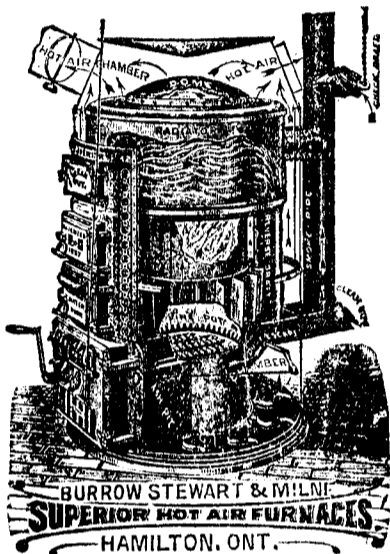
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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editoria department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

ONE thing must, we think, have struck the minds of most of those who try to follow the current discussion in reference to Separate Schools, in Manitoba and elsewhere. We refer to the broad difference in the modes of argument, if what is said on the side of the defence can be called argument, used by the more influential on the respective sides. There is, of course, far too much of empty and angry denunciation on both sides. But the leaders of thought among those who wish to see the Separate Schools discontinued in Manitoba and the North-West, and if possible in Ontario, discuss the question, many of them calmly, dispassionately, and simply on the merits of the unsectarian system. On the other hand, we do not think that it is any exaggeration to say that we have seen no attempt at such argument on the part of the defenders of the Separate Schools. Most of those defenders stand on their rights, the rights secured to them by the terms of capitulation, by the Quebec Act, by the British North America Act, and so forth. We do not deny that there is great force in this contention. The question of how to effect a reform of a pernicious system so engrafted into the very stock of the Constitution, without being guilty of something like bad faith, is a very difficult question, and one which must be fairly and honourably met when the proper time comes. We dismiss that, for the present, merely remarking that to suppose that there is no honest way out of the compact is to commit us to the view, from which every instinct of freedom and progress recoils, that it was within the just powers of the Government of a past generation to deprive a people of equal rights and religious equality for all time to come. Surely the dead hand must some day relax its grasp upon our liberties. But to return to our point. Have the Catholic defenders of the Separate Schools anywhere undertaken to defend the system upon its merits, as just and fair to all, and progressive? Even Archbishop Taché, from whom we should expect such a defence, if from any one, in his speech at St. Boniface, did not, so far as we are able to discover, touch upon such grounds. He dwelt upon the alleged fact, about which there is doubt, that the whole Catholic community are opposed to the

abolition of Separate Schools. He reminded his hearers of the other facts, about which there is, we suppose, no doubt, that he personally had devoted the best years of his life to the advancement of this country; that if he had ten lives he would devote them all to the service of the State; that he was a direct descendant of the first three families who had settled on the banks of the St. Lawrence; that he had been in this country before most of those who are now posing as champions of progress were born; that the agitators would find it a mistake to try to deprive the minority of their just rights, and so on. But in regard to the real question, whether the perpetuation of a system of Separate Schools, at public expense, is in the best interests of the whole people in these new communities, not a word!

THE same line of remark holds good, so far as we have observed, with reference to the French orators and press of Quebec. Expressions of determination to maintain the privileges secured by statutory compact; denunciations of the prejudice and bigotry of those who would attempt to disturb them in the enjoyment of these privileges; these we have seen in abundance. But, a calm, logical, cogent attempt to show that the present system is founded on the higher law of reason and right; or even that it is the best compromise possible under existing circumstances; this we do not remember to have seen. Is not this fact—and we appeal to our French fellow-citizens, who certainly know how to reason logically, to say whether it be not a fact—significant? We can understand their exasperation, of course, at what may seem to them an uncalled-for attempt to disturb the existing state of things. But why do they not essay to show, for example, that the dual system of public schools in Ontario or Manitoba is preferable on its merits, and produces better results than the single system which prevails, say, in New Brunswick? We all remember the fierce struggle that was made in behalf of Separate Schools in that Province. And yet, we are now assured, on the authority of a St. John newspaper, whose statement we have not seen contradicted, and which would scarcely attempt to mislead in regard to a matter in which the facts are so easily ascertained, that the priests who at one time went to prison rather than pay the school tax collectable under the non-sectarian law “are foremost in upholding now what they denounced then.” “The bishops and clergy of the Catholic Church,” says the same paper, “and the clergymen of the Protestant Church are all one on this point, and we owe a debt of gratitude to the wise men who brought about this happy state of affairs here.” It tells us, moreover, that “the bishop's brother-in-law, Dr. Travers, is now sitting along with other Catholics side by side with their Protestant brethren directing the schools, which are being taught by the members of every branch of the Christian Church, including the Catholic Sisters, out of the same books, in the Victoria and St. Joseph's, the Albert and St. Patrick's buildings.” Why should not the Catholics of Ontario and Quebec be willing at least to argue the question calmly, and consider whether a similarly happy state of affairs is unattainable in these provinces, without injustice to any race or denomination? Can it be that the reason is to be found, as so many allege, in the determination of the French of Quebec and Ontario to seek an independent national existence in Canada? And, if this is indeed the result of the special privileges that have been so long enjoyed by the people of their race and religion, can they wonder that the English-speaking and Protestant people of Canada show a disposition to arise in their might and declare that this country is and must ever remain an Anglo-Saxon and Protestant country, and that if any special institutions and privileges stand in the way of its development along these lines, some just means must be found for their removal?

LATE Winnipeg papers throw a clearer light upon the nature of the trouble between Lieutenant-Governor Royal and the North-West Assembly. Certain members of the Assembly who have been interviewed are emphatic in declaring that the bone of contention is not by any means a demand for full responsible government. That is, for the present, neither asked nor desired. The real question at issue is the old one, concerning the distribution of public money. The revenues of the Territory are

provided from two sources, but in very unequal proportions. The territorial income, derived from licenses and other local sources, is trifling, amounting only to about \$16,000 a year. This is supplemented by a subsidy voted by the Dominion Parliament of \$145,000. Last year, it appears, the Lieutenant-Governor submitted the estimates for the disposal of the whole revenue, arising from both sources, to the vote of the Assembly. Those estimates seem to have been passed without change; hence the actual question of the right of the Assembly to a voice in the distribution of the Dominion subsidy did not arise in practical form, but the members of the Assembly claim that they were led to infer, both from the Lieutenant-Governor's words and from the fact of his having submitted the whole of the estimates, that he recognized the right of the Assembly to control the appropriations. As the subsidy is voted by the Dominion Parliament in lump sums for specific purposes, as, for example, \$73,000 for schools, it is clear that the prerogative of the Assembly, if it has any, in regard to this major part of the revenue, must be limited to the matter of distribution. After the resignation of the first Advisory Board, on the ground that they could not assume responsibility for executive acts, in regard to which they were either not consulted or their advice was disregarded, Dr. Brett, on taking office, announced as the policy of the new Board, that it would “exercise the functions of an executive in matters affecting territorial finances only,” though His Honour would seek their advice in all matters of administration of public affairs, and comply, as in the past, with the recommendations of the House “in a liberal and constitutional spirit.” The issue, if this statement is correct, becomes tolerably well defined. It is, if we mistake not, the same issue, in substance, that caused the trouble some years ago between the appointed and the elected members of the former North-West council. It is highly probable that Lieutenant-Governor Royal's interpretation of the Act is correct, and that he is acting under instructions from Ottawa. At the same time it is not to be wondered at that members of the Assembly are reluctant to assume the responsibility of advisers whose advice may or may not be asked, or be acted upon when asked, as His Honour may choose, or that the Assembly should regard the submission to them of measures which they have no power to change or modify as little better than a farce. The matter will no doubt come up when Parliament meets. Meanwhile it is hard to see any good reason why the representatives of the people of the Territory should not be trusted with the distribution of the funds provided, from whatever source, for the use of the constituencies which elect them. If they are not qualified both by local knowledge and by personal character for the discharge of such a trust, the summoning of the Assembly itself must be regarded as to a large extent farcical.

ONE of the resolutions adopted by the North-West Assembly, during its late session, is unpleasantly suggestive. The resolution calls attention to the fact that no action has been taken by the Dominion Government to settle the alleged grievances of the Half-breeds, as set forth in a motion passed by the Assembly two years ago. The new resolution urges upon the Federal Government the desirability of settling the Half-breed claims with the least possible delay, as the matter is one gravely affecting the territories. The alleged claims of these old settlers are, in the opinion of the Assembly, well founded. Whether they are or not they should surely be carefully inquired into and a final decision given as soon as possible. Past painful experience should have sufficiently impressed the Ottawa Government with the unwisdom of permitting embers of dissatisfaction and unrest to smoulder until, perhaps, some second Riel may come upon the scene and fan them again into open revolt. But, apart from any such danger, the sense of justice of Ministers and Members of Parliament should be strong enough to overcome the *vis inertiae* of officialism, and secure a prompt, fair and thorough investigation.

CAN it be that the practice of polygamy is not unlawful in Canada? It is rather startling to be told by some of the newspapers that it is doubtful whether there is any law on our statute books directly forbidding it. It is

pretty certain that Canadian law does not tolerate bigamy, and it would, we fancy, puzzle even a Mormon saint to espouse a third or a thirtieth wife, during the lifetime of the first, without incurring the penalty prescribed for the crime of having unlawfully married a second. But be that as it may, all who believe that monogamy is the only practice in respect to marriage compatible with the well-being of society, and that polygamy is a violation of the most sacred laws which nature, sociology and religion unite to impose upon civilized humanity, will look with the most serious distrust upon any movement which threatens to involve our country in the troubles and evils which the practice of the Mormon creed in regard to this matter has brought upon the people of the United States. Lord Stanley did well, we dare say, to welcome the Latter Day Saints to Canada and to assure them that this country is free, as it undoubtedly is, to all creeds, and so to as many of their people as choose to come. It was quite proper that in replying to a loyal address, he should assume that the people on whose behalf it was presented were honest, law-abiding citizens. It is, none the less, a serious thing that a sect with so bad a record in regard to a practice which all Canadians are agreed is immoral and pernicious should have been able to secure not only the statutory 320 acres of land for each individual settler, but also a block of thirty square miles for special church purposes. If it be true, as the *New York Independent* has stated, that an official of the Washington Department of the Interior has visited the Canadian Mormons and reported them to be, for the most part, fugitives from Utah, the fact demands serious consideration. Everyone knows that their chief, if not sole, object in fleeing from Utah is to escape the strict enforcement of the laws against polygamy. It is, we suppose, only by vigilance that the danger can be guarded against. It would never do to refuse admittance to any body of immigrants on account of an article of their faith. But it is in the highest degree desirable that the movements of a people who have proved so troublesome to our neighbours should be observed with some degree of strictness, and with a firm determination to suffer no infraction of either the letter or the intention of our laws touching this important matter.

THE politics of Quebec are just now quite as mixed up as those of Ontario. It is, therefore, no less difficult to assign a value to the defeat of Premier Mercier's candidate in Brome than to the success of Premier Mowat's in Lambton. The defeat in the one case is certainly as real as the success in the other, and it is to as little purpose for the partisans of Mr. Mercier to point to the diminished majority of their opponents as for the opponents of Mr. Mowat to dilate on Mr. Mackenzie's failure to secure an absolute majority. It is scarcely possible that the Equal Rights agitation did not have a good deal of indirect influence in determining the result in Brome, and yet the promoters of the Equal Rights movement themselves admit, we believe, that had the battle been fought directly on that issue their candidate would have been signally defeated. This is equivalent to an admission that the anti-Jesuit, or anti-Ultramontane agitation has not made any considerable headway among the Protestants of Quebec, or at least among those of the constituency of Brome, in which two-thirds of the electors are said to be English-speaking. None the less the election of Mr. England is a decided check to Mr. Mercier, and must injure his *prestige*, if only as an exception to a long series of victories. Events may, perhaps, prove that we should not be far astray were we to regard it as one of the various indications that the clever and somewhat audacious leader of the Nationalists has at length passed the zenith of his career and is entering upon a declining course. The dissensions among the journals hitherto favourable to his side of politics, and the resuscitation of Liberalism as distinct from Nationalism, and more or less opposed to it, may be mentioned among other indications, while the seemingly inevitable financial difficulties looming on the horizon threaten to become, at an early day, a very effective cause of the possible eclipse of his popularity.

THERE is no question more closely related to the well-being of society and the State than that of the best means of preventing the increase of the idle, vicious and criminal classes. The statistics of our police courts and gaols make it but too clear that these classes are being steadily recruited in our midst, not simply or even mainly by immigration, but very largely from the ranks of children who are permitted to grow up under our eyes without education, training or healthful discipline of any kind. It was urged at the recent Congress for the Promotion of Pri-

son Reform that if it is wished to check the growth of the classes referred to, one of the first things to be done is to make universal elementary education a reality by seeing to it that every child of school age actually attends school. In view of the compulsory clauses of our Education Act, many may be ready to suppose that this is already provided for, but facts tell a different story. A lady has written a very sensible letter to the morning papers, pointing out that not only are there at present very many children growing up in the city in idleness and ignorance, without any other education than that of the street and alley, but that the red-tapeism of the school arrangements in some respects seriously hinders instead of facilitating the admission of the children of the poor into the schools. This correspondent further calls attention to the startling statement made in the last annual report of the Toronto Relief Society, on the authority of the superintendent of one division in an outlying district of the city, that out of seventy children coming under her notice during the past year only ten attended school. It is reasonable to suppose that the same state of things, in kind, if not in degree, exists in many other districts. This is surely a matter that demands immediate attention and vigorous action on the part both of the civic authorities and of the Government. Our detectives and constables are constantly at work laying hold of criminals, our costly courts of justice in trying them, and the doors of our gaols, penitentiaries and asylums are perpetually opening to admit them. What a Sisyphean toil it all is, so long as the chief agencies for the production of these enemies of society are permitted to continue their operations unchecked. It is as unnecessary as it would be absurd to claim that compulsory attendance at the public school is an infallible preventive of the development of criminal instincts and tendencies, but few can doubt that it is one of the most effective preventives it is in the power of the community to apply. The remedy is doubly efficient in that it acts negatively in keeping the waifs off the streets and out of the way of the temptations there abounding, as well as positively in increase of intelligence and training for usefulness. By all means, then, let those responsible be required to do their duty. The best interests of all classes of citizens are at stake. If the present provisions of the law in respect to compulsory education are sufficient, let them be rigidly enforced. If they are not sufficient, let immediate steps be taken to secure the necessary amendments. It is a reproach, a folly and a suicidal crime to allow any child to grow up in Toronto or any other Canadian city without learning, at the very least, to read, write and cast accounts, and so becoming fitted to earn a decent livelihood in some honourable occupation.

TWO cases now pending before Canadian Courts involve a question which is worthy of more consideration than it has hitherto received. In both instances an angry parent is indicted for assault upon a school teacher, by way of retaliation for the flogging of his child in the public school. In both cases it happens that the parent charged with the assault was a trustee of the school. The latter fact is probably not material, as it is hardly supposable that the trustees in question are prepared to claim that their official position gives them an authority over the persons of teachers similar to that exercised by the latter over those of their pupils. Each assault seems to have a feature of special aggravation, the one having taken place in the presence of the school children, and the other having been, it is alleged, marked by special brutality. Both are, of course, indefensible from either the legal or the moral point of view, and will, no doubt, if substantiated, bring upon their perpetrators the penalties of outraged law. And yet it can scarcely be doubted by any one who understands the parental instinct, that the offenders will not fail to receive a good deal of sympathy, silent or expressed. The not infrequent occurrence of such cases suggests that possibly the time has arrived for a careful reconsideration of the question of the expediency, not to say rightfulness, of continuing to teachers the arbitrary powers which they have been permitted from time immemorial to exercise in regard to corporal chastisement. There is, in the minds of many of those whose opinions on such a subject are not least worthy of attention, room for serious doubt as to the propriety of permitting any one, not the actual parent, or one who has succeeded legally to the parental relationship, to inflict blows upon children placed temporarily in his or her charge. The familiar argument that the possession of such power is necessary to discipline is more or less effectively met by the fact that in many schools of the highest standing in every respect

no corporal punishment is found necessary or permitted. It is further argued, and the argument is certainly not without weight, that the very fact of the conscious possession of the right to use physical force acts in many cases injuriously upon the teacher, by removing the necessity which would otherwise rest upon him of relying upon those sources of mental and moral power which, all will agree, supply, so far as they can be made effective, much more healthful and elevating motives for study and good conduct. We cannot here enter fully into the question, but it may not be amiss to observe that the statement ascribed to the plaintiff in one of the cases in question, that the flogging administered was, in part, for impertinence, is in itself very suggestive in regard to the teacher's state of mind, and the propriety of allowing the stronger party to be both judge and executioner in a matter in which personal feeling is so much involved.

THE police of Toronto must bestir themselves if they do not wish unpunished rowdiness to bring discredit upon the high reputation of the city as a law-abiding and orderly community. It is but two and a half years since Mr. William O'Brien and his friends were hooted and stoned through the streets of Toronto. The authorities at that time confessed themselves unable to bring the perpetrators of the outrage to justice, and the brickbat brigade took courage. Since [then the] city has been disgraced by at least three exhibitions of rowdiness of a similar kind, directed against our Irish Catholic fellow-citizens. The last, and perhaps the most serious, of these was the cowardly and unprovoked attack made on the new Archbishop of Toronto and the friends who escorted him from the station to the cathedral on the night of his arrival. As on the previous occasions, the cowardly miscreants who made the attack have escaped punishment, and the police seem disposed to make light of the affair. While this state of things continues Toronto can certainly not afford to point the finger of scorn at similar exhibitions of intolerance in Quebec or Montreal. The lawless gang of ruffians who championed Protestantism in this peculiar manner is doubtless small in numbers, but so long as its outrages go unpunished, it will not fail to bring disgrace upon the whole city. A step in the right direction would, we think, be a civic ordinance forbidding bands to play offensive party airs in the streets and public places. This favourite recreation of the junior Orange lodges is a constant menace to the peace of the city. However we may be disposed to admire what is truly manly and loyal in the principles and practices of genuine Orangeism, we cannot help thinking that the gentlemen, reverend or otherwise, who, by injudicious praise, lead the not too intelligent members of these juvenile organizations to regard themselves as heroes and defenders of the faith, must bear a responsibility in the stirring up of strife no less serious than that assumed by lecturers, native or foreign, who, entrenched in Protestant strongholds, delight to fill the credulous ear of bigotry with scurrilous abuse and innuendo directed against the clergy and adherents of the Catholic Church.

A RECENT cablegram states that Mr. Alexander Stanley Hill, a Conservative member of the British House of Commons, has written a letter to the *Times* on the Behring Sea question, having first qualified himself by a visit to Canada and the Pacific coast. Mr. Hill seems to have observed a fact that we have on previous occasions pointed out. That fact is that the apathy, or apparent apathy, of the home Government in regard to this matter tends directly to alienate the people of the Dominion, especially those immediately affected, from the Mother Country and to sap the foundations of Canadian loyalty to British connection. This result is natural and inevitable. Perhaps no feeling has a stronger influence in binding fast the people of this country in allegiance to the Old Land than the conviction that they are still regarded as citizens of the Empire, and that any infringement of the rights of a British subject in Nova Scotia or British Columbia will be as promptly resisted as if he dwelt in London itself. Rightly or wrongly this Behring Sea business has given that conviction a serious shock in many minds, a shock from which they will not soon recover. THE WEEK would, we trust, be among the last to favour any high-handed or irritating measures, or any course calculated to imperil the lasting peace and good-will which should subsist between the two great Anglo-Saxon nations. But the Behring Sea outrages are only in a technical sense the act of the United States. They are the act of a few politicians, trading, in all probability, upon the well-known and honourable reluctance of the British Government and people to quarrel with their trans-Atlantic kinsmen. The

better classes of the American people repudiate the absurd claim set up in their behalf. Their leading publicists openly declare it untenable. The weightier and more reputable newspapers do not attempt to defend it. Hence it is very hard for Canadians, especially those whose property and occupations have been taken from them by United States cruisers, to believe that there was, or is, any necessity for interminable diplomatic negotiations. As it appears to them, a little earnestness and firmness, such as would have been exhibited had the sufferers been voters in an English borough, would have promptly settled the whole business. They may, perhaps, be under a wrong impression in regard to the matter, but, if so, it should not have been beneath official dignity and might have been worth while to give them some assurance of the fact.

PRESIDENT HARRISON'S Message to Congress comes to hand too late for extended comment in this issue. So far as may be judged from a hasty glance over its contents, it is unusually free from matters that challenge comment from others than citizens of the United States. The paragraphs which naturally have most interest for Canadians are those relating to the Fisheries and to Extradition. In regard to the latter it is said that a new treaty has been negotiated and will soon be laid before the Senate. Seeing that the Senate is now in accord with the Executive there is every reason to anticipate the early ratification of this agreement. Other questions between Great Britain and the United States are said to be in abeyance, or in course of amicable adjustment. The Government of Canada is credited with endeavouring to administer the laws and regulations applicable to the Fisheries with as little occasion for friction as possible. The President adds: "It is trusted that the attainment of our just rights under existing treaties and in virtue of concurrent legislation of the two contiguous countries will not be long deferred." The mode of expression seems designed to convey the idea that no renewed attempt at a treaty arrangement for the settlement of this vexed question need now be looked for. Some other points touched upon in the address, which are of interest to the outside world, may be referred to in another number.

THE annual meeting of the Imperial Federation League of Great Britain, in London, on the 15th of November, was no doubt the largest and most influential that has yet been held. Now that the meagre telegrams are being supplemented through the mails, we are in a much better position to estimate the significance of the occasion. With such men as Lord Rosebery, Cardinal Manning, Lord Carnarvon, and others of like standing, at its head, it cannot be said that the movement lacks influential leadership. The audience, too, seems to have been large, representative, and enthusiastic. The chief practical issue set before the meeting was the proposal to hold periodical colonial conferences, similar to that of 1887, and to urge the Government, with all the force the League can bring to bear, to call such conferences, and to invest them with all the authority and *prestige* imparted by Government auspices. Lord Salisbury has already, in effect, refused to regard such a course as coming within the scope of Government functions and responsibilities. Whether his views on this point can be changed under pressure remains to be seen. It is undeniable that there is much in the idea of a great Imperial Federation to kindle the imagination of all loyal Britons, at home and in the colonies, and it will be surprising if the advocates of the movement do not increase in numbers and reach a still higher pitch of enthusiasm. If such a scheme could be shown to be at all feasible there would be no reason why every Englishman who wishes to retain the colonies, and every colonist who values British connection, should not heartily unite in promoting it. But we have to confess that our impression in regard to the impracticability of the idea is strengthened rather than weakened by the report of the meeting, for the following reason: While sentiment would be a powerful and a perfectly legitimate auxiliary force in cementing such an union, sentiment alone, apart from self-interest, is not a sufficient force. But leaving sentiment for the moment out of the question, the self-interest of the mother country and that of the colonies seem to bear upon the movement at right-angles to each other, so to speak. Though the League is probably indebted to Sir Charles Tupper for the suggestion of periodical conferences under Government auspices, the Council of the League evidently repudiates Sir Charles's companion idea of a common tariff, discriminating in favour of the colonies. "The doctrines of Free Trade," says Lord Rosebery, "are far too deeply rooted in this country to leave hope for any general assent to such proposals." Even the

Fair Traders do not seem to have objected to this strong statement. If we assume, then, that a preferential tariff is with Canadians a *sine qua non*, or even the chief material consideration—and it is difficult to think otherwise—Lord Rosebery's assertion strikes at the root of the Canadian hope. While Great Britain would probably welcome the co-operation of the colonies in the maintenance of the army and navy, and might even cheerfully concede such proportionate but unimportant influence in the direction of their movements as Canada could justly claim, it is hard to see in what respect the proposal to assume such a burden—we do not refer solely to the financial part of it—could commend itself to the people of a distant colony not in actual danger of attack.

THE EDUCATIONAL CRISIS IN MANITOBA.

THE educational problem that is at present pressing itself on public attention is like the Roman Janus, it looks two ways. There is a grave evil existing in the present, and there is a second evil, which may arise in the future by an attempt to remove the existing evil. First come, first served. The educational wrong with which we are face to face to day is, I need hardly say, that of the existence of Separate Schools. On the very face of it, the existence of these schools seems at once unjust and unwise. It is utterly unjust that any portion of the public funds should be used to advance the interests of any one particular Church or any particular section of the community, unless similar privileges are extended to every other Church and every other section of the community. If it be said that only the money of Roman Catholic ratepayers is taken to support the Separate Schools, it must be remembered that this is only one of three sources of revenue from which the schools in question are supported, the other two being a share of the taxes arising from corporations, the shareholders in which are usually nine-tenths Protestants, and a share of the subsidy contributed by the inhabitants of the whole Dominion, a large majority of whom are Protestants. So, we repeat, Protestant money *does* go to the support of these Separate Schools, and this is wrong. And not only are Separate Schools unjust, their existence in this new country is unwise. It is unwise in the interests of the young people themselves who attend these schools, for there can be no worse preparation for the battle of life, the rough and tumble of average human experience, than an utter isolation from views and habits of thought differing from our own. The boy whose fond mamma molly-cod dles him by an over-careful seclusion from contact with other boys foredooms him to either premature failure, or to an unnecessarily severe conflict, when he does come to face the hard facts of life and the stern, strong pressure of temptation. It has always seemed to me that our Roman Catholic friends show very little faith in the power of the principles they teach their people by their constant effort to keep their young people so utterly removed from all contact with young people of other faiths. But the existence of these schools is unwise in the best interests of the country as a whole. We are never going to build up here on these North-Western prairies a great people, a people that shall make its mark on the pages of history and on the thought and attention of men, we are never going to make such a people by a fortuitous collection of isolated, disjointed communities, by a merely local collocation of alien and mutually suspicious nationalities. No, if the Canadian North-West is to realize the great future whose promise and potency God has written for it all over its fertile plains, then it is as a united people, it is as a compact, not a divided nationality that the dreams of its great destiny are to be turned into the abiding realities of accomplished fact. And the one influence most harmful to this national unity is the existence of these Separate Schools; they drive a wedge right through the very midst of our community, they divide the stream of our national life almost at its fountain head, they start whole masses of our people out into life ignorant of each other, and therefore suspicious of each other, and therefore prepared to be easily arrayed against each other on very slight provocation; whereas, if this separating force were withdrawn, then, from the very commencement of life, in the microcosms of our Public Schools, our people would learn to know each other better, and on mutual knowledge mutual respect would build itself, and from mutual respect there would easily be born a common plan and purpose for the upbuilding of the nation.

And even as a matter of organization, the present system is crude and cumbersome, and therefore distinctly unwise. To have in the one Province, and under the one Government, two distinct systems of education, whose teachers are examined on entirely different lines, in whose schools entirely different school books are used, systems that preclude the possibility of anything like common inspection, and which entail upon the country the altogether unnecessary expense of two superintendents, in these ways, the existence of these two distinct systems tends to lessen the efficiency, while it certainly increases the expense of management.

The present system of Separate Schools is, then, in many ways, a grave evil, and one that should be removed from our educational policy if any means can possibly be devised of accomplishing that result.

It is said that the only method of accomplishing the abolition of Separate Schools is by a complete secularization of our school system; by eliminating from our

schools not only all religious teaching, but even all formal reference to religion whatever. Now, in regard to this proposal, first, is such a serious step *wise*, and, secondly, is it *necessary*?

Looking at the abiding prosperity of the nation, I am very sure that it would not be wise. If we do not utterly misread the whole lesson of the past, we think that no truth has been graven so deep on the page of human history as this, "The nation that honoureth God, God will honour, and the nation that forgetteth Him, He will utterly cast down." If we believe in a God at all, surely we must believe that honour is due to Him from nations as well as from individuals. And how could God be more dishonoured than by an exclusion from the schools of the country of all reference to His Being, His Will and His Law? This is a Christian land, we are a professedly Christian people, the whole structure of society rests upon a Christian basis, our highest ethical ideals are cast in Christian moulds, our noblest and truest inspirations, for national as well as for individual duty, are drawn from Christian sources; how can we then dare to dream of striking out from our schools that open acknowledgment of God which has been for centuries one of the most potent factors in our Anglo-Saxon history and life? You say that the secularization of our schools does not dishonour God; it does, for it ignores Him; and that at a point and a time when it is of the profoundest national importance that His supreme authority should be brought forward with the greatest possible prominence. If we believe that God shapes the destinies of nations as well as of individuals, if we believe that His continuing favour is the surest guarantee of national permanence and prosperity, then surely, in the best interests of the nation, it will be utterly and awfully unwise to dishonour Him by that utter silence as to His Word and Will that is contemplated in the proposed secularization of our schools. And it is unwise, too, in the best interests of education itself. For what is education? Is it the cramming the child's mind with a certain aggregate of knowledge or of facts? No, it is the endeavour to develop the highest and best possibilities of the child's whole nature. By its very derivation we understand that education is a well-considered and continuous effort to call forth all that is strongest and truest in the child's being, to upbuild the best and truest type of manhood and womanhood in those to whom is soon to be entrusted the sacred charge of the nation's prosperity and life. It is absolutely vital to the truest interests of our community that there should prevail only the highest conception as to the scope and purpose of education. If a nation's greatness depends not upon the wealth of its resource, not upon the wide extent of its power, not upon the immemorial traditions of a glorious past, not upon the number of its population, or even upon the form of its government, but chiefly, and above all, upon the character of its citizens; if this be true, then is it not absolutely suicidal for any nation to adopt a system of education in which, while the intellect may be highly developed, the question of the formation of character is utterly ignored, in which the moulding of the moral and religious side of the child's nature is left entirely to the hap-chance of home training? That I am not taking a merely ideal view of the true scope and meaning of education I shall prove by a reference to the utterance of prominent educational authorities. In the report of the Commissioner for Education for the United States we find the following words: "The great want in our Public Schools is a greater attention on the part of teachers and others to moral instructions and character-building. To turn out good, honest, clean-living men and women is that which should be not merely acknowledged but felt to be the great aim of Public Schools, that nothing should be allowed to interfere with this, that intellectual training should be subordinated to it, and that this instruction should be not merely incidental, but that it should have its regular place on a programme of studies."

And again, in the same report, we find quoted the weighty words of Superintendent Fingal, of South Carolina, who says: "Besides intellectual training we insist upon moral and religious instruction; of course we cannot give religious instruction except in a general way, but there is a common independent ground for all to stand on. No person rises to the full stature of manhood until he chooses to model his life according to the eternal principles of right, and this is tantamount to saying, till he chooses to serve God. It is the will which determines what any intelligent being is or what he shall be, and hence the will must be trained, that what is right may be followed. The teacher who neglects to emphasize moral and religious training to that extent makes a signal failure."

And again, we find that a few years ago ten thousand teachers met in convention at Nashville, and their unanimous opinion was that the aim of our Public Schools is, primarily and chiefly, the formation of character; and that that formation of character must rest upon moral training, and that that moral training can only be successful when it rests itself on religious sanctions. Now, it must be noted that these are not the utterances of clerical enthusiasts, or of political partisans, they voice the mature and well-weighed thought of men whose time and talents have been devoted to the work of education, they utter the opinions of men who certainly know whereof they speak, when they discuss the nature of education and the methods which will best attain its best and truest purposes.

And even in the carrying on of the discipline of the school, even in stimulating the pupils to continuous and earnest work, what motives can you possibly find that will be more permanently helpful than the high ethical ideals

DECEMBER SUNSET.

that are made definite and concrete for the child by a well-considered course of religious instruction? If you say that these ideals may be obtained by the indirect references of literature, the reply seems simple. Our literature confessedly borrows its noblest and most fruitful moral conceptions from the Bible. Why, then, leave the child to the indirect influences of literature when you can bring to bear upon him the direct force of the Word of God itself? Would not this be to leave to the child the uncertainty of the moonlight or the faint glimmer of the stars, while you deliberately shut out from him all the beauty and brilliance and full revealings of the sunlight itself.

I think, then, that the secularization of our schools would be unwise, whether we regard the discipline of the child in the work of the school or the formation of his character for his future life.

But in the present crisis we are again and again confronted with this alternative, "If you do not go in for secularization, then you must be prepared for the retention of Separate Schools." Even if this were the case, I should still say, "Do not let us secularize our schools; let us not, in order to remove one evil, commit another evil greater and graver far; for there is something worse for our people than a divided school system; there is something worse even than Roman Catholic aggression; and that is the growth of a godless secularism, which, were it largely to prevail, would surely eat out the moral heart and life of our nation, and would most certainly predestine it to premature decay." And no influence would be so helpful to secularism as the secularization of our schools. Take all formal recognition of God and Christ and religious duty out of the largest and most formative part of the child's life and you go far to take it out of the child's whole life, and take it out of the child's life and you take it out of the man's life, and take it out of the man's life and you take it out of the nation's life, and so you surely kill the nation that you seek to serve.

And if you trust to this religious training being given in the home or the Sunday school, then, in large communities, and we hope ere long to be a large community, you will utterly miss whole masses of children who never darken the door of a Sunday school, and whose only home training is a training in immorality and irreligion.

If the alternative is a necessary alternative, then let us, by all means, have separatism rather than secularism; the one touches the better being of our nation, but the other threatens its very being and life.

But is this alternative a necessary one? Are we confined to these two courses of action as the only two possible ones under the circumstances? I decidedly think that we are not. For what is possible elsewhere should be possible here. London is surely as cosmopolitan a place as Manitoba, they have as large a variety of different consciences and creeds there as we have here, and yet there they manage to have in their Board Schools very full and definite non-sectarian religious instruction; and I find that, in one year, out of one hundred thousand children that received religious instruction in one part of the schools under the London School Board, only eighty were withdrawn from religious instruction under the operation of the conscience clause. There is hardly a Board School in England now in which some form of non-sectarian religious education is not given. And what is true of England is true of many other countries also. And even countries in whose schools no definite religious teaching is given still retain the reading of selected portions of God's Word and the opening and closing with prayer. I see nothing, then, either in the character of our population or in the necessities of our school system to prevent the plan being followed here that is found to work so well in many Public Schools elsewhere. Let there be half an hour at the beginning of the day devoted to religious exercises and moral and religious instruction, and let the rest of the day be devoted to purely secular work. It might perhaps be well that alternative forms of religious exercise should be drawn up, the one for Protestant schools and the other for Roman Catholic schools; and also alternative outlines of moral and religious instruction for the use of Protestant and Roman Catholic schools respectively, with, of course, a liberal conscience clause exempting from religious exercises and instruction all whose parents or guardians desire such exemption. Then let there be one Superintendent of Education for the whole Province, one set of Inspectors, and one standard of examination for all teachers receiving public money. Of course, in the matter of religious knowledge, there would have to be an alternative examination for teachers, as is the case in Belgium; but this is the only point at which any different standard of examination would have to be provided. By some such plan as this, it seems to me that the unification of our school system would be accomplished, and, at the same time, their Christian character would be retained, and, at least, a fair compromise offered to our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens, by which a certain portion of the school hours would be assigned them for definite religious teaching. More than this neither they nor any other Christians have a right to ask. That this plan is not open to objections I do not claim, but what compromise between varying views and interests ever was? But I do think that either this or some similar scheme might be evolved by the common thought of a Christian people that would at once mitigate the evils of our present system and at the same time save our country from the dire disaster of an utter secularization of its Public Schools.

J. D. O'MEARA.

St. John's College, Winnipeg, Nov., 1889.

I LONG for a noble mood. I long to rise,
Like those large, rolling clouds of ashen pink
That deepen into purple, over strife
And small mechanic doings. How superb
That landscape in the sky to which I walk,
And gain at will a spacious colour-world,
In which my finer self may feel no fear!
The distance far between that goal and me
Seems lightly bridged; breathless, I win that goal—
The shores of purple and the seas of gold.
Below, how flat the still small earth—a sphere
That only the leaden soul takes solace in!
The long pine stretches, barred in sombre black,
Cross at right-angles fields that are gray with snow—
Not white, but gray, for all the colour's here.
Colour—a new sacrament—melted gems,
The hearts of all water-lilies, the tips of their wings—
Young angels, plumed in topaz, garnet, rose—
The dazzling diamond white, the white of pearl;
How poor a place the little dark world appears,
Seen from this gold-cloud region, bason'd in fire!
Only a step away, and nothing remains
Of the homes, huts, churches, palaces it bears
Upon its dry brown bosom. There remains
But the wonderful violet sea, that angrily
This moment somewhere lashes its yellow foam
Against a lonely reef. What's most like God
In this universe, if not this same strong sea,
Encircling, clasping, bearing up the world,
Blessing it with soft caresses, then, for faults,
Chiding in God-like surges of wrath and storm?

But the ocean of cloud is placid, and the shores,
Rolled up in their amethyst bulk towards the stars,
Fade noiselessly from pearl to purple dark.
The shades fall even here. Here—not exempt
From death and darkness even these shining airs—
The night comes swifter on than when on earth.
The fringes of faintest azure, where the bars
Of paler cloud are fading into gray,
Are dulled and blotted out. Opaque has grown
The molten in one moment; fleecy pale
And ghastly all the purple—lonely then,
And awed to horror of those glacial peaks,
I bridge the vaporous barrier once again,
And tread the despised earth. Then how too dear
Doth the rude, common light of earth appear—
That of a street lamp, burning far, but clear,
The sign of human life, of human love,
Of habitation sweet, of common joys
And common plans, but precious, yet not prized,
Till in a moment's fancy I had lost them.

SERANUS.

LONDON LETTER.

"CALL us," we said, "when the procession is passing:
and not before."

You see the front room was so noisy. Through the open windows came the ceaseless clamour of the crowds drawn up along the pavements, or swaying widely out into the middle of the road in some moment of excitement. Then, the clatter of mounted policemen driving the company back into line. Then, the groans and hoots with which the guardians of Law and Order were greeted by desperadoes whose aim seemed to be a desire to edge themselves into the path of the Show and to stay there, victims of the coming golden chariots. Piercing yells arose from "scrowdged" and fainting ladies. Ferocious jokers exploded crackers in the midst of large parties, who, with patient care, had worked themselves together near the front, and who now, frightened with false fire, fled to the rear, gasping and regardless of the ties binding them to their sisters and their cousins and their aunts. Or, accompanied by cries as of a revolution, a stream of rioters tramped past, each man ready and willing to fight his neighbour or pick a pocket. The uproar increasing, our conversation had to be carried on in dumb show; and at this point someone suggested luncheon and a back room.

So, leaving scouts posted to call us at the first wave of a banner and bang of a drum, we cheerfully turned from the holiday-making Strand to the peaceful little square onto which the back windows gave, and as I lounged, looking out to the bare planetrees with their hanging black balls, on the decaying iron gates swinging open with a melancholy air, I heard a little queer information about men and things fitting in, it seemed to me, with the behind-the-scenes appearance of these dingy houses which from the Strand boast so smart an appearance. At the foot of a side street a glimpse of the grey Thames contributed something of a Venetian air. (Running water has for most of us so delicate and mysterious an attraction that I cannot feel altogether sure the naiads are myths.) Above, what could be seen of the sky was pearl-colour, repeating the lighter tones of the river. Scarlet, and music, and the delightful roar of life I had left behind, across the corridor. Here I came suddenly, as it were, to the back of the stage.

My companion had only just returned from his autumn holiday. He had passed through Paris coming home, and had hated the Exhibition. It was a bear garden, he said. And a bore garden! And a beer garden! He had met a lady who had gone to the top of the Eiffel Tower, from which point she had stepped off into a balloon. She had landed somewhere, he thought, in Provence, but he wasn't

sure. Would I like to hear how the picture prizes were given? He could vouch for the truth of his information, for he had heard it from no less a person than Mr. —, but I didn't catch the name. And perhaps it is as well.

It seems that early one morning the committee assembled in one of the great galleries of the Exhibition, headed by Meissonier, armed with a dinner bell, like the captain in "The Hunting of the Snark." When any picture struck Meissonier's fancy as deserving a medal or an honourable mention he stayed before it, called, with a clang of his bell, his straying comrades about him, and, with their concurrence, wrote down the name of the piece, the merit of which was again to be discussed later. So, in the space of an hour or so, the paper was full of names, and it was time for the grave judges, headed still by the dinner bell, to retire into the committee room and give their awards. Then the fun began. By far the largest proportion were Impressionists, who had, out of kindness, allowed Meissonier to have the pleasure of entering certain pictures which, when they came to be seriously criticised, could not, for the honour and dignity of art, be allowed to pass. And the handful of men of the old school (Armitage was among them, pupil of Delacroix, the hated of Haydon, you will remember in the matter of the frescoes) were completely set aside, to their astonishment. The paper of names, compiled with so much care, was shown to be of no use. The Impressionists settled everything; and if you will look at the list of those who came off proud possessors of one or more gold medals you will understand the helpless rage of the artists of the ancient régime who were outvoted on every occasion. The faces of the Englishmen were a study; and, indeed (said my informer), their positions must have been a little trying to most of them.

Well, and then from pictures we got to pirates—I don't know how exactly—and I heard of a young gentleman who had lately sailed to search for treasure buried in one of the South Pacific Islands. He began life as a solicitor, or perhaps a solicitor's clerk, found his work irksome, and burned for some career in which he could make the welkin ring with his name. Wish for anything with your whole heart, and an opportunity will turn up and your prayer will be granted. Think of my hero's luck. A pirate (warranted the genuine article by his townsfolk and friends) died a little time ago, and left behind him full instructions to his next of kin as to the finding of certain property hidden in the valley of a desert island, longitude and latitude specified. That next of kin, being, perhaps, poor and adventurous, sought up hill and down dale for some other gallant endowed with the old buccaneering spirit to go shares with him in the buying of a vessel and the hiring of a crew. By some extraordinary coincidence, surely the hand of Fate, he met our young solicitor, and then matters progressed at such a rate that other bold youths burnt their ships behind them, and, throwing to the winds quills, and parchment, and office stools, entered as first and second mates, stewards and pursers. Before starting they bade a tender farewell to their annoyed families in Belsize Park, Bayswater and Notting Hill. They said they would either return on their shields or with them; that they were fully armed with dirks and rapiers and sabres, so it was unlikely any savages would attempt to interfere with them, but if they did, they, the crew of *The Jolly Roger*, would wade through blood to get to the valley where the gold and silver were hid. Then, leaving instructions as to the postage of parcels and letters, the sails were unfurled, and the boat started in a fair breeze, bang to the Spanish Main. That is Volume I. of the romance.

Volume II. is full of complaints. There are no adventures to report of any sort. The crew turned out to be a desperate set, and showed symptoms of their desperation even in the Channel and the Bay of Biscay. So said the young solicitor, who has further divulged that the berths were so uncomfortable that he hardly had any sleep; that the meat was occasionally nasty, and the bread full of weevils. At last matters became so unpleasant that he demanded to be set ashore at the nearest point (I think it was Cape St. Vincent, on the west coast of Spain), and the expedition, he said, might go on without him for all he cared. So they set him ashore, did that desperate crew, in the captain's gig, and my hero painfully made his way back through France to England, reaching that land at last after a horrible voyage from Calais to Dover, and I fancy he will return to his office and his duties, and will never more go treasure-seeking in the South Pacific seas.

Volume III., relating the further adventures of *The Jolly Roger*—I am not sure I am quite correct in that name—has not yet been written.

It was after we had finished the chickens that they came running to call us, for the procession was just about to arrive. So, armed with strawberry jam tarts, which for all the Lord Mayors in the kingdom we would not desert, we returned to the front room. The streets were as full as they will be in a hundred years if the population goes on increasing. The road was cleared for the show. Along the ledges of the house opposite babies were laid, like something cold in a pantry, their skirts clutched by their mothers and elder sisters; men stood in perilous attitudes outside attic windows; small boys pea-shooted the crowd below. It was so entertaining that the presence of the procession was not needed to add to the general hilarity, and when the first strains of the first band were heard we rather looked upon the whole thing as an intrusion. However, the Show arrived, a little halting maybe, and occasionally disappointing if you have preconceived

ideas as to what the aldermen and councillors should be like, but fulfilling your wildest dreams as to the grandeur of the Lord Mayor's coach. And we cheered, as it was expected we should, the French firemen, and Sir John Bennett, and the charming trophy-cars, and the elegant lords and ladies from Astley's in their fine gowns, and we settled that we never had seen prettier costumes than those designed by Mr. Wingfield, even though, in the light of a November morning, they reminded one a little of those worn by Mr. Pickwick and his friends at the breakfast given by Mrs. Leo Hunter. A more appreciative audience it is impossible to imagine, the height of enthusiasm being aroused by the passing of the Queen of Beauty, whose bashfulness was such that she never raised her eyes from the ground during her triumphal drive through the city. But we forgot even the Queen of Beauty in the contemplation of His Lordship's coach (by the way, His Lordship is very like Calderon, R. A.), which struck us with wonder and amazement. Imagine the delight of mounting into that golden chariot, of bowing to huzzaing millions, of robing oneself in scarlet robes, and adorning oneself with gold and precious stones. Ambition—a word meaning such different things to different people—has caused Sir Henry Isaacs to achieve his ideal to-day. I wonder if the game is worth the candle, or if, on this same day next year, he will envy not in the least the possession of all this grandeur to the new Lord Mayor. **WALTER POWELL.**

MONTRÉAL LETTER.

WE are all children of imitation. Originality is at a discount. But there is much of its counterfeit in the market for applause. When our fashionable New York cousins, competing with each other, have to dine next day in order to find an hour late enough, we are now, before the winds of November have blown themselves out, purchasing our Christmas cards, and ordering our Christmas *Globe* and *Star*. Soon we shall not only turn night into day, but winter into summer. Nothing stands on its own legs. We all look out for some influential coat-tails to tag ourselves on to. We can't read the day's news without wading through piano agencies and new soaps. We refuse to take our theology except in romance-coated pills. We won't even read our Bibles unless we get a sugar-stick.

An annual Bible competition announces itself. We approve as a matter of course. Honesty is the best policy, and we are glad to have it even on these terms, though we need not pledge ourselves to despise it for its own sake. So we rejoice to think of Montreal taking a fresh interest in holy things, and looks out for results. The opening feature of the competition is simple enough and within the range of all. Where is the word *MOTHER* first mentioned in the Bible? As the young idea turns over the sacred pages in search of an answer, maturer wisdom speculates as to the application of the lesson, and wanders off in dreams of childhood, and visions of the sere and yellow leaf. When the passage is found, and the finder sends it, not home to his own heart and life to see his reward there, but to a certain office, he will be rewarded by the receipt of "a very fine-toned upright piano," "a gold watch," "a salt and pepper cruet," "a china tea-set," or "a dozen silver-plated tablespoons." Other questions of equal importance in the sacred narrative, and of equal intricacy of attraction to the embryo subscriber, are rewarded by correspondingly generous donations, a perfect El Dorado of generosity; and even those who fail to find the exact verse by sending their failure shall receive watches, rings, silk gowns, etymological dictionaries and cyclopædias.

Another genius makes a cigar, and naturally enough wants to sell it. He gives a startling name, "Thunder-bolt" or "Earthquake" will do, and suggests that the winter evenings could not be better occupied by young and old than by taking the name of his cigar, dissecting it, rebuilding it over and over, and sending into another certain office the result. Twenty dollars for the greatest variety of new words made from his wonderful patent divisible and interdivisible appellation. In addition to the dollar bills, the winner of the race will have his name published in connection with the feat.

A third, a long-headed tailor, purchases of a well-known and respected citizen, a bay Shetland pony, a beautiful dog-cart, and Russian leather harness. These, on a given date, are to be put into enormous scales, and, in the presence of high officials, are to be weighed and registered. Meantime, every purchaser of a two dollar coat is entitled to a guess at the weight. Another guess is added for every additional two dollars, and the purchaser who hits the mark of the weight is to receive the pony and the cart.

A fourth enterprise advertises a free luncheon, and a saloon-keeper is said to be organizing a restaurant where the hungry may feed for nothing whenever they please. I suppose most things are fair in love, war, and trade, and so long as the world lets itself be duped, it cannot blame its fleecers. When 'Pears' Soap is able to boast that it expends one hundred thousand pounds sterling, a year, in advertising, the Sunlight may be excused for resolving to out-wit it, and the process shall be a study to the interested. In these cases we pay for both soap and advertisement. But when we allow ourselves to be drawn in to guess at the weight of the pony, one man who has not paid for the pony will get it, and thousands who have paid for it will not get it. Such is trade! And such are we!

Our biennial civic lottery, the winter carnival, cost us

last year, \$17,581, *Le-voila*, the contingent and the arch expenditure:—

CONTINGENCIES.	
Rent of office.....	\$100 00
Office wages.....	293 50
C. C. Clapham, Secretary, \$600; bonus \$50.....	650 00
Plans—Capt Bunnet.....	9 00
Auditor.....	25 00
Carters' badges.....	60 00
Advertising.....	109 70
Printing and stationery.....	235 32
Sundry petty expenses.....	19 00
Carnival badges.....	158 75
Incidental expenses—Secretary.....	189 04
P. A. Petersen, valuator.....	50 00
A. B. Major—Law expenses.....	50 00
	\$1,949 31
ARCH.	
Timber—Henderson Co.....	\$402 53
Hardware (spikes)—T. B. Paey.....	59 18
Labour—J. S. Tait.....	591 41
Evergreens.....	108 30
Flag poles, cambrie and printing, and hire of snow-shoes and toboggans.....	141 11
	\$1,374 53
Paid additional arch accounts since:	
Beullac—Decorations.....	\$75 00
Flags' hire.....	44 18
D. Henderson—Sundries.....	34 40
W. Byrd—Sundries.....	4 00
Radford & Hopkins—Plans.....	50 00
	207 58
Total chargeable to arch.....	\$1,582 11

The city is not at home. The Mayor and friends have gone west by special invitation, and special train, to discover how far ahead other cities are in municipal schemes and achievements. To date the party is reported well and progressing.

A Montreal Industrial Exhibition Company with a capital of \$100,000, has applied for incorporation, its object being to hold industrial exhibitions of "any and every variety of thing and being found in animal and vegetable life." **VILLE MARIE.**

HAWTHORN SPRAY.

AFTER the early spring's dissolving powers
Had eased the earth of winter's icy weight,
I went into the woods with soul elate
To watch the coming of the first-born flowers;
Fair Flora soon began to build her bowers
Of leaf and bloom in forms both small and great,
The trees put forth their canopies of state,
And from the ground sprang up between the hours
Most beauteous blossoms in a glorious band
Of perfect shapes and colours richly blent,
And all my soul was fill'd with glad content;
But one pink hawthorn in a far-off land
Sent all my thoughts like birds on eager wing
Back to the beauty of Old England's spring.

SARREPTA.

PARIS LETTER.

IN point of inconvenience, a rising on the part of bakers is as bad as a rise in the loaf. Now that the London bakers in the matter of "striking" are like Mahomet's coffin it may not be uninteresting to examine how their French colleagues, the "white miners" of Paris, as they are as truthfully as figuratively called, earn and make their daily bread. The city bakers are of extreme antiquity in racial respects, for, like the Troglodytes, they dwell in caverns, or *fournils*.

The Paris bakers have tried every known means to ameliorate their situation, but without any evident success. They have been coddled by Government, caressed and repelled by their employers, deceived and congealed by their own order, so that at one time it seemed that the only solution for their grievances was for every family to make their own bread, as in the time of Charlemagne, who borrowed the idea from the Romans. Every individual who cracks a hot roll in the morning, or squeezes a rusk at a five o'clock, ought to keep green the memory of Posidonius, an ancient and esteemed philosopher, who discovered the way to make bread. He, as the visitor saw at the exhibition, suggested to our cavern householder-ancestors to pound grains of wheat in a stone trough, wet the resulting powder, and when battered into a doughnut place the mass in a Turkish oven, that is, between heated stones, till it was turned out hot-cake. Before the discovery of Posidonius man ground his own cereals between his teeth—the molars especially; the saliva acted as water and barm and when the mass was rolled into a doll sausage it slid down into the stomach where it was cooked.

The monks at one time in Paris controlled the bakery business; they had the monopoly of the public ovens, where housewives brought the dough to be ovened, just as they do at the present day legs of mutton bordered with potatoes. But no baking was allowed on Sundays and *fêtes*. France then observed Sunday as a whole holiday, and the oven-tax went for the support and burial of the poor. In the middle of the seventeenth century it was prohibited to employ beer barm in making bread; barm, it was alleged, contained disease germs, a fact that Pasteur has corroborated at the close of the nineteenth century under the name of microbes, but of the useful and harm-

less division of that wide-spread family. Up to 1789 the bakers were compelled to sell nearly all their bread in stalls in the public markets, and 900 master bakers monopolized the privilege, for it was only in 1863 that the trade became as free as banking or cobbling. To qualify for a master baker it was necessary to graduate five years as an apprentice, then four more as a journeyman; or nine years in all to make a crust, while three years sufficed to manufacture a philosopher, and seven a doctor.

Napoleon I. abolished the 1611 decree that compelled each loaf to display its own "incrusted" weight on penalty of being seized; but he required each baker, following the importance of his business, to have in stock from fifteen to sixty sacks of flour, of three cwt. each; also that no baker could retire from business till he had given six months' notice. Napoleon III. in 1854 ordered that there should be one baker for every 1,800 inhabitants. During the Siege of Paris, from September, 1870, till January, 1871, the government was the great flour merchant, to which it added, as corn in Egypt began to decline, the business of sawdust, ground bones, sand and earth dealer—in some countries the natives live, not by, but—in the stomachic sense—on earth. From these ingredients the baker of Paris prepared compound loaves and represented sales on the books of the Minister of Commerce, who was metropolitan cashier, in cash or *bons* for frs.33,000,000. After peace, when 2,000 bakers demanded to be paid, no books were forthcoming, the communists having made a bonfire of them.

In 1686, when the population of Paris was estimated at 350,000, the number of bakers was 1,500; to-day, with a population 2,250,000, the number of bakers proper is 3,276, exclusive of 339, whose speciality is making Viennese bread—about which more anon—and 194 pastry cooks. The latter compose a class quite distinct from the pastry cook shop. Bread is not delivered in Paris by vans like the food supplies of butchers and milk-men; there are 712 men who trundle bread in covered carts, and 1,643 women—a race apart, who carry the bread in a labyrinthine kind of blue apron to customers—and when laden—often below a humane "load-line"—have quite a porcupine look, with the ends of three-foot-long rolls spiking forth from their wall of Troy *tablier*. In 1830 the bakers were paid frs.3.75c. per day; in 1859, frs.4.55c.; in 1871, frs. 6, and at present about 40 or 52 francs per week, plus each day a two-pound loaf gratis and four sous for wine. They have to daily turn out 1,000 tons of hot bread, and as there are 2,500,000 of people in Paris and its department who consume on an average one pound of bread per diem, so other sources of supply are laid under contribution. Belgium, from her frontier, sends waggon loads of bread every morning to Paris, and the same early trains bring also intellectual bread in the form of bales of Brussels' journals—hot press editions of course.

From time immemorial, Paris bakers have nursed grievances, not alone the men, but the masters; both have had, and still have, their family quarrels between themselves; both have had to complain of governmental interference, and both reproach citizens for their inhumanity. In demanding hot morning rolls—an innovation due to Louis XIV.—which compels the bakers to work 365 nights annually, and 366 in leap years; they never obtain a holiday, and so are worse than the butchers who have one, that is every Good Friday. In 1886 the bakers petitioned the masters to bake one day's bread in advance so that they could enjoy the fourteenth of July *fête*; the masters replied that were the requests complied with, there would be a revolution in Paris. Since 1830, the bakers have tried strikes, congresses, co-operative societies, part-profits, kneading machinery, but the sum total of these movements does not appear to have very materially benefited them. They follow with keen eyes the present action in the London trade, which if successful, will have its rebound here.

Any person passing by a baker's shop about ten o'clock at night has only to glance down the cellar window, to take in the life the white miners lead. The cellar is a Red Sea atmosphere in time of the dog days, hence, why the men are naked as coolies, save a calico apron for fig-leaf duty. With each hand-full of dough the baker holds above his head, he slaps it down into the kneading trough, with a thud, while blowing off a sigh like that Milo must have expressed when trying to free himself from the rift of the oak in which he was caught. Two hours are necessary to bake a batch of bread, and from five to seven batches comprise the night's work. Exposed for so many hours to an atmosphere full of flour particles, and also oven-dried, when the baker comes into the street homeward bound in early morning, with his regulation loaf under his arm, he is prepared for every form of bronchial and pulmonic attack. He is so fatigued, that he has acquired the habit of sleeping as he walks. On reaching his home, after a hasty meal, he indulges in the German jump-at-once into bed. He pays the house porter to call him at a fixed hour in the afternoon. Another hasty meal and then off to the mill-round. There is no parallel to his situation, save that of a—night editor.

The bakers demand to be emancipated from this slavery before the Brussels' congress deals with the liberation of the Central African Blacks. They relate the usual Homer list of filthiness, due to hand instead of machine-kneaded bread. But Parisians do not the less eat with gusto their appetizing, golden-crust, and sweet-flavoured rolls. The masters are dead against the employment of machinery. The capital required to set up a bakery varies from 8,000 to 10,000 francs independent of the pur-

chase of any good will. A sack of flour weighing 3 cwt. costs about frs. 75, dues all paid; this will produce frs. 200 worth of bread, leaving frs. 125 to cover expenses and meet profits. Ordinary bread must be sold by weight, and prepared from the best of flour; the more humidity the latter retains, the better for the baker. The latter can pull up profits on fancy rolls, which he bakes with milk, butter, or barm. In Paris the "sponge" is risen by a piece of old leaven.

Visitors to Paris may have observed over certain well-to-do bakers' shops the notice, that it was a Viennese establishment. The girls are German, blonde, and wear the native white apron. The bread is supposed to be prepared with milk. In 1837, some members of Louis Philippe's family were on a visit to the Austrian court; they were struck with the light and delicious rolls, in the shape of "twists," "flutes," and "crescents." They said, were that kind of bread introduced into Paris, the enterpriser would make his fortune. An aide-de-camp belonging to the artillery, named Zang, over-heard the remark; he quit the army, engaged three Vienna bakers for a year to come to Paris, where he opened a small shop and went about to the houses of the rich himself, leaving his circular and a specimen of the bread. He made in time a fortune; other Vienna bakers came to reap the harvest. In 1848 they numbered 300; they were all republicans, and rich, and it was chiefly to their propagandist efforts, that the revolution was brought about in Vienna in that year. At present there are in Paris 400 Zangites; they earn 45 to 50 francs a week. They form an association among themselves, save to have a Frenchman for President, as the law of March, 1884, does not recognize as legal any industrial society, whose head is a foreigner, no matter what may be his wealth, antecedents, or social standing.

Z.

THE SONNET—XI.

THE name of Mortimer Collins suggests lyrics rather than sonnets; but among the poems of the latter class written by the genial novelist is the following, which had the honour of being the first sonnet admitted to the columns of *Punch*, an unlikely resting-place for such a composition. The subject is Catullus, the most Greek of the Latin poets, according to Macaulay, whose opinion is further endorsed by Professor Sellar:

CATULLUS.

Student who weariest o'er syntactic rules,
Prosocial guesses, etymons profound,
The crabbed thorns that grow on classic ground,
Cacophonous jargon of the grammar schools,
The pedagogue's inevitable tools
To interpret ancient verse,—yet gaze around
On English woodlands; wander where abound
Calm-gliding rivers, dusky forest-pools
Where the deer drink; and verily believe
That this Catullus, when by Sirmio
His pinnace flashed along the Lydian lake,
Thoughts from immortal nature did receive
Fresh as the winds are, perfect as the glow
Of the Orient hills when morning doth awake.

The structure of this sonnet is truly Italian; but there is no pause between the octave and sestet. The influence of *Punch* appears in the sarcasm of the first half dozen lines; but the true poetic love of nature reveals itself fully in the remainder of the sonnet and applies perfectly to the subject. This closes our selection so far as the personal sonnets relating to antiquity are concerned; but before leaving the old domain it will be interesting to recite certain others of classical interest.

Thrasymene has inspired three sonnets at least worthy of remembrance; two were written by Wordsworth, and the third by the Rev. Charles Strong.

In order to compare more closely the different treatment, it may be as well to remember that the old Lake Trasimene was the present Lago di Perugia. It is hidden away in a basin of hills on Etrurian ground between the Tiber and the Arno, the most beautifully situated of the lakes of Central Italy. Here, in B.C. 217, after Hannibal had subdued Northern Italy, crossed the Apennines and lost little but his eyes from the effect of the marshes, the Roman consuls, Flaminius and Servilius, sought to oppose his progress. The great Carthaginian master of strategy entrapped them in a defile-road near the Lake and massacred them, Flaminius being among the slain. A small river, the Sanguinetto, empties its waters into the lake, and is said to have been so named from the fact of its having been discoloured with blood, as mentioned in one of Wordsworth's sonnets.

In explanation of the end of the other sonnet by Wordsworth it must be borne in mind that Hannibal committed suicide by taking poison in preference to being handed over to the Romans who demanded him from the ruler of Bithynia, where he had been permitted a refuge. The poison is said to have been concealed in a ring; but critics must allow Wordsworth his "shadowy cup."

We will first quote the sonnet by the Rev. Charles Strong, a student and lover of this form of verse, who, besides having written many fine specimens, compiled a selection of Italian sonnets which he also translated. Mr. William Sharp summarizes him as "an accomplished man and an accomplished writer."

Is this the spot where Rome's eternal foe
Into his snare the mighty legions drew,
Whence from the carnage, spiritless and few,
A remnant scarcely reached her gates of woe?
Is this the stream, thus gliding soft and slow,
That from the gushing wounds of thousands, grew
So fierce a flood that waves of crimson hue
Rushed on the boom of the lake below?
The mountains that gave back the battle-cry

Are silent now; perchance yon hillocks green
Mark where the bones of those old warriors lie.
Heaven never gladdened a more peaceful scene;
Never left softer breeze a fairer sky
To sport upon thy waters, Thrasymene!

This sonnet is excellently constructed. The octave and sestet are so well opposed that they might afford an instance in support of Mr. Watts' wave theory. Both parts are built on two rhymes each and the pause between the tercets is well marked. The whole treatment describes vividly the half-doubtful wonder that strikes a traveller over classic ground when he compares the sleeping beauty of a present scene with the stirring events of the past that occurred on the same ground. Beyond this the sonnet of Strong does not pretend to go; but Wordsworth, recording the same impression, appends his usual moral lesson in the following, which is the twelfth poem in the "Memorials of a Tour in Italy," undertaken in 1837, with Henry Crabb Robinson, to whom the series was dedicated in 1842:

NEAR THE LAKE OF THRASYMENE.

When here with Carthage Rome to conflict came,
An earthquake, mingling with the battle's shock,
Check'd not its rage; unfeeling ground did rook,
Sword dropped not, javelin kept its deadly aim.
Now all is sun-bright peace. Of that day's shame,
Or glory, not a vestige seems to endure.
Save in this Bill that took from blood the name
Which yet it bears, sweet stream! as crystal pure,
So may all trace and sign of deeds aloof
From the true guidance of humanity,
Thro' Time and Nature's influence, purify
Their spirit; or unless they for reproof
Or warning serve thus let them all on ground
That gave them being vanish to a sound.

Much finer is Wordsworth's next sonnet, both in fancy and execution, though the first quatrain is rather too didactic. However, this is to be expected from the author and indeed was part of the poetic mission or destiny, which he believed specially appointed unto him. A remark of Coleridge is worth quoting:—"I think Wordsworth possessed more of the genius of a great philosophic poet than any other man I ever knew, or, as I believe, has existed in England since Milton; but it seems to me that he ought never to have abandoned the contemplative position which is peculiarly—perhaps I might say exclusively—fitted for him. His proper title is *Spectator ab extra*."

In connection with Mr. Andrew Lang's sonnet on Homer, reference was made to Mycenæ and the discoveries of Dr. Schliemann. Lord Houghton, better known as Monckton Milnes, has among his many polished sonnets the following visionary memorial of the chief city of the Argives. The Lion's gate referred to has been described by Schliemann and his rival Stillman. The vestibule is the space between the walls of the city leading to the entrance gate, over which is a large stone slab, whereon two lions rampant are carved, facing each other and separated by a perpendicular pillar. This gate is one of the proofs advanced by those theorists who affirm the Phrygian influence over early Greek art. The ghostly procession is of course composed of the principal characters in the Orestes tragedy, and the touches of art giving the salient points to each cannot fail to appeal to the admiration of all who have read the various plays bearing on that most terrible tragedy.

MYCENÆ.

I saw a weird procession glide along
The vestibule before the lion's gate;
A man of godlike limb and warrior state,
Who never looked behind him, led the throng;
Next a pale girl, singing sweet sorrow, met
My eyes, who ever pointed to a flock
Of ingrained crimson on her marble neck;
Her a fierce woman, armed with knife and net,
Close followed, whom a youth pursued with smile,
Once mild, now bitter-mad, himself the while
Pursued by three foul shapes, gory and grey:
Dread family! . . . I saw another day
The phantom of that youth, sitting alone,
Quiet, thought-bound, a stone upon a stone.

The story of Antinous, the beloved but unfortunate page of the Emperor Hadrian, who was drowned in the Nile, and raised to the rank of divinity by royal command, gave an impetus to artists of all schools. Hadrian, having a passion for the fine arts, found this a fitting opportunity for gratifying his tastes, and towns, temples, shrines and statues were erected in commemorative honour of the beautiful boy. Busts and figures of Antinous are to be met with in most of the European galleries. It is to a statue of "Antinous crowned as Bacchus" in the British Museum we are indebted for the inspiration of Professor Edward Dowden, who wrote the following beautiful sonnet. Professor Dowden is more widely known as a critic—especially on Shakespearian and Shelleyan matters—than as a poet; but he can be accorded a high place among contemporary writers of sonnets.

ANTINOUS CROWNED AS BACCHUS.

(In the British Museum.)

Who crowned thy forehead with the ivy wreath
And clustered berries burdening the hair?
Who gave thee godhood, and dim rites? Beware
O beautiful! who breathest mortal breath,
Thou delicate flame great gloom environeth!
The gods are free, and drink a stainless air,
And lightly on calm shoulders they appear
A weight of joy eternal, nor can Death
Cast o'er their sleep the shadow of her shrine.
O thou confessed too mortal by the o'er-fraught
Crowned forehead, must thy drooped eyes ever see
The glut of pleasure, those pale lips of thine
Still suck the bitter sweet satiety,
Thy soul descend through cloudy realms of thought?

Mr. John Payne has produced some very fine and promising work, and we quote here the sonnet on "Sibyl," which of the numerous Sibyls is referred to is probably unknown to the author, and we take it to be a generic type of the ancient epileptic ladies who were given to

trances and prophecy. She is silent now, however, with the sadness of memory. Referring to the allusion to Hymettus, whose only rival as a honey-yielding district was Mount Hybla, a modern traveller, Mr. Mahaffy, has pronounced the honey now produced on its "thymy slopes" to be distinctly inferior to that found in many other parts of Greece; but in classical poems there is abundant evidence of its former superfine quality.

In the third line of this sonnet is a repetition of vowels and sibilants displeasing to the ear; although to the eye and thought the scene is not marred. In construction it is rather irregularly built on the Italian pattern. The alliterative quality that marks so many of our modern poets, and whilst giving a mere sound-beauty takes much from the strength of the verse, is noticeable also in this sonnet. One must charge Mr. Swinburne with a large share of the responsibility of example in this direction.

SIBYL.

This is the glamour of the world antique:
The thyme-scents of Hymettus fill the air,
And in the grass narcissus cups are fair.
The full brook wanders through the ferns to seek
The amber haunts of bees; and on the peak
Of the soft hill, against the gold marged sky,
She stands, a dream from out the days gone by.
Entreat her not. Indeed, she will not speak!
Her eyes are full of dreams; and in her ears
There is the rustle of immortal wings;
And ever and anon the slow breeze bears
The mystic murmur of the songs she sings.
Entreat her not; she sees thee not, nor hears
Aught but the sights and sounds of bygone springs.

To M. Dumont-D'Urville France and the world are indebted for having discerned in a statue unearthed in 1820, while surveying in the Mediterranean, the Phidian Venus, known generally as the Venus of Melos (or Milo), and which is now the treasure of the Louvre. A literature has sprung up concerning this wonderful work of art, which has been copied in marble and plaster more than any other statue, and probably more badly. The original (which is said by some critics to be itself only a copy), is generally considered to be superior to its Praxitelian rival—the Venus de Medicis of the Vatican.

The lover of sonnets who has seen the statue in the Louvre will thoroughly understand the inspiration which created in Professor Dowden's poetic mind one of the most beautiful of its classical kind. The human application in the sestet of the natural imagery employed in the octave is perfect, and the influence of Aphrodite for fair increase and amplitude of power is told with a power of artistic truth and beauty that is Ruskinian. With every temptation to that display of pedantry which defaces so many classical sonnets, Professor Dowden has mounted to high poetic ground, and the result is eminently successful.

THE VENUS OF MELOS.

Goddess; or woman nobler than the God,
No eyes a-gaze upon Egean seas
Shifting and circling past their cyclades
Saw thee. The earth, the gracious earth, was trod
First by thy feet, while round thee lay her broad
Calm harvests, and great kine, and shadowing trees,
And flowers like queens, and a full year's increase,
Clusters, ripe berry, and the bursting pod.
So thy victorious fairness, unallied
To bitter things or barren, doth bestow
And not exact; so thou art calm and wise;
Thy large allurements saves; a man may grow
Like Plutarch's men by standing at thy side,
And walk thenceforward with clear-visioned eyes!

The story of Pygmalion and Galatea is too well known to repeat, and the only necessary observation is that the statue of the lovely girl is said to have been carved in ivory,—but a metamorphosis to stone has received general sanction for poetic and dramatic purposes. Mr. William Bell Scott has written a sonnet descriptive of Pygmalion's prayer in the octave, and the answer of Aphrodite in the sestet. It is a piece of good work throughout; but the octave is remarkably cool in treatment, and the passion of Pygmalion is left entirely for the imagination of the reader to supply. The beauty of the sestet, however, is at once apparent, though the "zoned peplos" savours too much of the class-room for an English sonnet. Technical and foreign terms ought to be avoided in this form of verse as much as possible. In construction it is like the majority of contemporary sonnets—irregular.

PYGMALION.

Mistress of gods and men! I have been thine
From boy to man, and many a myrtle rod
Have I made grow upon thy sacred sod,
Nor ever have I passed thy white shafts nine
Without some votive offering for the shrine,
Carved beryl or chased bloodstone;—aid me now,
And I will live to fashion for thy brow
Heart-breaking priceless things: oh, make her mine!
Venus inclined her ear, and through the stone
Forthwith slid warmth like spring through sapling-stems,
And lo, the eyelid stirred, beneath had grown
The tremulous light of life, and all the hems
Of her zoned peplos shook—upon his breast,
She sank by two dread gifts at once oppressed.

One of the freshest and most natural of sonnets on classical subjects is the one next quoted from Horace Smith, whose reputation as a serious writer has been greatly overshadowed by his wit. Shelley was very particular, however, in sending Horatio copies of his new poems as they were published. In this example the syllabic rhyme is introduced effectively in the octave; but rather clumsily, owing to injudicious structure, in the sestet. The beauty of the whole poem, however, is unimpaired.

ON THE STATUE OF A PIPING FAWN.

Hark! hear'st thou not the pipe of Faunus, sweeping,
In dulcet glee, through Thessaly's domain?
Dost thou not see embowered wood-nymphs peeping
To watch the graces that around him reign;
While distant vintagers, and peasants reaping,
Stand in mute transport, listening to the strain;

And Pan himself, beneath a pine-tree sleeping,
Looks round, and smiles, and drops to sleep again?
O happy Greece! while thy blest sons were rovers
Through all the loveliness this earth discovers,
They in their minds a brighter region founded,
Haunted by gods and sylfens, nymphs and lovers,
Where forms of grace through sunny landscapes bounded,
By music and enchantment all surrounded.

Concerning Mr. Swinburne, the genial Mr. William Sharp makes the following comment, "It might naturally have been expected that, like Shelley, Mr. Swinburne would not have proved himself a good sonnet-writer. His high and eminently lyrical genius, however, has not prevented his achieving success in this form." We do not differ altogether from the opinion expressed by so distinguished a critic as Mr. Sharp; but it is necessary to observe that the achievements of Mr. Swinburne as a sonnet-writer are certainly not comparable to his success as a lyricist or lyrical dramatist. Mr. Swinburne has been blessed with intensity of soul, and when his Marlowe-like feelings rush off with his subject, he carries everything before the whirlwind of words created by his passion. We are taken off our feet, so to speak, and feel quite sorry when we find them again. But on the other hand Mr. Swinburne is at times, and not infrequently, swept away by his own words against his will, and the result is not so happy for those who follow him. When he mounts his Pegasus, he can slay his Chimera with a vengeance; but sometimes he is thrown and Pegasus rushes through the clouds at large. Then we miss Mr. Swinburne's hands on the reins and are sorry for it. The following is an example of the latter style of the great poet's sonnets:

EURYDICE.

To Victor Hugo.

Orpheus, the night is full of tears and cries,
And hardly for the storm and ruin shed
Can even thine eyes be certain of her head
Who never passed out of thy spirit's eyes,
But stood and shone before them in such wise
As when with love her lips and hands were fed,
And with mute mouth out of the dusty dead
Strove to make answer when thou had'st her rise.
Yet viper-stricken must her life-blood feel
The fang that stung her sleeping, the foul germ
Even when she wakes of hell's most poisonous worm,
Though now it writhe beneath her wounded heel.
Turn yet, she will not fade nor fly from thee;
Wait, and see hell yield up Eurydice.

Though Swinburnean in sense, we miss the soul of the poet in this sonnet and believe it solely manufactured for a purpose, instead of being spiritually inspired—which will account for its apparent failure. We shall find later on that Mr. Swinburne has been as successful, occasionally, with the sonnet as with the many other verse-forms in which he has infused strength and beauty.

SAREPTA.

THE STUDY OF LITERATURE.

(Concluded from last issue.)

STYLE is the most pervading manifestation of form. We find it present when the literary structure is not otherwise elaborated. Thucydides' History, for example, has the simple mould of a chronicle of events narrated year after year, as they occurred. Its style, however, is very marked; the character of the writer is felt throughout, and, with consummate skill, he bathes such narratives as those of the plague at Athens, or the Sicilian Expedition in a certain emotional atmosphere. But an author may not merely impress his character and mood upon his matter, he may shape that matter itself to the production of certain effects. Here we reach literature in its purest form—literature which is literature after all, not history, or science, or philosophy. In it the writer's aim is primarily artistic, the embodiment of a beautiful conception in appropriate language. Of this species, there are several varieties, but we may take poetry as the best and highest representative. The poet is in the fullest sense creative; the subjective factor reaches its maximum; and hence poetry is, in an especial degree, the subject of the student of literature. In Euclid we have, as near as may be, the colourless presentation of fact. In Thucydides the main object is still the presentation of fact, though it is coloured by emotion. Poetry, on the other hand, is differentiated from these in that the production of emotion is here the chief aim, in subordination to which the facts themselves are chosen and moulded. As by its form, then, so by its aim, poetry is the highest species of literature. For the highest manifestations of human nature are emotional. Emotion raises morality to religion. Nay more, the work of Christianity itself was to introduce the reign of emotion, to substitute for the tribunal of an unchanging code the arbitrament of an inner and ever progressive emotional state.

The stimulation of noble and pleasing emotions is the aim of the poet. But emotion cannot exist by itself; it is merely the form, the garb in which something more substantial is clothed by the mind; and this substance, in the case of all great and abiding artistic work, is truth. No art, no beauty of expression can give more than temporary hold on the minds of the race to what is fundamentally untrue. Enduring works of imagination are not fiction in the sense of being false; on the contrary, they are truer embodiments of observation and insight than the vast majority of mankind can arrive at for themselves. There is much false fiction in the world, doubtless, giving misleading ideas of men and things,—enough to afford some ground to the old-fashioned prejudice against reading novels. But falsity is neither a necessary characteristic of fiction, nor a consequence of the unreality of the persons and events which works of imagination usually present.

Falsity can no more be invariably attributed to what is called fiction, than truth to what is called history. Indeed, I know not if the sum total of truth contained in English fiction be not greater than the sum total of truth contained in English history. The greatest English novelist of the last century mockingly called his works histories, and in the introductions which he prefixed to the divisions of one of them, humorously vindicates their claim to truth in comparison with works usually so denominated, and the claim is not without justification.

In the eighteenth century, Fielding attempted to give a picture of English social life as it was, Hume of English political life as it had been; beyond question Fielding's is the truer work, as time has shown it to be the more enduring. Each generation of Englishmen finds it necessary to re-write the history of England; each generation of scholars, the histories of Greece and Rome; for each sees the inadequacy of its predecessors' attempts. That inadequacy lies not in the incompetence of the writers, but in the complexity of their subject and in the insufficiency of their data. That an historian should give us in detail an absolutely true picture of the actual Brutus, on existing data, is an impossibility. But Shakespeare, like the geometrician, makes his own hypothesis. He ascribes a certain character to Brutus, and represents him as influenced by certain men and certain circumstances, so that the assassination of Caesar is the natural and inevitable outcome. The representation is absolutely true, not as a picture of the historic Brutus,—that it is not the business of the poet to give—but of universal human nature, of how certain characters would have acted under the influence of certain surroundings. The truth of the picture comes from the poet's control over his facts, as the unvarying exactness of geometrical deductions comes from the arbitrary nature of the fundamental assumptions. In a certain sense, truth may be denied to the results of geometry, inasmuch as they have no exact correlativeness in the real world; while in another sense they possess the highest truth, and when applied to the concrete universe, as in astronomy, give results the most accurate attained by science. There is a certain analogy to this in the work of the poet. The truths of history and biography are at best particular; to apply them to life, we must generalize them. The representations of poetry, on the other hand, have an element of universality. Shakespeare's men and women are, as Coleridge says, embodiments of the universal, individualizations of the type; and consequently possess validity everywhere and for all time.

Thus in poetry we do not stand outside the thoughts and characters presented, we enter into them; not merely the range of our knowledge is widened, but the range of our experience, through that sympathy with emotion which it is the essence of poetry to kindle. To us in the somewhat narrowing conditions of our daily lives, such stimulus and expansion are especially necessary. Our surroundings and education are wont to leave neglected the æsthetic side of our nature, and, except in literature, we have scarcely any means for its cultivation. In this land, the young and ardent spirit cannot find food for ideal aspiration in the masterpieces of Phidias, or of Praxiteles, or Raphael, or of Titian. Our College towns are not Oxfords; nor can we feel the serene and majestic calm which clings about the Cathedrals of England and Normandy, or the towers and basilicas of Tuscany. In our native Province we grow to manhood untouched by, and for the most part, ignorant of, the educating power of plastic art. Perhaps the very building in which we stand has been the first to waken in us that elevating sense of beauty and repose which architecture can give. The more need then, in the dearth of other means of æsthetic culture, that we should have recourse to literature, which is, fortunately, at once the widest, most efficient, and most easily appreciated of artistic forces. Our æsthetic sensibilities form a part of our own nature which liberal culture can by no means afford to overlook. On the individual or nation which neglects or represses them, they exact vengeance in narrowness of intellect or morals. The world's history has more than once shown, that when the higher emotions are stifled, the lower assert themselves, and plunge society into an orgie of sensuality, such as followed the iron rule of Puritanism in England. And not merely for itself is beautiful emotion desirable. Aristotle, long ago, noted its purifying effects on the mind. It cannot, of course, be denied that æsthetic sensibility may co-exist with weak moral character, and that fine feeling does not necessarily lead to noble action, yet its general elevating tendency is none the less real. The soul vibrating in sympathy with great deeds and lofty character, the soul touched with the sense of human sorrow and human guilt, whether in nature or art, can, for the time at least, find no pleasure in anything that is ignoble or degrading. And if the study of poetry is an emotional discipline and a moral force, it is no less an intellectual discipline and practical aid. "The highest poetry," Matthew Arnold says, "is at bottom a criticism of life, and the greatness of a poet lies in the beautiful and powerful application of ideas to life, to the question—how to live." It is the business of science to attain truth, of poetry to seize that truth in as far as it is applicable to life, and to give it perfect expression. Hence, Wordsworth has called poetry "the impassioned expression which is the countenance of all science;" and again, "the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge." It is in virtue of this side of his work that the poet is a philosopher and comes to the assistance of the thoughtful spirit craving an answer to the great problems of life. Philosophy or

metaphysics attempts to solve these, but studies so profound and technical require special intellectual endowments, and must ever remain the sphere of the few. Yet any solution to which the unaided individual can attain, will inevitably be narrow and eccentric. It must be broadened from every source at command; and not least, in literature is to be found a treasure house of aid—suggestions, the more stimulating that they are but suggestions; partial solutions the more enduring that they are but partial, and sometimes where we least expect it, a complete philosophy implicit. So that in poetry we find not only a fountain of beauty, whence we may drain perpetual draughts of joy, but a storehouse of wisdom, whence we may draw treasures new and old, and arm ourselves with weapons for the battle of life.

Thus far we have considered the results—the discipline, the knowledge, the enjoyment—which we are to look for in the study of literature. It remains that I indicate succinctly the method by which these results are to be attained. It has been made sufficiently evident, in the previous part of this address, that our studies must primarily and chiefly have to do with the great works of literature themselves, not with facts about them or their authors, nor with the judgment of critics concerning them. If we wish to cultivate our musical taste, we must hear good music; if we wish to understand and enjoy painting and sculpture, we must see good painting and sculpture. And it is both logical and natural to acquire some interest in and acquaintance with literature, before we enter the history of literature. Yet it is no uncommon practice, in the teaching of this subject, to begin with the names, dates, and authors of books of which the student has perhaps not read a word, and in which, consequently, he has no intelligent interest. He is made to recite glibly criticisms of whose justice he can form no possible judgment, lacking the first of all requirements, acquaintance with their object. On the other hand, if we follow the natural method, we cannot be wrong; and it is a fact that men of aptitude for literature acquire their love and knowledge of literature in the same way. They become interested in certain books; then their curiosity is awakened with regard to the authors, and the circumstances amidst which the books were produced. They are led from the study of particular works to the study of writers, and periods, *i.e.*, to the history of literature. The development of interest and understanding, however, is the earlier, the more difficult, and by far the more important task. If a teacher is successful in making a student conscious in some adequate measure of the excellence of a single great work—"Hamlet," or "Lycidas," or "Waverley," or "Tintern Abbey," he has done infinitely more for that student than if he had made him a complete encyclopædia of the facts with regard to all books in the English language from Cædmon to Tennyson. The man who has, in any adequate measure, been made sensible of the beauty and power of any great work has had the love of literature kindled in him, and has learnt the secret of literary interpretation.

It is at this stage—when we have the works before us—that we can first make profitable use of the criticisms of others. Such criticisms are not dogmas to be adopted, but helps to the directing of our own eyes, and the awakening of deeper insight into that which we have already read. In making use of critical helps we should, however, be on our guard against the common error of losing sight of the whole in the study of the parts. Too often the main end—the enjoyment and comprehension of a great work, is lost sight of in the excessive explanation of phrases and allusions. It is, of course, essential to accurate scholarship and honest thinking that the meaning of each word and phrase as used by the author should be understood. It is not, however, essential that the history and etymology of a word should be explained, except in so far as light is thereby thrown on the use of the word in the passage under consideration. When the student comes to the Miltonic line:

Who left untold

The story of Cambuscan Bold.

it is proper that he should know that it was Chaucer who did this, and that the circumstances of the story being untold should be explained. It is out of place and distracting that he should have foisted upon him an outline of Chaucer's life and works, and a discussion of Cambuscan, mythical and real. I have heard that a professor of English, when asked for counsel by a student as to his reading during the vacation, recommended that he should read Macaulay's Essays, making himself fully acquainted, as he went along, with every person, place, or thing mentioned. The suggestion as to reading Macaulay may have been excellent; but think of the proper names and allusions scattered so thickly over his Essays, and judge, not how many essays, but how many paragraphs the student would have mastered. At the close of the summer, instead of knowing anything of Macaulay, or the subject of an essay, he would have crammed into his brain a farago of miscellaneous, ill-digested, superficial information. Even this information could not, in most cases, be lasting. The mature mind prefers that its facts and ideas should be acquired in large masses of logically connected material. The miscellaneous knowledge obtained in notes remains in the student's mind till the examination is passed, and then for the most part gradually evaporates.

The enjoyment and understanding of literature—the fundamental requisite of the literary student—has accidentally originated in various men through the perusal of very different books, as tastes and circumstances may have determined. In College classes, where individual preference cannot be consulted, and where students have attained

considerable maturity, I believe that in the dramas of Shakespeare we find the best instruments for awakening genuine literary taste, and for the disciplining of that which has been already awakened. The works of Shakespeare are to be preferred, not merely on account of their surpassing greatness, but also because we find in them a breadth of knowledge and sympathy which gives points of contact and interest for men of the most diverse capacities and temperaments. Other writers appeal to a more or less narrow circle, Shakespeare to all men. There are men, not merely of intellectual ability, but of considerable literary aptitude, to whom Wordsworth is a sealed book. One is blind to the excellence of Pope, another to that of Spenser. Even a man of Matthew Arnold's pre-eminent literary insight fails to do justice to Shelley. But if a student has any aptitude for literature whatever, and even if he has none, he may usually be made to perceive on some side the greatness of Shakespeare; so multitudinous and striking are the excellences of that most human and universal of writers. Having acquired some insight into Shakespeare, we ought in the same way to make an accurate study of, and learn to enjoy a considerable number of our greatest and most typical English writers. The more diverse these are in genius, the more complete and adequate will the student's training and culture be.

But our University studies must not stop here. This is merely the first, though the most important and most difficult stage. When we have read a book with interest, when it has been a source of keen enjoyment and stimulus, when it has widened our horizon, we then naturally wish to know something of its author and the circumstances of its production. This, indeed, as I explained at the opening, is a necessary factor in the complete understanding of a book. We are thus led from the study of single works to the study of writers,—from books to men. But again, we find it is not sufficient merely to master a man's collective writings and the details of his life. To complete our understanding of the work, or our conception of the writer, we must know something of the intellectual atmosphere which surrounded him, of the currents of thought, and the spirit of his time. In doing this, we pass from the study of the individual writer to the study of the period in which he lived—to the history of literature. Arrived at this stage, we find that books and authors, possessing but little in themselves to merit our attention, have now, as links in the chain of literary development, a new interest and importance through their influence upon greater writers, and through the insight which they afford into the current thought of the age. Thus, starting from single authors, with a desire of fully understanding their works, and of forming a complete and true likeness of them as men, we find a new conception and a new aim dawning upon us—the conception of the solidarity of literature, the aim of forming a complete image of the thought of an age in all its manifold relations. As a writer unconsciously reveals himself in his work, so a nation, at each epoch of its history, reveals itself in its collective literary products. As one's knowledge and insight deepen, all books, all writers assume their proper places in the picture; great currents of thought, obscure streams of influence, the manifold relations of thinkers, the action and re-action of thought become manifest, and the whole adjusts itself in fitting perspective. But this picture is still incomplete unless we follow backward and forward the lines of development, and see the passing phenomena in their relation to their antecedents and their results. We thus arrive at our final task, as students of English literature at least—the task of tracing out and imaging the development of national thought, from the time when it first emerges from the obscurity of an illiterate and pre-historic past to its culmination in the multitudinous streams of literary activity amidst which we ourselves live.

You see, then, in brief what practical course we ought to take. First, we must awaken and discipline literary taste by the study of individual works. Next, this taste should be widened by a thorough knowledge of the best works of the greatest writers. Thirdly, we must make the literature of a period our subject, study minutely its leading works, familiarize ourselves with its chief writers by reading, to some extent, their less important works also, and widen the knowledge of our literature of the period by a course of reading among secondary authors. It is impossible and undesirable, however, that the ordinary student should spend much time on books which have merely an historical interest. So that, at this point in his course, he may profitably make use of abstracts and criticisms of books which he himself has not been able to read. These facts and opinions have now a genuine interest for him, through the relations which minor works bear to the general course of literary development. Thus, having mastered the literature of one or two periods, and knowing something of the great literature of all periods, it would be well, in the fourth place (if time precludes such detailed examination of the whole of English Literature), that the student should have put before him a brief sketch of the entire development of our Literature, so that all that he has learned, or will learn, may fall into its fitting place in the scheme of the whole.

I have thus completed a brief exposition of the main results which may be expected to spring from the study of literature, and a still briefer indication of the proper method of attaining them. If in urging its importance, I have maintained its superiority in some respects to other subjects, it is in no spirit of disparagement to these, for I well know that they in their turn afford a discipline which literature cannot give. The place I claim for literature among her sister studies is a high one, and can be filled by

none of them; but culture is broader than literature, and as the curriculum of this University indicates, a truly liberal culture must be many-sided. Again, I have represented the results of literary study in their highest manifestations—have set up an ideal towards which we must strive. But the laws of the universe are mostly realized in tendencies, and if our studies only *tend* to bring about the results indicated, we must not be discouraged but work patiently towards a more perfect realization. Nor have I urged the cause of literature in any narrow sense. What I have said is applicable, not merely to English Literature but to all literature. Especially do I acknowledge here the claims of classical literature, which seems to me, if pursued in a proper spirit, especially fitted to produce that openness and flexibility of mind and soundness of judgment of which I spoke in the earlier part of the lecture. Valuable above all is the literature of Greece, whether we regard its variety, its perfection of form, its wealth of ideas, its unique development, or its abiding force in moulding the thought of Western Europe. On the other hand, the various modern literatures are much more quickly and easily accessible, and come nearer to us in thought and feeling. According to taste and temperament one student will feel himself attracted to that of Germany, another to that of France, or of Italy. But, after all, the wide, varied and splendid literature open to all of us in our mother tongue, is a sufficient instrument of literary culture, and from it at any rate we must begin. Literary taste and love of books must be developed there. None of us will be disposed, I think, to differ from Professor Huxley when he gives utterance to the remark with which I will close: "If an Englishman cannot get literary culture out of his Bible, his Shakespeare, his Milton, neither will the profoundest study of Homer and Sophocles, Virgil and Horace, give it to him."

W. J. ALEXANDER, PH.D.

University College, Toronto.

THE HOMESTEAD.

THE wind was on the water,
The waves broke on the shore,
The village tree tops bowed their heads
The sweeping gusts before;
And round the dear old homestead,
In deep secluded glade,
From ruined porch to poplar grove,
The withered leaflets played.

He sat upon the door-step,
In the shed beside the street;
He watched, across the darkened sky,
The rifted cloudlets meet,
Till cloud on cloud was massed, and far
The night black pall was spread,
And, from the distant houses,
The lights gleamed lurid red.

Above, the old stone windmill
Stood silent on the hill,
A phantom in the gathering storm—
Its spectral arms were still;
And yet he heard its ponderous stones,
Its shattered sails and torn,
Like God's own mill that grinds our years,
Go groaning through the corn.

A host of spirit faces,
As memory waved her wand,
Rose upward from the misty realm
Of that mysterious land,
To which or soon or late we pass;
They trooped upon the scene,
And peopled all the homestead haunts,
And thronged the village green.

The sainted mother, with her smile,
And locks of nut-brown hair,
The father's genial voice, which broke
In silvery laughter there,
The evening circle round the hearth,
With maple logs aglow,
The bright stars in the winter sky,
The diamonds in the snow.

The romping in the meadows,
The hiding in the hay,
The pastures pied with marguerites,
The woods with orchids gay;
The brook that through the sumach's shade
Went whimpering clear and cool,
The shiners on the shallow sands,
The trout within the pool.

Old homestead, brave the tempest
That drives the clouds before!
Old faces all have passed away,
The old days come no more;
They wait where time nor change can mar,
With ever-blighting breath,
Where day has never gloaming hour,
And life knows nought of death.

Kingston.

K. L. JONES.

WYNDHAM TOWERS.

THIS dainty publication, one of the most recently issued of Houghton, Mifflin and Company's late autumn volumes, is in some respects better than any of the author's previous efforts. Mr. Thomas Bailey Aldrich certainly has pleased his large public in the past more by his lyrics than by his longer and more ambitious pieces. It was, we may imagine, some feeling of this that prompted him to give us in orthodox isolation a poem which should contain his most careful and cultured work. "Wyndham Towers" is not a great epic; it is not an epic at all, or only so far as a narrative poem in blank verse, placed in remote times and characterized by heroic action, may be styled epic. Nor is it a pastoral, but simply a tale of love and knightly deed and gruesome castle, coloured with the richness and glamour of the Elizabethan Age. It is just a little curious that so many of the younger American poets have gone to England and other countries for their inspiration, but no one can say that Mr. Aldrich, at least, is not thoroughly conscientious in the delineation of English life and scenery. The opening picture of the little hamlet, breaking upon you "through green boughs," with

Gray houses, oddly grouped,
With plastered gables set with crossed oak beams,
And roofs of yellow tile and purplish slate,

will do very well even for the England of to-day. That is too, a pretty simile of the "slender, high-arched bridge,"

Like to a heron with one foot in stream,
and in Tennyson's best manner the following:

There frets the sea, and turns white at the lip,
And in ill weather lets the ledge show fang,
A very pleasant nook in Devon, this.

The tower, whose base the cunning Romans laid, is now of no use else except to train

The ivy of an idle legend on,

which recalls the Laureate again, for do we not at once recall the occasion that made

The violet of a legend blow
Among the chops and steaks.

Indeed, the influence of Tennyson's marvellous method is closely to be noted on almost every page, in the consummate care, in the richness and appropriateness of a multitude of similes, and in a delicate use of alliteration. But since this has characterized nearly all narrative poems in blank verse published subsequently to the great masterpieces of the Laureate, it should occasion no surprise here, nor need it detract from the literary value of so finished a production as "Wyndham Towers." Master Richard Wyndham is well drawn; morbid, passionate, suspicious:

The soul, half-eaten out with solitude,
Corroded, like a sword-blade left in sheath
Asleep, and lost to action.

His brother Darrell, gifted, impressionable and handsome, passes most of his time away at the Court or in foreign wars, but unluckily comes home to Wyndham Towers on one occasion and falls in love with Griselda, the beautiful daughter of an old tenant of Master Richard, thus crossing his vindictive brother's path. The end comes soon and comes suddenly.

Like a man
Carved out of alabaster and set up
Within a woodland, he stood rooted there,
Glimmering wanly under pendent boughs.

Wyndham ponders his hurt, and finally in a blind rage slays his brother Darrell from behind a painted hanging-cloth

Of coiled gold serpents ready to make spring.

After the deed he recollects a secret chamber, unlighted sheathed with iron and some six feet square, at a dark alcove end of the long armour-room.

A place wherein a man
Might lie till Doomsday, safer from the touch
Of prying clown than is the spiced dust
Of an Egyptian in his pyramid.

Flinging the body down, a wave of remorse is about to break over him when, to his horror, the heavy door swings back into position, and he realizes his own fearful doom.

Angels of Light! what were a thousand years
Of rankling envy and contemned love,
And all the bitter draughts a man may drink,
To that half-hour of Richard's with his Dead?

So were the revenge and fearful doom of Master Richard Wyndham consummated.

The red leaf withered, and the green leaf grew,

but no tidings ever reached the fair Devon countryside of the fate of both brothers. Griselda wasted away, consumed by some inexplicable blight, and the secret remained in the grim keeping of Wyndham Towers until a wood-carver one day in the reign of Charles the Second stumbled on the door, and opening it, saw two dim shapes and two rusted swords, the shapes crumbling before his eyes ere he could summon help.

So runs the legend which the American poet has crystallized in verse of a very noble and dignified mould, which cannot fail to survive among the fittest of recent American publications.

A new and interesting book is announced on Prince Bismarck. It is, writes the Berlin correspondent of the *Standard*, by Herr Fedor von Köppen, a patriotic writer already favourably known to his Prussian fellow-countrymen as the author of a very popular biography of the Imperial Chancellor which has already gone through several editions. The new work is entitled "The German Imperial Chancellor, Prince Otto von Bismarck, and the Places where he has Laboured."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HOLLAND SOCIETY AND CANADA.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—A very interesting work is being performed by The Holland Society of New York, in which historians and many other persons in Canada ought to feel an interest. It is the preservation of all that concerns a race—the Knickerbocker Dutch of the old Province of New Netherland—(New York)—who, though not of British origin, once took a prominent part in the founding both of British Dominion in North America, and afterwards of both the United States and Canada, many active Loyalists and Revolutionists being of the stock. The occurrence of such names as Vankoughnet, Rykert, Vermilye, Van Black, Van Bogart, etc., here, and of others less recognizable, such as Waterhouse, Fisher (Visscher), Brewer (Brouwer), and so forth, will illustrate.

As a separate people they have long passed out of history, but besides their mark in history, which will some day be more clearly chronicled, traces of great interest remain in the Hudson River Valley and among the descendants of the Loyalists in Canada. The Holland Society is a large association seriously devoted to the collection of such traces. Its membership is open to all who bear the old Dutch names and it receives with appreciation all information which may bear on the question. It is desirous of hearing from anyone in Canada who can throw light on Dutch-American matters, and seeks to add to its membership all persons of the Canadian branch of the race. Anyone may address the Secretary, G. W. Van Sicken, Esq., 7 Wall Street, N. Y. The beautiful illustrated year-books of the Society contain a great deal of curious matter.

ALCHEMIST.

THE MATTER OF TREE PLANTING.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—Hon. H. G. Joly's remarks upon the subject of tree-planting on the prairies in your issue of the 15th ult. are well worthy of consideration, and I trust the question will not be allowed to drop until some practical results are obtained. In my opinion, however, the work should be undertaken in connection with the Dominion Experimental Farms rather than by the Mounted Police, whose efforts would, at best, be but half-hearted and whose opportunities for experiment and practical information would be limited.

A great deal of information can be obtained from the farmers of Manitoba and Dakota, which, in the hands of an intelligent and careful man would almost be enough to place the work beyond the experimental stage.

It is well known that forest trees will not grow on the best wheat-growing prairie land until it has had several years of cultivation. The soil in the vicinity of Brandon with a porous gravelly subsoil is better adapted to tree culture than that with hard pan subsoil which is the character of most of the best prairie land. Again, in places where the original forest has recently been cut away, trees and shrubs make rapid growth, as, for instance, at High Bluff, Kildonan, and Selkirk, in Manitoba, and the towns situated on the Red River in Minnesota and Dakota. In Brown county, Dakota, latitude 46, apple trees do well, also all fruits that are grown in the Province of Quebec, and it is probable that the difficulty heretofore met with in growing fruit trees in Manitoba is to be found in the character of the soil rather than in the severity of the climate.

For many years it was believed to be impossible to grow apple trees upon the heavy clay lands of the province of Quebec, but by means of underdraining and deep cultivation these lands have been made to produce apple crops equal to the best in Canada. May it not prove so in Manitoba? Show the Manitoba farmer how to get a profit from tree planting and he will be quick to undertake it.

It will be better for the country to have small orchards around every house than to have larger forests at intervals of many miles.

GEO. B. CROSS.

Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 23rd., 1889.

A FARMER'S VIEW.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—In your remarks concerning Mr. Wiman you say, "But there are surely higher considerations than any pertaining to trade. There are stronger obligations than those which impel a people to seek to extend their commerce and increase their wealth." Granted, but in looking at the question I fail to see what these "higher considerations" are.

The United States is a Christian nation, so is Canada. The two nations are essentially the same in origin. The strong sense of moral responsibility must be the same in the individual members of both nations. The newer and more thinly settled portions of the States may be, to a certain extent, lawless, and neglectful of religious forms; but are the facts true of the States of New York and Pennsylvania? In regard to the "increase of wealth," etc., it does not, among the farmers, mean that. It means the keeping of what we have. Unless there is some change in the relative values of what we have to sell and what we have to buy, we shall be in the position of paupers before long. Here is a statement of our business this year upon a 300 acre farm: Dr.—Rent, \$900; wages, \$700; taxes,

\$105; sundries, \$200; total, \$1,905. Cr.—Barley at 40c., \$680; Oats at 30c., \$600; peas at 50c., \$150; wheat at 80c., \$150. Increase in live stock value, estimated \$500; total, \$2,080; balance, \$175. An estimated profit which will, in all probability, before realized, be used up in additional wages for two able-bodied men.

Any one can see here what the profit of the farmer will amount to this year. If it were not for reserve stock we could not pay our way. There will be a heavy loss on all grain farms this season, while mixed farmers will lose the increase in their live stock, which was about their only profit before. The outcome of this state of affairs will be rent reductions, and consequently reduction in land values, which will be an immense loss of wealth instead of gain.

In common with many others, I cannot help but feel that free trade with our neighbours south would tend to remedy this. It would, at least, put us on an equality with parts of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, instead of Nebraska and Minnesota. Witness prices of barley in said localities.

E. W.

Province of Ontario.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—The general positions you have taken on the matter of University appointments seem to me on the whole so fair and reasonable that there would be no reason for a second letter from me, were the general principles of appointment the matter under discussion. But, in your latest article, you call attention to a statement of mine that seems to imply that it makes no difference whether a professor of philosophy is a Christian or an infidel, so long as he teaches philosophy "for its own sake." I need scarcely say that I hold no such belief, and that I should consider it an "unpardonable outrage" to appoint an atheist to such a position. The inference was, I submit, scarcely warranted, seeing that I was dealing, not with general principles, but with a special case in which both candidates were understood to be members of a Christian Church, and one of whom (Mr. Hume) had taken the trouble to embody in his application certificates of standing in his church. The point I tried to make was this, that in a State-supported institution like the University of Toronto, surrounded as it is by theological schools, some of whose theologies are as wide apart as the poles, no one school of thought ought to be allowed to determine the appointment of a professor of philosophy. Let each and all urge that the appointee must be a man of undoubted ability, of high character and of Christian creed, but let the line be drawn there, and with these safeguards let "philosophy be taught for its own sake."

Permit me two or three further remarks. It is scarcely an "accusation" to say that certain theological professors opposed Mr. Hume because of the school of philosophy to which he belongs. I fancy they would be quite willing to express publicly, if occasion arose, their preference.

This is not the place to discuss whether or not Dr. McCosh's system rests on a dogmatic basis. This much may be said. At the basis of his philosophy lie certain assumptions, "intuitions of the human mind." Grant these, and the system follows. I need not say the critical philosophy does not grant these, nor does it proceed by this method. But the question so far as university instruction is concerned does not depend on which side is right and which wrong in this battle of philosophies. The question here is, Which system gives the best mental training? In deciding this, let it be remembered that the greatest thinkers of modern times are on the side of the critical philosophy.

I do not regret the double appointment. I do not think many Toronto graduates are disappointed that a double appointment was made. But not many of them I venture to think take your optimistic view of the reasons for which it was done. Of course, under the circumstances, "sure ground of knowledge" is difficult to obtain, but there is no need to suppose the minister in either case was coerced by political considerations into appointing to a professorship a candidate whom they thought unworthy of the office. It is more than likely that one reason for the appointment was that both the candidates were judged equally worthy.

It is perhaps a little unfortunate that this matter should have come up again just when Mr. Baldwin came to fill his chair. I feel sure that the graduates and undergraduates are prepared to give him a cordial welcome. He comes to fill a most difficult position, and every circumstance connected with the case ought to insure him kindly consideration and sympathy.

Barrie, Nov. 25th, 1889.

JAMES M. HUNTER.

THE American sardine has a particularly evil reputation as at present put up. The label is French in the well-known yellow and black letters, but the contents are not sardines, nor are they put up in *huile d'olive et pure*, but in cotton-seed oil. The fish in the tin was eaten by three persons, two of whom were children, and all were taken ill within half an hour, one child dying within twenty-four hours. A chemical examination of the viscera revealed lead, which was also found in the oil and in the remaining contents of the tin. The verdict at the coroner's inquest was that death resulted from lead poisoning from a sardine tin improperly soldered.—*Public Opinion*.

TRUE TALE.

ONE dull winter a lodger of polite exterior came under the roof of a respectable lady in a suburban district of the world's metropolis. Somewhat worn, not in clothes but rather in brow and furrow, gaze—not garment, he, self-recommended by this dash of melancholy (the late lodger had been a flashy person, ex-drummer, commercial cad), was taken at once by the much-harassed Mrs. Juniper, widow of Jasper Juniper, Esq.

The house was let, every inch of it. The widow only handled one flat, that at the top of the house. The lodger brought some luggage, a good many books, out of which, like De Quincey's youth amid the lakes, he manufactured a kind of bolster, his pillow not being high enough. His landlady implored him to let her make him more comfortable (this was the morning after he arrived), but he smilingly refused an extra pillow. Mrs. Juniper thought this very peculiar of him, but then he was altogether peculiar. He had arrived about five o'clock the afternoon before, and he had only been in his room about three-quarters of an hour when he had emerged on the landing outside his door, and called down through the dusk to Mrs. Juniper. That good lady answered, a bulky shape at the foot of the stair. "I will ask you to remove this Chair," said the pleasant lodger to her, smiling down in the dusk. And Mrs. Juniper remarked that he held a chair aloft and strictly, peculiarly, aggressively from him as he spoke.

"Certainly," replied the widow, "if it inconveniences you, sir."

The chair being disposed of, she had thought no more about the matter. Next day, however, the same call attracted her once again to the foot of the stair. There was her mild lodger with another chair. This time an additional earnestness animated his manner.

"I must really call your attention to this," he said, with the slightest of frowns. "I suppose you neglected to tell the girl who looks after my room. But really, if you would remember in the future—" which Mrs. Juniper promised to do.

That afternoon, when the lodger had gone out, she entered the room. All was neat, respectable, superior, as the good lady saw from the number and quality of the books and from a few toilet articles and ornaments carelessly left on the dressing-table. She went to the bed. The improvised pillow of books was there under the ordinary one.

For three or four days all went smoothly, but on the seventh day the girl, who was but an absent country lass, her head full of Devon cream and Cornish dance, forgot her mistress' injunction, and put a chair into the lodger's room. Mrs. Juniper, busy in household affairs, did not make any investigations that day, and when dusk arrived there came with it the lodger, brought back with Hesperus to his plain but comfortable abode. Instantly he flung himself out of his room, chair in hand, and shouted for his landlady. She came, trembling, frightened, dismayed.

"So much trouble about a chair!" she gasped. "What does it mean?"

"It means," shrieked the lodger, "that I will not have chairs in my room—chairs! chairs! chairs! Am I never to be left alone? Here—take it—burn it, break it up, throw it away!"

And Mrs. Juniper, running up as fast as she could, stayed his arm in time to prevent one of her best bedroom chairs being dashed to pieces.

Naturally, the good woman was disturbed, but, as in every other respect, the lodger was charming, why take any notice of his one aberration, for so she termed it? A more careful, nay, an incessant and rigorous watch was kept upon his room and not a chair was allowed inside it, not even one placed outside in the hall where he might see it and so be troubled.

But the lodger's fate pursued him. Every evening, while he took his dinner in her parlour, Mrs. Juniper examined his room carefully and never did she find a chair in it, nor anything else which presaged violence or trouble. On Christmas Eve, she paid her last visit to the room while he was in it, going so far as to mix and bring him up a glass of good mulled wine (an old-fashioned, unprogressive person this Mrs. Juniper) and noted the neatness of his attire—poor gentleman—and the unceasing care with which he wrote page after page in fine characters upon fair and large white paper. She had long since made up her mind that he was an author, unknown as yet but surely destined to greatness.

At half-past ten she left him, and listened after that for the moving about and the locking of his door. The night wore on—the beautiful holy night before Christmas, the beautiful, holy day, and Mrs. Juniper could not sleep. Strange thoughts of other years and other surroundings pressed upon her brain, till when the fires of dawn crept over the gray she turned over and fell into a wearied slumber. In the morning they could not make the lodger hear. Mrs. Juniper, petrified with fear, sent for the only two men she knew in the neighbourhood, and they broke the door open. The lodger sat up in bed—no longer polite, alive and pleasant—and he pointed with stiffened fingers to a Chair that was in the middle of the room. And it was a chair which Mrs. Juniper had never seen before. A chair of old oak, carved, heavy, ponderous. A chair of sinister purport, with a snarling gargoyle coiled on its back ready to spring.

This is a Legend of the Great World of London! 'Tis not alone fair countrysides in Kent nor ruined halls in Leicestershire that bear—each its grim tale of sin and woe. A legend may live anywhere.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

In a short, but pungent letter, addressed to the editor of the *Era*, Mr. Robert Buchanan replies to the criticisms of Mr. George Moore in the *Fortnightly*, and he points out that the motive for that gentleman's attack is not far to seek. "He (Mr. Moore) has offered to translate *Sophia* for the Continental market; he has offered his services to the author of *The Middleman*; a blank verse play of his has been politely, but firmly, declined by Mr. Irving. In short, neither his services nor his plays were wanted."

The brilliant reception and breakfast given in honour of Dr. Amelia B. Edwards, by the New England Woman's Press Association, at the Parker House, Boston, on Friday, takes rank among the leading social events of the season. The menus in delicate shades of pale blue, rose pink, lavender, canary and Nile green, bore upon the upper leaf a fine portrait of the guest of honour, and the date of the reception and breakfast. Upon the under leaf was printed the menu, many neat little touches being given in the selection of the viands, among them being salmon a la Princesse, Sorbe Egyptienne, Gelee de la Cairo, and other delicacies appropriate to the gastronomic delight of Egyptian explorers. At Miss Edward's plate was laid a menu quite different from the rest, having been designed and painted expressly for her by Mrs. Emily Selinger. It was composed of cream-colored satin, and bore a tiny landscape in which the Pyramids and the Sphinx appeared, while across the page was thrown the buds and blossoms of the lotos flower. At Miss Edward's plate was also placed a tiny bunch of English primroses. Miss Edwards made a delightful speech, and as she finished the orchestra played "God Save the Queen." The whole company rose and remained standing until the strains had died away, joining with voice and heart in the national anthem of our mother country.—*Boston Gazette*.

MONDAY evening last witnessed the opening of the new organ built by Messrs. Warren of this city, and placed by the Conservatory of Music, in Association Hall. The building was well filled by an appreciative public who listened with much pleasure to the playing of the four organists, Miss Dallas, Mr. Edward Fisher, Mr. J. W. F. Harrison and Mr. E. W. Phillips. The organ is located in the spacious chamber directly over the platform and appears to much advantage as a symmetrical erection of great beauty, lifting brown and golden pipes to the roof and supported by woodwork of unusual taste. The tone is round and rich, and the favourite stops will assuredly be the Clarinette, Aeoline and Viol di Gamba. While all the performers command high powers as interpreters of the organ, it was felt that a different choice of pieces might have resulted in displaying more fully to a mixed audience the beauty and variety of the stops. However, Merkel's "Pastorale" and a pleasing "Impromptu" gave a very clear idea of the delicacy, as "Lohengrin" and Lemmens' "Storm," of the power of of the new and handsome instrument. Songs were contributed by Signor D'Auria's pupils, the accompaniment furnished by Mr. Dinelli, in whose hands the organ became particularly agreeable. The Conservatory of Music would appear to be unusually strong in its Organ Faculty, and the possession of the fine Concert Organ will no doubt attract crowds of larger pupils, as well as prove of incalculable benefit in the way of affording recitals and organ illustrated lectures to the public.

THE Sarasate-D'Albert concert in Music Hall, on Wednesday evening, was listened to by a very large audience, in spite of the unfavourable weather and the exorbitant price charged for seats in the lower part of the house. The piano playing of Herr Eugen D'Albert is not easy to describe. His technique is simply marvellous but if this were all, consideration of his performances might be brief in a day when fine technique has become a matter of course, and when the thought has arisen that there may even be too much technique. Still it is impossible not to wonder at the immensity of D'Albert's finger gymnastics, his iron wrist and his fingers of steel, the amazing vitality of his touch, the unerring certainty with which he accomplishes what he sets out to do. This is all admirable enough; but in addition, he is an artist through and through, a little over fiery, perhaps, at times, when in his fervour he uses a force that is more exciting than productive of the most desirable effect. However, this occasional lapse into noise is condoned by the exquisite beauty of his work as a whole, and is almost forgotten in the charm and truth of the sentiment that characterises his interpretations. Chopin's concerto in E minor was magnificently real and played by him in the exacting Tausig version. Nothing warmer, more poetic and more refined can be imagined than was his performance of the Romanza; it was a masterly triumph in respect to both style and technique, and was especially impressive in the tender yet noble dignity that pervaded it. Senor de Sarasate shared with Herr D'Albert the enthusiasm of the evening, playing Mendelssohn's violin concerto, and a fantasia of his own on airs from "Carmen." He brings from his violin a tone of exquisite beauty; not a large tone, but one of rare purity and sweetness, and his playing is marked by delicious grace and elegance of style. His intonation, unfortunately, is not always immaculate, and his reading of the Mendelssohn concerto, though fluent and brilliant, is scarcely to be commended for breadth or largeness, while his tendency to pause capriciously on the off-note of a phrase is often disturbing to an ear sensitive to rhythm; but at his best he was always the finished ar-

tist, and it was impossible to resist the fascinating quality of his tone, the beauty of his phrasing, and the spirituality of the sentiment that coloured his work. At the end of the concerto he was recalled again and again, and at last responded with his own transcription of Chopin's nocturne in E-flat, which he gave with delightful feeling; but he was heard to greatest advantage in the "Carmen" fantasia, in which his virtuosity revelled in difficulties of every description, and in which both bow and fingers were wonderfully agile.—*Boston Gazette*.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH. By George Rawlinson, M.A. \$1. New York: Anson D. F. Randolph and Co.; Toronto: Williamson and Co.

This is an excellent addition to the series of books on "Men of the Bible." It would not be reasonable to expect the same unity and interest here which are found in the volumes devoted to individual men, like that on Isaiah, or Jeremiah, or Canon Rawlinson's own monograph on Moses; but it would be difficult to give a more complete and readable account of all these kings than is found in the volume before us; and it would perhaps be impossible to find any one better qualified for the task than Canon Rawlinson. The special interest of the present work is that the author has not been contented to give a summary and harmony of the contents of the two great parallel histories of the two kingdoms, contained in the Books of Kings and Chronicles. He has supplemented these, especially in the later history, by contributions from the writings of the prophets; so that he furnishes us not only with a very useful help to the reading of the historical books, but also gives us a much needed aid to the understanding of the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. To the ordinary readers of the Bible this will certainly be of the greatest service. Many persons abstain from the reading of these books, especially those of the minor prophets, from their inability to give them a historical setting. They will find what they want in this volume of quite moderate compass. We should add that Canon Rawlinson also makes use of contemporary notices in the monuments of Egypt and Assyria, by means of which considerable light is thrown upon the history of some of the kings.

POLISH BLOOD. A Romance. By Nataly, Baroness von Eschstruth; translated by Cora Louise Turner. New York: John B. Alden.

One of the most popular of recent writers in Germany is the author of "Polish Blood." She is the daughter of an officer of high rank in the German army, her early youth having been spent amid the gaiety of military life in Hesse Castle; residing now in Berlin, a maid of honour in the royal household, she is intimately acquainted with court life, from which some of her characters are drawn. Though only twenty-seven years of age, she has already distinguished herself as a novelist, poetess and dramatist (her plays having been presented at Jena and in the Royal Theatre of New Strelitz), her versatility being something remarkable. "Polish Blood," the first of her books to appear in America in the present authorized and excellent translation, is distinguished for its sharp delineation of character, poetic description, bright humour and deep sentiment.

TWO DAUGHTERS OF ONE RACE. By W. Heimburg. Translated by Mrs. D. M. Lowrey. With Photogravure illustrations. New York: Worthington Co.

An exceedingly fine and brilliant novel of German high life, characterized by the literary skill this author possesses in such an eminent degree. It is a romantic tale of love, passion, and marriage. The latter, however, is looked upon by the relatives of the noble husband as a *mesalliance* and entails suffering and trials. By the death of the elder brother during the Franco-German war the husband becomes a reigning prince, and state reasons compel him to seek a divorce.

THE STORY OF MUSIC. By W. J. Henderson. New York: Longmans Green and Co.

A pretty dedication to H. C. Bunner upon the inner flyleaf is signed W. J. H. The author of both poem and prose is fairly equipped to present in an interesting and superior manner a succinct account of the development of modern music as an art, endeavouring to avoid encumbering the book with details of the lives of the composers. He tells us—what we can very readily believe—that in order to present this much-needed work "he has flitted from Rome to Venice, and from Paris to Vienna, whenever it was necessary to show what was going on in all those places at the same time." A chronological table begins with St. Ambrose, born A. D. 333, and ends with the production of Verdi's "Otello" in 1887. It is of course unavoidable in the compass of a work numbering only two hundred and twelve pages, that many important names and dates and facts should not appear. Fortunately Mr. Henderson has chosen, when he had to choose, only the great landmarks of the art, and the great pioneers in composition and dramatic construction. The concluding chapter on "Wagner and The Opera of Our Future" will be held by all thoughtful musicians to be a true statement of the destiny of the opera. The author's estimate of Richard Wagner is singularly just and accurate, although it will not tally with all that is claimed for the great composer by ultra-Wagnerites.

L. PRANG AND COMPANY, of Boston have again issued a very varied, expensive and elaborate line of dainty paper and satin Christmas and New Year Cards and novelties, including elegant Calendars for the table, the desk, the mantel, the wall and the pocket. Fine art pictures and a large assortment of art books and booklets. The designs are artistically conceived, and the whole series has a special interest in being, from beginning to end, the work of American artists.

THE December *Century* opens with the illustrated selection of the Duke of Wellington letters which have been so eagerly awaited. They are characterized by old-time simplicity and candour, attest to a never-failing chivalry and politeness, and breathe a warm and genuine domestic spirit. The portrait by Haydon gives a softer outline of the familiar aquiline face than we are accustomed to associate with the Iron Duke. The confessions and reminiscences of Joseph Jefferson are continued, to the great amusement of thousands. The "New Croton Aqueduct" is profusely illustrated, and will find many curious and interested readers. The one purely Christmas instalment is a poem by Constantina Brooks. Is it not a pity to make so little of the hallowed season? Thoughts fly back to the Christmas numbers of the past. A fascinating portrait by Fortuny, of a Spanish beauty, accompanied by one of Edmund Clarence Stedman's poems, is by far the most charming item in this month's table of contents. "Friend Olivia" promises some powerful situations, and the appearance of the humorous aristocrat in Stockton's "Merry Chanter" is a happy idea. "Lord Crabstairs" is a creation worthy of W. S. Gilbert. Quite a remarkable paper is that upon "The Paris Panorama of the Nineteenth Century," signed by Alfred Stevens and Henri Gervex, well known as Parisian artists of celebrity. There is plenty of other excellent matter, including a letter from Mrs. Van Rensselaer on phases of the late Exposition.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

THE Marquis of Lorne has written "A Canadian Love Tale" for the Tillotson Syndicate.

"DODO AND I," is the name of a new novel by a new Haggard—Capt. Andrew, brother of the redoubtable Rider. It is said to contain vivid descriptions of scenes in the last Abyssinian war.

CHARLES WELLS MOULTON, who projected *The Magazine of Poetry*, is about to establish *The Magazine of Musical History*, to be published in Buffalo, quarterly, beginning with the new year.

THE death is noted of J. J. Thomas, author of "Froude-acity," a reply to the West Indian history of Mr. Froude. Mr. Thomas was an African of Trinidad, a schoolmaster, and author of a "Creole Grammar."

THE WEEK of Dec. 27 will contain in addition to the regular departments special poems and papers, contributed by the best talent in the Dominion. Mr. Archibald Lampman and Miss Louisa Murray are among the contributors.

MR. Gosse will publish this month a selection from his early poems, under the title "On Viol and Flute." The volume, which will be uniform with "Firdusi in Exile," will be issued by Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., and will have a frontispiece by Mr. Thornycroft.

ABBOTSFORD has recently been leased, and now Ashestiel, in Selkirkshire, the home of Sir Walter Scott during the ten years preceding his migration to Abbotsford, is advertised as to let. Ashestiel is on the bank of the Tweed, near the mouth of the Caddow.

AN autograph lately sold in London was a note from Tennyson, reading thus: "I have many thousands of these applications, and rather make a point of neglecting them; for why should I flatter the madness of the people? Nevertheless, as the request comes from an old friend, behold an autograph!"

THE article by Mr. Grant Allen, "Plain Words on the Woman Question," which attracted considerable attention when it appeared a short time ago, in the *Fortnightly Review*, is reprinted in the December number of the *Popular Science Monthly*. Mr. Garrick Mallory concludes his paper on "Israelite and Indian" in the same number.

MR. BLACKMORE, the author of "Lorna Doone," has prosecuted his head gardener for stealing \$25 worth of pears from the estate and selling them to a fruiterer. The fruiterer will also be prosecuted for receiving the pears knowing them to have been stolen. The gardener pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment at hard labour. The fruiterer was committed for trial.

THE *Revue des Deux Mondes* has been publishing a very interesting series of articles on the Paris Exposition by the Vicomte de Vogué, the well-known member of the French Academy. The closing one of the series appears in the latest number of the review, in the shape of an attempt to point out the moral and intellectual significance of the Exposition as a commemoration of the Revolution of 1789.

SIR CHARLES DILKE has all but completed the larger portion of his forthcoming "Problems of Great Britain," and in addition to the political chapters on India, Indian defence and the crown Colonies, he has now dealt with the social problems of "Great Britain," such as labour, wages, cost of living, co-operation, "sweating," friendly societies, and State provisions for the poor. The book will be published in January.

OVER-PRODUCTION.

In the present age of rapid machinery, pushing commercial travellers, and wide-spread ambition to do a large share of trade there is a very general disposition towards over-production by manufacturers and over-buying by merchants. Either of these will almost always result in a reduction of the margin of profit below the safe point. Indeed, increasing expenses and diminished profits are features of business at the present day. Those who propose to succeed as producers or merchants cannot be too careful to see that their business is done at a living profit. On this subject some remarks made recently by the *American Bookmaker* are very pertinent. That journal cites a recent failure in business as serving to illustrate the truth that he who attempts to produce any given article at much less than the rate which experience has shown to be necessary is in the end sure to come to grief. It goes on: "The insolvent firm issued a long line of attractive looking books, with taking titles, many intrinsically of much value; it advertised well, worked hard, and attended assiduously to its business. Yet in the end disaster overtook it. More books were printed than the public cared to buy, and ready capital was no longer available. This is not an isolated experience. Other instances could be cited which parallel it. The cheapening process, carried beyond the verge of safety, resulted in failure. The margin of profit was reduced too low. When all of the items for labour and material are known, and the price is determined at so narrow a margin above the bare cost that even on a large number of copies scarcely any profit remains, of what advantage is it to a publisher to issue a book in this way? He destroys the trade of others and gains nothing from it himself. No system of publishing can long endure which does not consider the fixed charges and the incidental expenses as well as the cost of labour and material consumed."

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JUVENILE LITERATURE.

The Boston DAILY ADVERTISER, writing under the above caption, says: "Books for children are unusually plentiful this year . . . their quality is not at all commensurate with their quantity . . . as a matter of fact the really satisfactory books for the young that have thus far appeared this season can be counted upon one's fingers."

Allowing for eight fingers, we have published this season nine books for the young, and we challenge the Daily Advertiser, or any one, to prove that their "quality" is not what it ought to be. We subjoin the titles:—

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THE CENTURY
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The December number of THE CENTURY MAGAZINE is remarkably varied in its contents and is especially interesting. Among the more important articles are:

Selections from Wellington's Letters; now published for the first time. This correspondence extends over a period of several years,—to within a fortnight of his death—and it is noticeable as showing the gentler characteristics of the Iron Duke. (*Fully illustrated by many pictures and portraits.*)

The Autobiography of Joseph Jefferson, which began in the November *Century*, increases in interest. The present instalment is full of delightful reminiscences of the Wallacks, John E. Owens, Burton, Burke and others, besides containing some curious adventures of the author. Illustrated with portraits. *New York Commercial Advertiser* says:—"It is as rattling good reading as his 'Bob Acres' is rattling good acting."

The New Croton Aqueduct. The first complete and fully illustrated paper on this great triumph of modern engineering appears in the December *Century*. A feature of the illustrations is the reproduction of photographs showing the caves which were filled by the contractors with air at the rate of \$5.00 per cubic yard, to the tune of a million dollars.

The Paris Panorama of the Nineteenth Century was one of the features of the Paris Exposition. It is reproduced in miniature. The text is by Alfred Stevens and Henri Gervex, who conceived and executed the project.

Revelation and the Bible is the first paper of a timely and important series on the general subject of "The Nature and Method of Revelation," and is written by Professor Geo. P. Fisher, of Yale.

The Fall of the Rebel Capital, and Lincoln in Richmond, are striking chapters in the Lincoln history.

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There are Christmas Poems in the December *Century* as well as many others, including one by E. O. Steadman, of Fortuny's famous "Spanish Lady," accompanied by a full-page engraving of the picture. Among the contributions are articles on "Nature and the People in Japan," by Wm. Elliot Griffis, with pictures by Wores; "Pundita Ramabai," by Elizabeth Porter Gould, etc., etc.

The Century for January will open with a remarkable paper, by Amelia B. Edwards, describing recent astonishing discoveries in Bubastis, Egypt. *Fully illustrated.* The authors of Lincoln, in the same number, describe in a most graphic manner his assassination and death.

Future Numbers of the Century will contain "New Studies in Astronomy," "Lick Observatory," La Farge's "Letters from Japan," beautifully illustrated by the author; "Present-day Papers," by Bishop Potter, Hon. Seth Low, Prof. Ely, etc.; "The Women of the French Salons," *profusely illustrated*; "Prehistoric America," "The Serpent Mound," "Ancient Fire Worship," etc.; Pictures from the Old Masters, by T. Cole; the most notable series of its kind ever executed, etc., etc.

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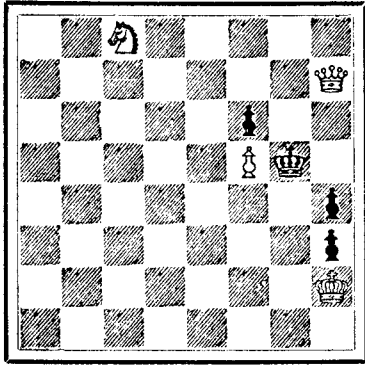
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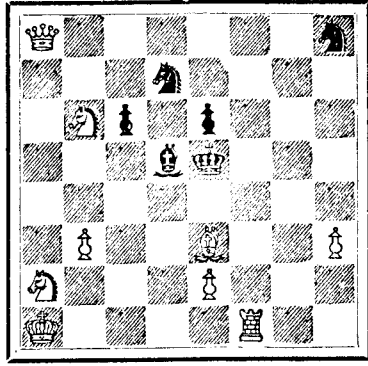
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White to play and mate in three moves.

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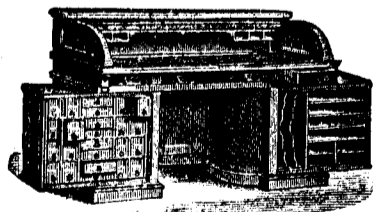
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