

THE WEEK:

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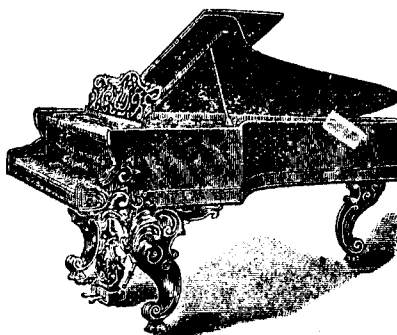
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THE UNIFICATION OF CANADA.

In the model Republic of Plato every human creature was to settle into the place for which he was fitted. Its rulers were to be specially trained from early youth for that responsibility, and only after attaining their fiftieth year, and then only upon the condition of being found worthy, were they to begin their active political career. Plato, in admitting that no such government existed in his day, cherishes the hope that "its pattern is laid up in heaven for him who is willing to see it, and, seeing it, rules his life on earth accordingly." We live under a form of government in theory much superior to that which the great Pagan philosopher deemed perfect. It has been slowly evolved out of the experience of ages, tempered by the influences of a divine religion which was to the Greeks foolishness. We revere it as one of the best heritages bequeathed to us by our forefathers, and we are under a moral obligation to leave it to our children a little better than we received it. The one condition needed for the perfection of Representative Government is that the political units shall have suitable weight—in other words, that all men shall be equal in intelligence and patriotism. Nothing approaching to this condition has yet arisen anywhere; but since education became a recognised duty of the State, we have been moving in the right direction. In England, where this method of government struggled into existence, the great mass of the people, of various origins, became fused together by national adversity and prosperity, and they acquired sentiments and memories in common. The union with Scotland was one of a kindred people, and it proved a happy event for both countries. The addition to Great Britain of a country like Ireland, having a different history, and whose people were animated by different sentiments, produced less satisfactory results.

Turning to Canada we find that the Provincial Governments work better than that of the Dominion. The reason of this is on the surface; so long as the people of one province are separated from their fellow citizens by a different language; so long as they are trained differently, have different institutions, and a different kind of law, so long will political equality and solidarity be impossible. If it be conceded that the more homogeneous the population the better will it be adapted to representative institutions, it follows that the policy of breaking down all barriers that separate becomes a patriotic duty equally incumbent upon all classes in every State where such institutions have been adopted. So far as Canada is concerned the wrong step was taken as long ago as 1774, when the Quebec Act was passed. This measure was the result of an unwise generosity on the part of the British Government, and the greatest statesmen of the time opposed it. Lord Chatham rose from his sick bed to denounce it in the Upper House, and in the Commons Burke and Fox protested against it in vain. The British North America Act of 1867 only sanctioned what was then done, but so long as sections 93, 94, and 133 of the latter Act remain unamended the legislatures of Canada can do little more than prepare the way for changes that are imperatively needed.

The Toronto *Mail* has ably drawn attention to our present situation. It has adopted a praiseworthy moderation of language in referring to the means by which Government saves itself from utter paralysis. We feel it the more necessary to acknowledge the indebtedness of the Canadian public to that journal, because we believe that it obscures the real issue by placing "clericalism" in an improper relation therewith. It is something akin to the mistake of abusing the attorney for the doings of his client. As already stated, the difficulty lies in the ignorance of the *habitant*, and in the fact that he has no opportunity of becoming in touch with his fellow citizens while his language and institutions remain what they are. The great body of the clergy differ from their flock only in the fact that they are thoroughly trained for a special purpose. Their education, such as it is, elevates them into the position of guides, not only in matters of religion, for which their training well qualifies them, but also in social and political affairs, in which subjects the clergy have had no more special training than the people. Still it would be a misfortune were this influence less than it is. It has kept industry, frugality, sobriety, and chastity among the virtues of the *habitant*, and in so doing has rendered him as well as the State a great service. Further, clerical influence has probably prevented unscrupulous and irresponsible demagogues from obtaining a dangerous instrument. It may be frankly admitted that clericalism in Canada is what it has ever been elsewhere. The appeal to history would show that in the Church of Rome, as in lesser churches, there are parties, and that the extreme high Papal party has been the worst enemy of the Church. Count Cavour, who was not unfriendly to the Church, as a religious body, exposed the folly of this party in a speech delivered on February 17, 1855. He said:

"In truth, gentlemen, if you review the history of Europe during these last years, you will perceive that in every part of it that party has adopted an aggressive and contentious policy, which I conceive to be absolutely at variance with the true spirit of religion. Observe in England the Catholics: after they had obtained, through the Emancipation Act, a full equality of civil rights, you will see their heads, instead of seeking to conciliate public opinion and to live on good terms, at least with the liberal part of the community which had always favoured them, put forward exorbitant pretensions, rouse public opinion anew against themselves, and put in jeopardy the very laws that they had spent so long a time in winning. The same thing happened in Holland, where the excesses of the ultra-Catholic party brought about the downfall of a liberal ministry that had always shown itself most favourable to them, and led the ultra-Protestants back into power. The like happened, too, in almost all the States of Germany. Most signally did it happen in the neighbouring State of France, where you have seen the ultra-Catholic party push reactionary ideas to the most extravagant height. . . . We have seen, strange as it may be, certain ultra-Catholic writers at war alike with Bossuet and Voltaire, and condemning the four Gallican Articles no less than the *Encyclopédie*."

The Church has profited by the counsel of its friends, and the able statesmen at the Vatican are at present pursuing a wise course. Canada can look with confidence to Rome for aid when it is made clear that in removing from the *habitant* the shackles of ignorance the interests of the Church and of the State are equally served. It is well known that the head of the Church in Canada is not of the ultramontane party, and it is unfair to speak of the Church as sanctioning the excesses of that party. The fact is that secular education was undertaken by the clergy in Quebec when there was no one else to do the work. Too little acknowledgment is made of the extent to which the result has been satisfactory, but it is perfectly evident that in preparing their pupils for their political duties they have entirely failed. Wax candles gave a good light until gas came into use, but those who are quite satisfied with the latter have to adjust themselves to the introduction of the electric light.

The difficulty in Ireland has presented some points of similarity and contrast to our own. The degree of the civilisation of the people of the three southern provinces of that country was such that they were entirely dependent upon the clergy. Language in this case also was a bar to progress. Whereas in the Province of Quebec at the last census eighty-six per cent. of the population were Roman Catholics (a percentage somewhat larger than that of the French-speaking people), in the Province of Connaught, at the first census of Ireland in 1820, out of a total population only three per cent. less than that of Quebec at the last census, eighty-eight per cent. spoke the Irish language. Time has wrought marvellous

changes, and it is probable that the Irish question would have solved itself gradually, with less conflict and suffering than we have to witness, were it not for the fact that professional agitators have usurped the influence which the clergy once wielded. It requires little gift of prophecy to be able to say that this generation will see the last of the Irish question in the United States. The next generation will probably adopt some passenger of the *Mayflower* as an ancestor in the usual way, and the "Irish vote" will be an historical curiosity.

In asking the clergy to relieve themselves of their work as school-masters, we shall not be seeking to lessen their influence with their flock. We believe that by limiting it to its higher functions it will be increased. Thomas Carlyle's definition of what a priest should be will not be objected to by any Catholic. He said :

"The Priest, as I understand it, is a kind of Prophet; in him there is required to be a light of inspiration, as we must name it. He presides over the worship of the people; is the uniter of them with the Unseen Holy. He is the spiritual Captain of the people, as the Prophet is their spiritual King with many Captains; he guides them heavenward, by wise guidance, through this earth and its work. The ideal of him is, that he be what we can call a voice from the unseen Heaven; interpreting, even as the Prophet did, and in a more familiar manner unfolding the same to men. . . . He is the Prophet shorn of his more awful splendour; burning with mild, equable radiance, as the enlightener of daily life. This, I say, is the ideal of a Priest."

Such an one cannot be an enemy of the State. Let responsible statesmen and the Press make it clear to him that the unification of the two races into one people is the only path that will lead to peace; and though the road may be long and the labour of travelling it great, his sense of the duties of his holy office and his vows will forbid him to decline assistance in the good work.

The statesman who has borne a leading part in the affairs of Canada during the last thirty years is still at the helm. It may perhaps be said of him that his best energies during this period were spent in the task of reconciling conflicting interests. Should the Recording Angel reveal how this great work has been wrought, future readers of the page must not be surprised to find it stained with the traces of many tears. It would be a fitting crown to the work of the great reconciler if he were to turn the first sod of an enterprise greater than any he has yet undertaken,—the Unification of Canada. Than he, no one knows better how crying is the need of it.

W. H. Cross.

THE RECENT UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS.

It has been my duty during the last few weeks to read and mark more than a thousand examination papers. Such a task—involving as it does the careful gauging of the mental capacity of each pupil, the accuracy of his information, his general intelligence, his command of language, and his power of thought—such a task gives one of the best possible opportunities of testing the general efficiency, first, of the school-masters and mistresses of our High and Public Schools, and, second, of the working of the educational machinery of Ontario. Such an opportunity should not be allowed to slip by without giving the public some information as to the manner in which their sons and daughters are being educated. I have not as yet seen in any periodical any allusion made to these examinations. I venture, therefore, to present a few hints and suggestions with the object chiefly of evoking an expression of opinion from those who by age and experience are far better fitted to express an opinion on these matters than am I myself.

Concerning the details of the internal mechanism of the conduct and results of examinations, an examiner's tongue is to a very large extent tied. And quite rightly and properly so. Such opinions and generalisations, however, as he may form or draw from the broad area of facts brought before his notice, may be made public without the slightest detriment either to examiners or examined. Indeed some such opinions and generalisations *ought* every year to be brought before the public. To this subject I shall presently revert. For the present let us examine the efficiency of our teachers and of our educational machinery as tested by the recent examinations.

First, then, as to the general efficiency of the masters and mistresses of our High and Public Schools. Two prominent defects were plainly visible throughout the papers: (1) a very noticeable lack of clearness of thought and expression, leading to extreme prolixity, great vagueness, merging sometimes into a total want of meaning, often into absolute nonsense; (2) lamentable ignorance of grammatical construction.

1. To the practical teacher this want of clearness is significant of much. It may indicate careless teaching, or it may be a sign of indolence on the part of an otherwise competent teacher; but probably it oftenest arises purely from *incompetence*: from an inability on the part of the teacher to convey from his own mind to that of his pupil a definite thought—generally because of the indefiniteness of his own. From whatsoever source it springs, however, this want of clearness is a sure sign of ignorance—it is the common cloak of ignorance. But with the details of this signifi-

cance we need not here concern ourselves. All that need be said is that if a School Inspector found in any of the schools of his Inspectorate an evident and constant general want of definiteness and clearness in the answers given to his questions, he would be perfectly justified in concluding that such pupils were not being properly "*grounded*"—and "*grounding*," there is none but will admit, is the foundation-stone upon which the whole elaborate edifice of education is built.

2. To say that the papers show lamentable ignorance of grammatical construction is to use most euphemistic phrase. The English language is to the vast majority of candidates, an unknown tongue. Of the Queen's English the vast majority of candidates are guilty of murder most foul, strange, and unnatural. Many exceptions, of course, there are; and if I am accused of destroying the righteous with the wicked, I shall answer that the former are not sufficiently numerous to redeem the character of the whole. It is not only that over and over again one comes across instances of the inability to distinguish between "lay" and "lie," between "fly" and "flee," between "sit" and "set," between "round" and "around;" it is that for hours one reads sentence after sentence in which phrases such as "I seen," "he don't," "they is," "he dost," etc., etc., abound; in which plural nouns are linked with singular verbs; in which direct and oblique narration are inextricably entangled; in which there is an utter oblivion of the fact that there exist such things as capitals or commas;—in which, in fact, every known rule that can be broken is broken. And this in the examinations for the Junior Matriculation of the University of Toronto, for the Second Class, and for the Third Class, Teachers' Certificates. What can one say or do? One thing one *can* say, and it is this: Such pupils were taught by men and women who could not themselves talk or write correctly. I may be severe, I may be hypercritical, I may be forgetting that we must not upon this continent and amongst the classes from which University and Departmental candidates are chiefly recruited expect that purity of diction which is supposed to be one of the marks of so-called "higher education;" all this I may be forgetting, but what I am not forgetting is that four-fifths of such candidates will one day be, or now actually are, *teachers*.

Second, then, as to the efficiency of the educational machinery of the Province, as tested by the recent examinations. It runs too smoothly. What do I mean by "too smoothly"? I mean that there are too many inducements held out to the youth of both sexes in Ontario to enter upon studies for which the majority of them (I by no means say all) are by nature and circumstances wholly unfitted. I mean that young men who ought to be following the plough and the harrow, and young women who ought to be in the kitchen and the dairy, are tempted into paths of life which they are utterly incompetent to tread. Knowledge—intelligence, even—is not the sole requisite for a teacher. Demeanour, breeding, manner, culture, refinement—one and all of these are as requisite; and can any one, even the most prejudiced, in his heart of hearts believe that the obtaining of thirty-three and a third per cent. will endow any candidate with these? And how are our youths tempted into what they style the "teaching profession"? By small fees, by bonuses, by emulous head-masters, by pushing teachers, by easy examinations, by lenient examiners, and, above and beyond all, *by the competition between schools*. Many are hurried on from one examination to another to feed the vanity and fill the pockets of an ambitious class of teachers. Nothing is thoroughly mastered, and the ground has in most cases to be all gone over again. The result is that the lowest forms of the High Schools do the work of the Public Schools, and the first years of the University do the work of the High Schools.

On each of these topics much might be said, but this is not the place for it. On one minor one only will I venture to remark—on the small fees, namely. The public perhaps are not aware that by the payment of *two dollars*—that is about two-sevenths of a bricklayer's daily earnings—by the payment of two dollars a candidate may present himself at the nearest town for a Second Class Teachers' Examination. Twenty-eight distinct and separate papers are set.* He is supplied with pens, ink, and paper. A presiding examiner is in attendance for forty-two hours and a half. His answer papers are transmitted, with no cost to himself, to Toronto, there to be examined by men chosen for the purpose.—Thus to strew with roses the really thorny path which leads to success in teaching seems to me to be worse than folly. These things the public ought to know, or, if already they know them, they ought to be reminded of them again and again.

Lastly, to refer to a point already mentioned. It is superfluous to say that examinations are, or should be made, in themselves an *educating* process. They are not merely tests of excellence; they are one of the most powerful instruments the teacher possesses for calling forth or exercising the powers of the mind. Unless examinations are made use of with this end in view, one of their most important functions is wasted. And it has been the habit hitherto so to waste the University and Departmental Examinations. A candidate presents himself for examination; the papers are placed before him; so much time is allowed him in which to answer the questions set; he is passed or "plucked," as the case may be, and—there is an end of the matter. Wherein he failed, in what he was deficient, where he excelled, to what subjects he should devote more attention—of these and similar points he learns nothing. The argument that University and Departmental Examinations are tests, and tests only, is hardly admissible. If they *can* be utilised as educating factors, they *ought* to be. There is surely a science of Educational Economy as there is a science of Political Economy, although no Adam Smith has as yet arisen to formulate its principles; and surely one of these principles is that no educating

* Each candidate does not, of course, write on the whole twenty-eight papers; but twenty-eight distinct and separate papers are prepared.

instrument should be needlessly wasted. How University and Departmental Examinations may be made of value from this point of view is the question. I would suggest that the examiners for the Junior Matriculation of the University of Toronto, and that each of the various committees of the sub-examiners be required to issue yearly a Minute embodying their views and opinions on such subjects as they think should be brought before the notice of those preparing candidates for the following year's examinations: such, for example, as the general tenor of the answers, how they compare with those of preceding years, the more salient sins of omission and commission, the more glaring faults, the general trend of educational methods, etc. Such Minute, I conceive, would be welcomed by the High School masters throughout the Province. The cost of printing and distribution would be trifling, and could be easily defrayed by adding a few cents to that now truly infinitesimal fee—the two dollars.

I sincerely trust that I have not in any way betrayed the trust reposed in me as examiner, that I have not divulged or made public anything which should have been kept back. Nothing could have been farther from my intentions. I have purposely avoided references to particular instances, and have dealt as much as possible in generalisations only. An examiner has a fourfold duty to perform: one to those who engage him; one to his candidates; one to the teachers of his candidates; and one (perhaps after all the most important) to the public, who are the fathers and mothers of those candidates. This last I have here, however feebly, attempted to discharge. I believe that there are many old and experienced teachers in this Province who will bear me out when I say I believe the youth of Ontario are yearly sacrificed to that Moloch—education *falsely so called*. They pass through the fire of examinations, and think they are being "educated," and they think being "educated" means being made fit for a sphere for which they are not suited and for which they were never born. They think "education" means a smattering of two or three languages, sciences, and literatures. They think "education" means a contempt for the "humble" occupations of fathers and mothers, a striving after a "higher" walk of life, a more "exalted" "position" in the world. What is the result? I would that the public could read the answers given by the candidates at the recent University and Departmental Examinations. They would then know for themselves what is the result.

T. ARNOLD HAULTAIN.

OUR WORKING WOMEN AND THEIR EARNINGS.

UNDER this title Miss F. Mabel Robinson has contributed to the *Fortnightly* the following interesting facts concerning the employment and remuneration of women in Great Britain and on the Continent:—

AMONG European nations, none has so great a disproportion of the sexes as our own, yet the position of woman as a worker is far more readily acknowledged in Continental States than in England; and foreign women are, as a rule, trained to take part in the bread winning, and enabled to bear a share in the responsibilities of life after as much as before marriage. Men emigrate; women remain at home, sometimes through want of enterprise, more often because the care of the sick, the aged, and the helpless devolves upon them, or in deference to the wishes of their friends. In a more natural state of existence than our own the work of woman is cut out for her. She is the spinner and the weaver, the dyer, tailor, and hatter, the miller, baker, confectioner, and brewer. She tends the young cattle, milks the cows, churns the butter, and she can take part in any labour of the fields. In such communities, the question of proportion of the sexes is unimportant, though as a fact men and women—save in war-time—are usually equal in number in sparsely peopled States. But in our thickly packed and overflowing country, this simple way of living has long ceased to exist. There is no more the homestead to provide work for the women of the family, and daughters as well as sons must earn their bread away from the roof-tree. In England and Ireland forty-five and forty-seven per cent. of the working women are employed in domestic service, and in Scotland, only twenty-four; while commerce, which engages only one out of every one hundred and sixty-eight English, and one out of five hundred and forty Irish workwomen, is the business of one in every sixty in Scotland; and it must be remembered that these comparisons are not between the female populations of the three kingdoms, but between the workers who in Scotland bear a proportion of less than fifty per cent. to those of the other kingdoms. A Scotchwoman, when forced to earn her bread, looks naturally towards industrial employment, and sixty-three per cent. of Scotch working women are industrials; while in England forty-seven, and in Ireland only thirty-two per cent. are so employed. The industrial too, of Scotland, differs much from her English and Irish sisters, who are mainly needlewomen, for in the north mill-hands engaged in making textile fabrics form the largest class. It is impossible to say how many women exactly in the United Kingdom are now striving to support themselves by sewing. At the last census we know there were at least 641,000 women trying to earn their bread by their needle, and there are now 60,000 women sewing in London for daily or weekly wage. Among these the milliners command the highest remuneration; their business requires an amount of artistic talent and good training and their earnings are proportionately high; the best indoor hands in first-class houses receive a salary of £120 per annum, while a good second-class outdoor worker earns from £1 to £3 weekly during the six best months, and half that amount in the slack season. The takings of a working-dressmaker are lower: £70 is the average salary of a first-class indoor hand, and the second-class outdoor hands earn a weekly wage of from 15s. to 18s., but "workers"—girls who have not learned the business,

but who can work a machine or sew under the direction of a trained dressmaker—only make about 2s. daily. This however is the outside value of unskilled female labour in London, and is more than can be earned in the majority of purely mechanical trades, such as stamping, bleaching, folding, cementing envelopes, paper bag making, bookbinding of the commoner sort, and the like. Industrials are usually paid by the piece, so that their earnings depend upon their dexterity, a quality which varies to an almost incredible degree, for of two women working side by side, with equal industry, one will sometimes do nearly three times as much work as the other, and thus it follows that a slow worker may starve on a rate of wages which will provide an exceptionally quick one with a decent livelihood. But unhappily there are trades by which none but the very swiftest London workers can hope to gain a subsistence, and pre-eminent among these are the lower branches of plain sewing, slop tailoring, and slop dress-making. Government work, such as tailoring for soldiers and police, is little better paid than the commonest employments; fatigue great coats are now made for 10d.; and white canvas jackets, very stiff and hard to sew, for 1s. The popular circular fur lined cloaks are put together for 1s.; a price, which, considering the relative amount of labour, seems truly magnificent in comparison with the export trousers at 4½d. Low class plain sewing is even more wretchedly paid. There existed a short while since a West End shop which paid 1s. a dozen to London sempstresses for machine made Oxford shirts; and 1½d. each, buttonholes included, is a still commoner wage.

The truth is, no woman of merely average ability can make a living by tailoring or dressmaking unless she has served her apprenticeship, and thus qualified herself for high-class work. The greater part of the cheap ready-made underclothing now sold in London is done in Ireland. The largest articles, better stitched than the average 3s. 9d. to 6s. London product, are made in the country districts round Londonderry for 2s. 2d. or 26s. a dozen, most elaborately trimmed and worked. And for this price the worker has often to walk five miles from her home to receive her work and to return it when finished, carrying her bundle of finished work with her and returning with her unmade pieces. This ten mile journey is a sore addition to the burden of a half starved and weakly life. Among the small cotters the earnings of the women are often in these bad times all that the family has to depend on, and some of the most beautiful under-linen has been made literally in a pig sty by the women kind of evicted cotters. The Derry factory hands are now suffering from this country competition, and it is obvious that their cheap and excellent labour is a fatal obstacle to any hope of higher wages in London, for both in tailoring and plain sewing the Irish houses systematically undersell the English, and underbid them in competition for contracts both from Government and private dealers. To every depth there is a lower depth, and plain sewing is a lordly business compared to the manufacture of those "socks knit by the Irish peasantry" one so often sees advertised. Before the days of Mrs. Ernest Hart those of the peasantry who could not sew or labour were content to knit socks for 1s. 6d. the dozen pairs, and very glad to get the work. The knitting was never out of the women's hands, but represented 1½d., the work of a midsummer day. Lace making requires more art and is better paid; but in England this is a fast waning industry, for the number of makers of real lace was only 17,000 at the last census, against 39,000 in 1871. The causes of this decrease are patent: English lace is too poor in workmanship and design to hold its own against pretty machine laces on the one hand and really good Continental points on the other. Lace making pays well if it be really good, for the workers in the Burano school near Venice earn from one to four francs daily, while the Buckingham lace makers only get about 6d. a day. In the very small Irish lace trade things are better, the nuns who superintend the lace making spare no pains to improve the quality of the work and the designs used by the women, and by a vigorous stand against starvation wages keep up the rate of payment. A rougher sewing business that shows a tendency to fall into the hands of women is the boot and shoe making, which in 1881 employed more than 35,000 women in England and Wales alone, a proportion of one woman to every five men.

The industries of the English northern towns are akin to the Scotch; in fact each trade has its centre and district. Thus half the female bookbinders in the country live in London, and the artificial flower, mobcap, fur tippet, fancy apron, and kindred industries are mainly in the hands of London girls. In Sheffield tool making is the staple industry of women as well as men, while pins, needles, and steel pens are made almost exclusively in the districts round about Birmingham. Steel pen making is almost entirely in the hands of women who already, six years ago, were in the proportion of eleven to each man, and female pin makers are in number more than double the men. Either as a cause or a result of this both manufactures are very ill paid; and if this be the effect of female competition we cannot wonder at the dislike of men to female workers. But despite all difficulties and opposition women are forcing their way into trades that a few years since were closed against them. In France the sphere of female labour is of a higher class and consequently more remunerative; there women are employed in the watch, musical, and surgical instruments, and fancy jewellery—industries which are only in the hands of a very small proportion in England.

Schools for the technical and industrial training of girls have existed in France since the time of the Franco-Prussian war. Among other successful movements for the employment and education of women may be mentioned the opening of the Government printing press and Gobelin tapestry works, where they now receive the same rate of payment with the same privileges and pensions as the men. The French railways have also supported the movement by replacing signal-men and male booking clerks by women who receive the same wage that was formerly paid to the men.

These posts are usually assigned to the widows and orphans of railway servants, preference being always given to such applicants.

In many trades in England a woman must underbid the men to obtain employment, and by doing this she becomes the enemy of the male worker, who quite rightly refuses to work in company with those who depreciate the value of the work. But on the woman's side it must be remembered that could she get work at men's wages, she would gladly do so, and that she works for less than men do simply as an alternative to starvation. The policy of workingmen who refuse to admit women as co-operators is surely as shortsighted as it is cruel, not only because it forces them to undersell their labour, but because it opens to foreign men posts which might otherwise be filled by Englishwomen. It is surely better for the English workman that his competitors should be the women of his own household than foreigners who will work quite as cheaply and from whose employment he reaps no advantage. The influx of German commercial clerks, the employment of Belgian artisans, has already had an effect upon English wages, and as facilities increase for intercommunication it will become more and more impossible for the workmen of one country to sell their labour for a much higher price than that at which the labour of their neighbours can be bought.

BOSWELL'S LIFE OF JOHNSON.*

THE frequent recurrence of new editions of old and already much-edited works is a sign of the undiminished literary activity of the present day. That a work may be edited once too often is none the less true, though this is not the case of Birkbeck Hill's wonderfully complete compilation, which will be eagerly welcomed by all students of Johnsoniana. There can be no doubt that the mere pleasure—a superficial one of course—of reading this marvellous book is a little marred by the copiousness of the footnotes, and the frequency with which the mind and attention of the reader are drawn off to examine it may be the history of a single phrase or the accuracy of a single date. But it is just this labyrinth of detail that has made the "Life of Johnson" what it is, probably the finest biography in all literature. We owe more to two mediocre, if not insignificant, writers like Samuel Pepys and James Boswell than we are half the time aware of. In both their books such pictures are sown broadcast of life and etiquette, manners and morals, religion and politics, as we should probably never have received from any other source, the vanities and faults of the writers themselves being clearly discernible all the while. Certain it is, that in this nineteenth century it is good to occasionally look back upon the strange life of that London world in the crooked, crabbed, partially unenlightened eighteenth, which produced such different characters as Newton and Jonathan Swift, Thomson and Tobias Smollett, Goldsmith and Dr. Johnson. The Grub Street hack, the Grub Street poet, the hanger-on at coffee houses and palaces, the ill-paid translator at work for ten hours a day in a sordid garret up four pair of stairs, the playwright pursued by bailiffs from attic to cellar, and from cellar to streets, and from streets to fields, the actor enjoying one day a comfortable, perhaps a luxurious, meal at the *Mitre*, the next sinking under an accumulation of horrible diseases in a neighbouring hospital—these were some of the companions that Johnson made his own after he first went up to London, and glimpses of these much-tried and suffering folk appear in Boswell's famous book. With regard to what Johnson has said and what he has written, no one—except Boswell—has ever claimed that he was infallible. He was a notoriously unfair critic, his "Lives of the Poets" being a most uneven and incomplete work, and his speeches often seem to fall very flat upon our modern ears. A concordance of his sayings arranged by Mr. Birkbeck Hill at the close of the "Life," contains all those that are worth anything, and a good many that are worth nothing at all; still, in so far as they serve to reveal the man, they are to be treasured. And that the very inmost nature of the man is so revealed we all know. There are seasons when it could be wished that it had been a greater than Johnson who was so carefully watched, written down and annotated by the fussy little disciple. To know about his cat, Hodge, and his negro servant, Francis Barber, his stores of orange-peel, his thirst for tea, his love of a good dinner, including a bottle of port, fish-sauce, and plums, his marks of king's evil, his portentous frown, his little shrivelled wig, too small for his head, his slovenly deportment, his childish credulity, his leanings to superstitious beliefs, his narrowness, his bigotry, his rough yet genuine goodness, his contempt for foreigners, his dislike of the country, his singular ignorance of many important phases of life and kinds of people,—is all doubtless of great interest and value, but we would give much to know all this about greater men, the Shakespeare or Voltaire of his century. Of the present editor it is clear that he brings to his work an enthusiasm equal to that of Boswell himself, and we may assume that some of this enthusiasm is as much for Boswell as for his great superior. Eighteen years ago, he tells us, he came across a second-hand copy of the "Life," in an old book-shop under the shadow of a great cathedral, and as time went on, and he became more familiar with the five entertaining volumes, having been called upon to review in some leading publications works that bore both upon Boswell and Johnson, he offered himself as editor of a new edition of the "Life" to a certain publisher who, fortunately for him, rejected his offer. Nevertheless, his resolve once taken never faltered, and in the midst of suffering and much ill-health the present edition has been compiled. Previous to the appearance of the "Life," Mr. Hill edited the curious and impudent correspond-

ence that existed between Boswell and the Hon. Andrew Erskine, and he had also written a "Life" of his uncle, Sir Rowland Hill, edited his "History of the Penny Postage," and prepared "Colonel Gordon in Central Africa."

It is but a compliment to Mr. Hill to observe that in his utter abnegation of self, in his grave enthusiasm, in his absolute devotion to his work, to his notes and revision of proof, he bears a strong resemblance to the incomparable Boswell himself. Among new matter in this most recent "Life," are found fifteen hitherto unpublished letters by Johnson, a college composition in Latin prose; several passages in his "Journey to the Western Islands," hitherto suppressed; letters from Boswell on the subject of foreign correspondence; and a record of a conversation with Johnson on Greek metres. Mr. Hill condemns part of Macaulay's celebrated essay on the "Life" as "wild and wanton rhetoric," a charge which is so commonly made against the brilliant historian that it will soon be in order for some one to bring out a new edition of the "Essays," and the "History of England," and look into the matter with that calm dispassionateness which a lapse of forty-five or fifty years must surely bring. Certain it is, that Macaulay's denunciation of Croker still holds good. Croker never would see how really great Boswell was in his small, but inimitably small way. He fussed and worried about some unimportant date or person which Boswell himself had let alone, and was always endeavouring to make out a case against the latter, and hoping to prove him a fool. As the great Doctor has himself remarked, the triumphs of one critic over another only fatigue and disgust the reader, and though Croker's edition may have had some good points, the faults Macaulay found with it are still there, the narratives frequently interrupted with unnecessary and misplaced interpolations, and many facts incorrectly stated. As if the reflections of Johnson were not enough, his biographer, the little Scotch advocate, was occasionally guilty of making many of his own, and was fond of dissertations on any subject that came along, from the slave-trade to surgery, and as if this were not enough, Croker filled up his already bristling pages with remarks of his own, comments chiefly upon the thoughts of the other two. Happily Mr. Birkbeck Hill has spared us this greatest infliction of all, and given us little of his own personality except in the preface, where his singular candour and earnestness proclaim him a heaven-born scholar, in truth a man of one idea. It will be well for readers, and readers only, of the "Life of Johnson," to confine themselves to pre-Crokerian editions, and to follow Johnson's own advice about Shakespeare. "Read every play," he says, "from the first scene to the last with utter negligence of all his commentators." But for students and scholars, the present handsome edition, enriched with *fac-simile* letters, documents, and notes, and containing excellent portraits of the ponderous Doctor, will be found intensely interesting and accurate, and very useful will be found an accompanying chart of Dr. Johnson's contemporaries drawn up on the model of a chart in Mr. Ruskin's "Ariadne Florentina."

Whatever may have been the faults of Johnson's nature, or the shortcomings of his scholarship, one thing is certain—that his mind was an unaffectedly English one. His sayings, which are couched in plainer Saxon than his writings, have a direct honest bluntness about them which proclaim a rugged but original and powerful English train of thought. The concordance of his sayings shows little trace of classic moulding or European gilding of those spontaneous observations which reveal the man and the philosopher. Great common sense, considerable insight into certain types and phases, and a freedom from affectation characterise these reflections, though there were times, no doubt, when he was known to take the trouble to translate some simple Saxon phrase into heavier Latin and speak *viva voce*, and there is little trace of influence either from at home or abroad upon his unique and powerful individuality. He seems to have been self-existent and self-sufficient, and obstinate and opinionated, as we know—but at all times a fascinating and typical specimen of the characters produced by the eighteenth century.

M. CHAUVEAU'S LIFE OF OZANAM.*

No student's bibliography of Dante and Dantesque literature is complete without the great work of Frédéric Ozanam on "Dante and the Catholic Philosophy in the Thirteenth Century." And whoever has learned to know and prize that masterpiece of criticism will be sure to seek a closer acquaintance with the mind that produced it. He will, indeed, be constrained by the character of that work itself and by the enlightened curiosity which its perusal must awake to consult the same oracle concerning the ages that preceded Dante's and their share in developing the movement of which Dante was the chief representative. For, though a poet or philosopher may be in advance of his time, he is also its offspring as it in turn is the offspring of what went before. No man is ever really born out of season, and Dante, like other men of genius, appeared on the world's stage just when the hour for his appearance was ripe. One of Ozanam's greatest services is his having verified the chain of literary and philosophical tradition and closed the seeming gap between ancient and modern culture. What the late D. G. Rossetti did for Dante's circle and immediate predecessors, M. Ozanam has accomplished, and much more thoroughly, for the Franciscan poets of Italy. But he did not stop there. He traced the great Florentine's inspiration back through successive cycles of civilisation to its very ultimate sources. No one has, moreover, brought out with greater lucidity the strength, moral and intellectual, of that Teutonic race which became so largely the heir of the Roman Empire

* *Boswell's Life of Johnson, including Boswell's Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides, and Johnson's Diary of a Journey into North Wales.* Edited by George Birkbeck Hill, D.C.L., Pembroke College, Oxford. In six volumes. Oxford: The Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan and Company; Toronto: Williamson and Company.

* *Frédéric Ozanam: Sa Vie et Ses Œuvres.* Par M. Pierre Chauveau, Fils. Avec une introduction par M. Chauveau, Membre de la Société Royale du Canada. Montreal: C. O. Beauchemin et Fils.

in the West. He exhibits it in three stages—while still unredeemed from barbarism; in its day of transition, and after its conversion to Christianity. Not in modern Germany alone or in England does he discover its influence. He finds it in his own France, in Northern Italy, and in the Land of the Cid. He has laid stress on the fact that (to quote M. Chauveau's words) "the same elements which go to the making of the English people are met with, though in different proportions, in the French nation." In Canada, where the early colonists under the old régime were mostly from the northern and north-western Provinces, this virtual unity of origin is more evident than in old France as a whole. The part played by the mythology and customs of the North in the organisation of the new society which succeeded that of Rome is also exemplified by citations from Ozanam's "Etudes Germaniques." Step by step, he follows the course of that tradition which was always active, carrying from generation to generation, by heirship or conquest, the best trophies of many pasts, till, in the fulness of time, Dante was born, and the Divine Comedy was written.

This handsome volume of 600 pages on the life and works of one of France's greatest writers is from the pen of a gentleman whose name is familiar to all students of Canadian literature. The author, M. Pierre Chauveau, is a son of the Sheriff of Montreal, who has contributed the introduction. The book is worthy of its subject and of the reputation which the author promises to inherit with his name. Though apart from literature, Frédéric Ozanam's career was comparatively uneventful, it was by no means removed from the sphere of active duty. Much of his time from his youth up was given to enterprises of benevolence. He is most gratefully remembered as the founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul—an organisation co-extensive with Roman Catholic Christendom. Born at Milan, educated at Lyons, Ozanam studied for the bar at the great Law-School of Paris. He held for a short time a professorship of commercial law, but it was as occupant of the chair of Foreign Literature at the Sorbonne that he passed the twelve most fruitful years of his short life. He gave his last lecture in the early summer of 1852. He was then stricken with the disease of which he died, and the effort well nigh exhausted his failing strength. Nevertheless, by extreme care and frequent changes of air and scene, he lingered on till the 8th of September, 1853, when he breathed his last at the early age of forty years and four months. The picture of the man, and the account of his work and the illustrations of his style to be found in M. Chauveau's biography are enjoyable and instructive. In the great thought-struggle of his age, Ozanam took the conservative side, and conservative he believed it in the fullest sense. That faith which to some of his contemporaries—some even of his friends—was associated with ages of darkness and despotism was to him the only hope of redemption for a world enslaved to sin and doomed to death. He made the defence of Christianity the great aim of his life, and it was in carrying out that aim that he raised up a treasure house of rare knowledge for the use of all who chose to profit by it, whether friend or foe.

A FRENCH SAVANT ON DANCING.

M. BOHNE, in his history of German Dancing and its future, observes, "Man only, knows dancing"—the bear does not count, because it has no "psychic impulsion." Why do we dance? he demands; ninety per cent do so for amusement, nine to secure a substitute for a vapour bath, and one, for the love of æsthetics. But dancing is also a marriage broker, a sort of matrimonial agency. However, the dance is also a civilising agent. With our ancestors, Nature meant only music and dances, which too were attributed to the gods. The author states, the old Germans were a dancing people; modern Germans are not, and that you can travel two months in Germany without perceiving a waltzer; whereas, voyage but eight days in Spain, *Jandingos* will be visible everywhere. The demon of dance seizes the Spaniards in the streets, or the public places, under the porches of houses. The first musician who arrives, and that can touch a guitar, will compel the servant to throw away her broom; the water-carriers to lay down their pitchers; the muleteers will abandon their mules; and the inn-keeper will quit his dinner—to dance all with soul and body.

The Spaniards have always a foot in the air, ready to spring: so had once the old Germans, and so much so that their bishops had the greatest difficulty to prevent their flocks dancing in the churches—thus imitating the early Christians. However, sacred dancing was only a form for expressing great joy. Renan maintains dancing never figured in the Christian liturgy, and M. de Pressensé agrees—for once—with Renan. Indeed the church had much difficulty to suppress the old pagan dances. Bishops and princes thundered against them, but the votaries up to the twelfth century held their dances at night in the cemeteries, where they had the stimuli of mystery, the fear of being surprised, and the feeling that they were doing wrong.

In the sixteenth century, Germany had a singular "Death Dance" executed at wedding parties. Lots were drawn to find the individual who was to die; the doomed one then stood in the centre of the room, the others danced round, and the individual after a while staggered, fell—became dead. All stopped, then the dancers chanted a pretty dirge—a funeral hymn. If the departed was a man, each girl came one by one, and kissed him on the forehead, and *vice versa* if a woman; with the last death-kiss he rose, the music played a gay air, and the triumphal *ronde* surrounded the resurrectionist.

The real creators of that queen of dances, the waltz, were the Viennese; and they monopolise it still. It is thus that Musset wrote: "I would like a French duchess to be able to dance as well as a German cattle drover." M. Böhne believes dancing is dying, if not dead. The workmen are debilitated by factory life and soured by socialism. The sons of the rich are worn out by excess, by hot-bed lessons and examinations—educational

pressure perhaps. Piety too has departed, for true piety made no person sad; wine and beer are adulterated; people do not now get intoxicated, but poisoned. In fact, the moral health of moderns is less good than that of their ancestors, who were most patient under suffering, more brave in the struggle of life, because less egotistical. We are devoted only to ourselves.

THE CAPTURE OF THE "ROSA" OF SEVILLE, A.D. 1593.

Eight-and-twenty mariners,
With fearless hearts and free!
Eight-and-twenty mariners
In an open boat at sea,
With Peter for their captain,
Make a goodly company!
That's what we taught the Spaniard
In the days of '93.

The Spanish Plate Fleet sailed that year,
In the early days of May;
We'd sworn that we would stop, perforce,
The Admiral on her way,
And so from Tortuga one night
We sailed full joyously.
With a freshening land-breeze strong behind,
We shaped our course so free,
But saw the sun for two long weeks
Sink o'er an empty sea.
No sight of sail—our water gone—
We all were sore dismayed,
But Peter kept our hopes in life
With tales of storm and raid—
Till on Whitsunday even,
Just off Bahama's Isle,
Something loomed up before us,
That stilled each heart awhile;
For we espied, in lordly pride,
Becalmed within the Strait,
With towering mast and bulwark—
The Admiral in her state.

Back 'neath the island's shelter
We glided out of sight,
To wait in anxious longing
The slow approach of night.
Pistols were oiled and loaded,
And surely primed again;
Rapier and cutlass tested,
Till Peter rose, and then,
Pointing to where the frigate lay,
Said quietly: "My men,
If Fortune favours Justice,
And English hearts are bold,
To-night our eyes shall glitter
In the light of Spanish gold.
But Spanish blades are good at fence,
Each man must fight as ten—
We'll have the surgeon cut two holes
In this rotten tub, and then,
With our boat beneath the water,
Our hands on the frigate's chains,
We'll see if English sailors
Can't handle Spanish gains!"

Out to the open shoved we;
Though neither day nor night,
We could lie no longer skulking—
Better to brave the light.
Then drifting slowly onward,
With our prize before for guide,
Closer and closer creeping,
Borne by the running tide,
Till we counted ports and windows
And heard the cordage play,
And could see the men—yet no one turned
To where we drifting lay.
We heard the Spanish sailors
Troll out their idle glee,
As if an English sailor
Ne'er floated on those seas.
So close were we that every man
Held in his breath in fear,
But having eyes, they saw not,
And ears, but did not hear.
High on her lofty taffrail,
Clear 'gainst the star-lit sky,
A Spanish bravo sat and sang—
The words went drifting by—
Soft words of Spain and dark-eyed girls,
Of blue skies clear above,
Of olive groves and quiet streams,
Of home, of Spain, and love.
He sat there playing 'neath the stars;
We heard the music ring,
And caught the words that softly stole
Of the last song he would sing.
His song had barely ended,
The last strain had not died
Before we reached the shadow,
And were safe by the frigate's side.

Our boat is sunk, our men are up
High on her carven stern,
Amid the saints and angels—
For Spaniards never learn
That saints are well enough on land,
But when it comes to sea,
They sometimes lend a helping hand
To rovers bold like we.
My feet were on St. Jago's head,
Under the cabin-light,
Thinks I: "Your saintship's helping on
A Christian work this night."
There, warm, inside the cabin,
We, outside, starved but bold,
Saw seven Papish Spaniards
A-gambling o'er their gold—
The surgeon, I, and Peter,
The others were beneath,
Hanging about those blessed saints,
Their swords between their teeth;
Till the captain bends and whispers:
"We three up here will do

For the Dons inside the cabin,
And you must take the crew."
Man after man crept by us
Without a sound or breath,
Each moving like a shadow—
For the slightest noise meant death.
Now scrambling up like panthers,
As she laboured o'er each swell;
Now still as the carven saints beside
As the music sank and fell,
We crouched beneath the window,
Each breathing hard and fast,
And each heart thumping loudly—
Till a shot rung out at last.

Up sprang our Spanish pirates,
And started for the door,
But e'er they crossed the cabin
There were two upon the floor;
One wild hurrah we gave them,
And in answer to our call
The rest wheeled round to face us
With their backs against the wall.
Then against a long Toledo
I was at it tierce and carte,
A-finding out the shortest way
To reach a Spanish heart.
Outside they screamed like devils,
But within no word or shout,
Only the rapid ring of steel
As our rapiers flashed about;
And the gasp of heavy breathing,
As a thrust went in and out.
Down went my Don before me
Like a reed before the wind,
And I turned in time to run my sword
Through a second one behind.
They fought like cornered tigers,
But gave to our attack,
Though the surgeon lay there dying
With a sword blade through his back;
And the captain 'gainst two others
Held an unequal fight,
When with one sweep I sent my sword
Crash through the cabin light,
Jumped for my man and caught him,
By chance around the neck,
And my dagger snapped in his Papish heart
Ere he reached the bloody deck.
Then groping in the darkness,
I found the cabin door,
And flung it wide as Peter hurled
His foe upon the floor.
One minute's space for breathing,
And each one grasped his sword,
Sprang to the main-deck with the men,
And loud old Peter roared:
"Strike home, my men! No quarter!"
As down on them we dropped,
And for half-an-hour and over
The slaughter never stopped.

Oh, Spanish Dons may flout and flaunt
Over the spoils they've ta'en!
Oh, Spanish blades may smile and smirk
A lady's grace to gain,
But the swinging sweep of English swords
Still curbs the pride of Spain.

Cheer after cheer we gave them
As we charged and charged again,
Till we forced them up into the bows
Like sheep within a pen.
They screamed and prayed like women,
While all the time the light
Of the lanterns hung for dancing
Shone peacefully and bright;
Till by the time the moon was up
And smiling o'er the sea,
Of living men upon that ship
There were only twenty-three—
The other five—poor fellows—
Lay resting from their toils,
Leaving their five shares extra
To go to swell our spoils.

At the feasting and carousing
We sat that night till late,
We drank from Spanish goblets,
We ate off Spanish plate;
We danced to Spanish fiddles,
And roared to Spanish song,
Till the breeze of morning filled our sails
And bowled us swift along.
And until we got to England
We never knew our gain,
For the ship was running o'er with gold
For the King of cruel Spain;
And for it to help old England
Seems a better use to me,
Than to send out Spanish pirates
A-scourging of the sea.

Now here's a health to good Queen Bess!
Long may she live and reign!
And here's to English mariners
Who sail the Spanish Main;
And if e'er they grow faint-hearted,
Or shrink at touch of steel,
Let them think how eight-and-twenty
Took the *Rosa* of Seville.

WILLIAM McLENNAN.

The Week,

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MR. GOLDWIN SMITH'S letter on Manitoba, in the *Mail*, is suggestive on one point. He says: "Much of the land round the capital [Winnipeg] is still lying untilled. It is held by speculators at prices which have driven settlement far westward, to the injury not only of Manitoba, but of the settler himself, who is thus carried away both from his market and his centre of distribution, besides losing the general advantages of neighbourhood." It would be instructive to know how much the stagnation incident to this state of things has contributed to the present discontent in Manitoba; and how many of these speculative holders of land are now engaged in semi-rebellion, agitating for Manitoba's rights. No doubt, as Mr. Smith says, Winnipeg, having reached a certain size, is sure to go on growing, as is the way of cities. She will "grow and live to laugh at the menace of the C. P. R. which threatens her with ruin if she will not succumb to Disallowance." Nevertheless, Manitoba is now pursuing a course that cannot be permitted by any civilised Government. The building of the Red River Railroad is an act of open defiance of the law; and while, doubtless, the forcible stoppage of the work by the Dominion authorities, if practicable—which it is not—would be an act of arbitrary power that could not commend itself to Canadians, still it will never do in a Confederation such as this to sanction the rampant triumph of sectionalism over the Dominion authority. Let us have conciliation and compromise by all means if that may do; but it would be a bad precedent in possible future difficulties in other provinces to conciliate and compromise as the price of return to duty as Canadian citizens.

WITH reference to Mr. Smith's remark (speaking of the Commercial Union meeting at Detroit) "that the partial surrender of fiscal autonomy, of which a bugbear is made, is necessarily involved in every commercial treaty, and was involved in the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854. The sovereign power of each nation would remain intact, and withdrawal after due notice would always be open, though it is hoped that the benefits of the arrangement would make it perpetual,"—we must observe that there is this important difference between the case of the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 and the present proposal, that there was nothing in that treaty to prevent Canada from raising any additional revenue she may have needed by duties on articles not included in the treaty; whereas this resource must be cut off absolutely under Commercial Union. In support of which we submit the opinion of the Philadelphia *Record*, surely a competent authority, which says, commenting on a late article in the *Mail*, "It will be seen that the difficulties to be surmounted hardly admit of any other solution than the acceptance by the Canadian Provinces of the system of customs taxation and excise that may prevail in the United States, trusting to a similarity of interest to insure a mutual advantage. To make an arrangement by which the weaker State could put a veto on the desire of the stronger would be impracticable. If Canada should get Commercial Union she would have to take her chance of the operation of Federal tax laws precisely as Texas or Tennessee takes it, but without any other than an advisory power in enacting such laws. Her safety would be in the general interest, and her advantage in unrestricted trade with fifty million people." What then becomes of our "sovereign power?" The main business of the Dominion Parliament, as the Legislature of a commercial people, is with trade and finance. That is an inalienable prerogative of every sovereign power; and if it divest itself of such a right in favour of a foreign power it ceases to be "sovereign" in any sense.

It is not quite clear how, in face of the refusal of Congress last winter to assent to a joint commission for the settlement of the Fisheries Question, the American Government can make any binding agreement to that effect now. But that some step in that direction has been taken is beyond doubt. The British Government has announced to Parliament that the United States have agreed to the appointment of a commission, and the British Commissioners have been appointed. Perhaps the whole business—the appointment of the joint commission, as well as their decision—being subject to the approval of Congress, this attempt to settle a troublesome question may prove futile; yet, even in that case, something will

have been gained: the facts will have been ascertained, the value of the respective claims weighed; and the case, as it will be presented to Congress, will be as true and complete as a committee of business men can make it. If Congress then refuse to confirm the agreement made by the Executive, or reject the decisions or award of the joint commission, all the world will be able, at any rate, to estimate the merits of the case, which cannot be done while the representatives in Congress of the Gloucester fishermen alone hold the floor.

WE hope, however, the voice of Gloucester will be heard before the Commission. It used to tell us that the Canadian fisheries were of no value to Gloucester—that American fishermen could do very well without a treaty with Canada. But the Canadian fisheries having since been vigilantly guarded, and the enterprise of American fishermen curbed somewhat, this, according to the *American Grocer*, is what a prominent and well-known fish house of Gloucester has to say on the present year's business:—"Catch to date (August 18) for all New England is only 27,000 barrels. In ordinary years it would have been 100,000 or 150,000 barrels. There are only 700 barrels here unsold, and they are held at \$15 per barrel just as they stand, uninspected ones, twos, and threes all mixed. At such prices we cannot guess who will eat them, as the quality is common. The working classes will not pay the price, and they are not fine enough for the wealthier people. Every fare of new mackerel we have bought thus far this season, we have sold out at a less price than we have paid for the next fare after it. There has not been any chance to get the quantity or quality we wanted. It has been a poor and unsatisfactory business. Many of the vessels that have been on the fishing-grounds four weeks or more will not average more than fifty barrels to a vessel. The shortage on the mackerel catch, as it now looks, will make nearly a million dollars difference to this place alone this season."

THE choice of Mr. Chamberlain as chief of the British Commissioners is an excellent one in every way—probably the very best that could have been made. Mr. Chamberlain is shrewd and alert, a *strong* man in every sense, of great experience in business and public affairs. He may have no special knowledge of the fisheries matter at present; but his able and masterful conduct of the business of the Local Government Board, while in Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet, gives assurance that he will be no less strenuous in upholding what he thinks—what his exceptionally clear brain sees, to be right in this matter. And that is all Canada can expect—all she wants. As a free-trader, a Radical, and an Englishman, Mr. Chamberlain may be expected to receive with caution and to examine critically any proposal to bind Canada to the United States' policy of Protection, and to transfer the chief function of the Dominion Parliament from Ottawa to Washington. He will probably feel, if the proposal of Commercial Union be made as an offset to the grant by Canada of fishery privileges to the States, that it were infinitely better to surrender these privileges gratuitously than so to commit Canada to a vicious fiscal system, condemned by all sound economists, and to pave the way for her absorption into the Union by transferring the control of her finances from the representatives of the Canadian people at Ottawa to the representatives of the American people at Washington. Mr. Chamberlain must be in favour of local self-government, and the pretence that Commercial Union with a nation of sixty million, protected highly against the rest of the world, would be practically free-trade to Canada, while not likely to blind him to the evil of the system, will blind him as little to the greater evil of centralisation of government involved in Commercial Union—an evil which, strangely enough, is pressed upon us as the best of things by those who can see no good in the federal system as it exists in the Confederation.

THE British Commissioners, we trust, will keep steadily in view the necessity of obtaining such an equivalent for the fisheries as will satisfy the Maritime Provinces. The Atlantic fisheries belong to the Maritime Provinces as they do not to the other Provinces of the Dominion; and the price to be obtained for admitting American fishermen to their privileges should go chiefly, in some shape or other, to benefit the trade of the Maritime Provinces, not to open a problematical market to Ontario farmers for "broilers." What shape they wish the equivalent to be in is for the people of the Maritime Provinces to say; and they should at once set to work to formulate their demands. They want the coasting trade, no doubt, and access to the United States' markets, and the rest of Canada would make great sacrifices to give them that; but it is difficult to see how this may be done without yielding to the entirely unjust claims of the States, and it is too much to ask, as the Commercial Unionists do, that we should present the States besides with the control of the government of British North America.

"Two nations, but one people," let us hope will always be the key-note of Anglo-American policy. A third nation, but not another people, may Canada become in time—is already so, indeed, in a sense; and it is to the honour of Mr. Cleveland's Administration that they have throughout steadily endeavoured to compose a difference among these nations that has been a lasting danger to their agreement as a people. War for any cause among the nations of the Anglo-Saxon race would be a staggering blow for civilisation, and disgraceful to all concerned. Quarrels will arise, causes of war even be bred, in the friction of competition; but, as in this case of the fisheries, the two nations, of one blood, one speech, one system of laws, one habit of thinking, have only to carry their dispute into court, to have it fairly adjudged, instead of coming to blows outside like *les autres*. Mr. Cleveland has done well in the Fisheries matter; may he be able to complete the work, crowning his Presidency with honour, by the conclusion of a permanent arbitration treaty with England!

THE League, it appears, is to be suppressed, as a last resource, only in the worst districts, where other clauses than clause 6 of the Crimes Act prove insufficient to stop intimidation. This exhibits the League as a remarkably innocent organisation: when the ordinary law and every other means fail, the League is suppressed in the expectation that crime will naturally disappear with it.

THE peaceable dispersal of ten thousand Leaguers at Ennis on Sunday, by a small body of police and soldiery, shows what may be done by firm dealing with the Irish agitators. The British Government has, it appears, only firmly and moderately to assert the supremacy of the law, and the people will obey. Not so perhaps the leaders of the National League, whose trade will be at an end when good government again prevails. While the Queen's Government is being reinstated we may expect to hear vehement outcries about Saxon tyranny and its atrocious work; but we would not deny these baffled patriots such poor satisfaction as they may derive from talking and making themselves ridiculous. Who but such featherheads would have met the order of the military to disperse, by an entirely inappropriate resolution claiming Home Rule and denouncing land grabbing?

SOME means ought to be found to inform the English electorate of the true state of the case as respects Mr. Gladstone and Ireland. There is little doubt, we fear, that, by the use of ambiguous language, which can be easily explained away at need, the "masses" are being deliberately deluded into the belief that Mr. Gladstone has abandoned his rejected Irish plans. Nothing however can be farther from his thought; all he has done is to ambiguously admit the possibility of changes; and to enlarge his original Irish plan into a plan of federation that shall give Scotland and Wales Home Rule also. Happily he is not likely to be called upon to divulge his plan in plain terms, for some years to come yet; but the danger is that the people are being educated to regard Home Rule as inevitable, and are led to believe that the man in whose character they have such unbounded confidence has dropped all the objectionable parts of his Irish scheme—that in fact he is a superior sort of Liberal Unionist, who is kept out of office, and prevented from carrying out his plans for the amelioration of Ireland, by a conspiracy of the Tories with some of his former followers.

GERMANY is steadily supporting Russia in her opposition to Prince Ferdinand; but it is a mistake to suppose that this indicates a prospect of a Russo-German alliance, or a drawing apart of Germany and Austria. The Central European alliance, which includes Austria, is secure yet, and will remain so, while any danger to Germany may be apprehended from either France or Russia. (And when will that not be the case?) But Prince Bismarck is not going to war to prevent Russia from sending a Russian General to Sophia: he is anxious before all things to keep on good terms with Russia; and therefore he makes a grace of indifference, and cheerfully consents to the proposed Russian Mission. It is a matter that he cares nothing about—one not worth quarrelling over; then, if he is not going to offer opposition, why not strengthen his position with Russia by getting the credit of ready compliance?

THE experiment of mobilising a corps of French troops, now going on, will be watched with curious interest by all Europe. In deference to German susceptibilities the trial is being made near the Spanish frontier, instead of the German or Belgian as first proposed, which was regarded with great alarm by Germany and must, if persisted in, have brought a mass of German troops to the neighbouring frontier to guard against a possible "rush." That was a dangerous situation, which has been happily avoided

through the good sense and moderation of the French Government; but it is by no means certain that another dangerous situation will not now follow. The handling of the whole corps on a war footing will be done, and the real fighting tried, in a few days. If this trial should not answer expectations, France will perceive that she is not yet ready for war, either with Germany or England, and a lower tone will perhaps be adopted in foreign policy; but if it prove the reverse, and France feel herself as strong as she can ever expect to be, who can say what will be the outcome of the resulting enthusiasm? Why should she wait longer for *la revanche*?

At the "Ashfield" (Mass.) annual dinner the other day, Dr. Stanley Hall, of Johns Hopkins, said a good word for "frogology." He deplored the lack of practicality in modern methods of training in the public schools—the substitution of instruction for education. He himself had studied a single muscle in a frog's leg for two years, and at last felt that he had mastered one thing—and that the whole universe was related to that one thing.

IN its agricultural article *The Times* of August 22 gave details of experiments which have been recently carried on by Messrs. James Carter and Company in crossing varieties of wheat. Side by side with the new crosses, Messrs. Carter, it appears, have recently cultivated in juxtaposition upon the same land every known variety of wheat that is handled commercially in the London, Liverpool, and other markets. The result of the tests so made is, it is claimed, that even the Canadian Red Fyfe wheat—admitted to be one of the best grains that find their way into Europe—"cannot compare with Messrs. Carter's new crosses, not only for general quality, flour substance, and thickness of straw, but in respect of the important feature of earliness." Some of these crosses may prove of value to our Northwest; but to determine that it is necessary to test their growth in the Northwest. What matures early in the garden of England may prove late on the Canadian prairies. And to some extent this applies to the recent experiments we have already noticed at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa.

EXPLORATIONS carried out at Woodcutts, Wilts, by General Pitt-Rivers, the President of the Royal Archæological Institute, have revealed the existence of an entire British village of the date of the early occupation of Britain by the Romans. The skeletons dug up show that the race, whoever they were, that inhabited this village was very inferior in stature, the males being on an average only five feet two inches in height, and the women only four feet ten inches. Nevertheless, they must have had a civilisation of their own, for General Pitt-Rivers has in his museum a very large collection of articles of daily use, including coins, both British and Roman, brazen, silver, and gilt fibulæ, knife-handles, chains, tweezers, bracelets, locks, padlocks, flint arrow-heads, fish-hooks, and horse-shoes, to say nothing of a bowl of Samian ware, and the bricks of a hypocaust. These tumuli of a Romano-British village, it is expected, says the *Times*, will soon reveal other vestiges of the bronze and stone ages; and there, in the west of England, where the Romans colonised so sparingly, we feel, to use General Pitt-Rivers' own words, that we are dealing with a genuine race of aboriginal Britons, who lived on into the Roman period, and who possibly may have been a race reduced to slavery and thereby sunk in status and diminished in strength and stature.

A PAMPHLET has lately been published in Paris by the Abbé Larrien, formerly a missionary in China, in which he seeks to demonstrate that the Great Wall of China does not exist, and never has existed. According to the Abbé, the popular notion of a wall wholly constructed of cut stone, thirty cubits high by twelve cubits broad, running straight on—down valleys and up mountains—regardless of obstacles, like a Roman road, is a mere delusion, founded, perhaps, on the fact that a Chinese Emperor once constructed a chain of square towers of earth, something in the nature of our Martello towers, and that these still exist, scattered at considerable distances from each other, along the line of the alleged Great Wall. Our readers, says the *Spectator*, will be relieved to learn that this bold attempt to relegate the Great Wall to the position of "Prester John" or "The Three Impostors" has been firmly met and overthrown. In a letter to the *Standard*, Mr. William Simpson, an artist, explains that he has actually seen and sketched part of the Great Wall, and that it is, in fact, all our fancy painted it—*i.e.*, "about twenty feet high and fifteen feet wide on the top, with square towers every two or three hundred yards." A drawing from Mr. Simpson's sketch, to be found in the *Illustrated London News* of February 1, 1873, shows the Great Wall and its towers crossing a range of hills, and running up and down their sides in the most satisfactory manner possible.

RECENT MISCELLANY.

A PAMPHLET recently submitted to us by the author, the Hon. Pierre J. O. Chauveau, deals with the history of the famous Latin hymn, *Dies Iræ*,* and deserves the careful perusal and appreciation of all intelligent readers. The honourable gentleman's reputation, which is already that of a scholar and *prosateur* of merit, will be further enhanced by the research and acumen displayed in this pamphlet. M. Chauveau has also written some charming verse, and must be regarded as one of the most popular authors the Lower Province has produced. The *brochure* in question contains an account of the best translations known of the well-worn hymn, including those by Crashaw, Dryden, Lord Roscommon, and Walter Scott among the English, and an important French one from the pen of Père Clair, published at Paris with very interesting notes and comments, and very handsomely bound and printed. M. Chauveau is of the opinion, in which most people will agree with him, that those translations are best which in any language follow the original text most closely, and in this respect it certainly appears that the English tongue has the best of it. The best English translations however seem each to possess a few supremely bad rhymes which go far to injure the artistic effect, such as the opening verse as it stands in "Hymns Ancient and Modern" where *mourning*, *warning*, and *burning* constitute the first rhyme. M. Chauveau, who is a member of the Royal Society of Canada, has placed his most interesting little work at Messrs. Dawson Brothers, St. James Street, Montreal, for sale, where it can be had for twenty-five cents.

ONE of the most useful text-books that has ever come under our notice is that recently issued by the Clarendon Press, Oxford, entitled "An Introduction to Greek Sculpture."† The author, L. E. Upcott, M. A., is late scholar of Corpus Christi, Oxford,—present assistant master of Marlborough College—who eight years ago set on foot a small collection of casts and photographs from the antique adapted to the use of a school. The present little volume has grown out of the collection, having been originally compiled as a somewhat elaborate guide-book to the examples thus gathered together. Mr. Upcott acknowledges his great indebtedness to the larger works of such painstaking and detail-loving Germans as Brunn, Overbeck, and Müller, and to many other foreign and English writers on the subject of ancient sculpture. We are, however, also in our turn justly indebted to him for having concentrated and focussed so much important information in so small a space. The book contains positively no illustrations, for which the student will be sincerely grateful, as it is very seldom in such cases that the illustrations give anything but crude perversions and distortions of the truth. The Epoch of Phidias, the Different Attic Monuments of the Fifth Century, Contemporary Peloponnesian Sculpture, and the Age of Alexander furnish divisions for the chapters, which are only nine in number, but which deal fully and concisely with the various subjects treated of. Lists of art photographers, galleries of casts, and of the chief monuments illustrating the history of Greek sculpture testify to the author's genius for classification, without which no such attempt at compiling a thoroughly useful art guide-book could be at all successful.

In a charming little book bearing the title of the "Pleasures of Life,"‡ and which is *not* by some new aspirant to the Laureateship, a modern Rogers or Campbell, but by our old friend Sir John Lubbock of scientific fame, we have some highly elevating moral reflections upon life and conduct in general which originally were addressed to various institutes and colleges throughout Great Britain. The subjects are not particularly new, we have heard something before about the "Choice of Books" and the "Delights of Travel," the "Pleasures of Home" and the "Blessing of Friends." Still because many of us possess these things we are apt to underrate them, since they are always with us. According to Walter Pater, "Simple gifts and others quite trivial, bread and wine, fruit and milk, might regain that poetic and as it were moral significance which surely belongs to all the means of our daily life, could we but break through the veil of our familiarity with things by no means vulgar in themselves." As a moral essayist Sir John Lubbock is sure to be successful, because, being a great scientist, he is sure to be in earnest in everything he does and says, whether the habits of the ants in his front garden or the spiritual condition of a college of working men be the matter he is considering. Earnestness amounting to gravity, which is yet compatible with a perfect sense of humour and appreciation of purely mundane affairs is perhaps the distinguishing trait of our modern scientists, and Sir John is no exception to the rule. The little essays are literally choked with quotations from every imaginable source, so that it is rather curious that the chapter on the "Happiness of Duty" contains no reference to Wordsworth's strong and noble "Ode to Duty," one of his finest poems, which is singularly neglected by compilers of books for youth and children, but which should rank high as a piece to be committed to memory and ever after to be enshrined in the heart. It is pleasant to see that Sir John eminently desires as a foundation for genuine literary taste, a knowledge of the noble literatures of Greece and Rome, and even a smattering of the Eastern writers of Persia and ancient India, without which, as he wisely declares, our modern superstructure must be useless and unstable indeed.

WHEREAS, ten or fifteen years ago, the reviewer may have felt himself compelled to slightly indicate in deprecatory terms the anomalous position

* "Le Dies Iræ: Traduction en vers Français," etc., etc. Mons. P. J. O. Chauveau. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

† "An Introduction to Greek Sculpture." Upcott. Oxford: Clarendon Press; Toronto: Williamson and Co.

‡ "The Pleasures of Life." Sir John Lubbock, F.R.S. London: Macmillan and Co.; Toronto: Williamson and Co.

occupied by Mr. Herbert Spencer, high priest of Evolution, before proceeding to dissect his books, at the present day the absorbing interest centred in so strong and original a mind has subsided into that placid respect and perhaps cold-blooded admiration that inevitably follow the torrents of abuse and the pæans of panegyric that accompany the rise of a great name. To-day, in short, the reviewer has little or nothing to say about Mr. Herbert Spencer. He has won his way to world-wide recognition as a sympathetic philosopher of the highest rank, and as a thinker of great depth and unquestioned originality. Still, it is possible to glean from the collected writings of any *savant* or thinker some special volume or essay, or indeed single paragraphs, which indicate his genius at its high water mark, and which will always be brought forward as specimens of his best style and his most precious inspiration. There can be no question that in the case of Mr. Herbert Spencer this is perfectly possible and legitimate. Huxley, Darwin, Tyndall, Balfour, and Clifford, though mainly interested in the same set of phenomena as Mr. Spencer, are more frequently read for their presentation of arguments bearing upon the purely biological. With Mr. Spencer, while we follow him throughout similar arguments and observe their direct and indirect bearings always with keen and unflagging interest, we yet feel conscious that beyond these phenomena, their description, explanation, and modification, and beyond even our acceptance or rejection of them as doctrine, there is that great fact of human interest. Psychology, Ethics, and Sociology are Mr. Spencer's special—we were about to add exclusive—property, and it is this interest in humanity which has gained for him a reputation so wide-spread, genuine, and steadily increasing. Fascinating as that marvellous book, the "Origin of Species," was, and as the problems of morphology and biology are, as set forth by Mr. Spencer himself, no portion of the vast mass of evolutionary literature which has been slowly but surely accumulating with pertinent significance during the last twenty years is so valuable, so entertaining, and so absolutely novel as that relating to the study of sociological beliefs. "The Factors of Organic Evolution,"§ reprinted with additions from that treasure-house of modern thought, the *Nineteenth Century*, is the latest addition to Spenceriana, and consists of two essays originally published in April and May, 1886. These essays, though not dealing with sociological subjects, and therefore not fulfilling the highest conditions under which Mr. Spencer writes, are nevertheless replete with the greatest interest. The fact that individual evolution is accomplished by successive in-foldings and in-growings is insisted upon, and the principle of natural selection is shown to be subject to differentiation in clusters of units, and to operate only through taking advantage of those structural changes which the given medium and its contents initiated. A phrase of Professor Huxley's, in connexion with the theory of organic evolution, and referred to in the course of the argument, lingers in the mind long after the arguments themselves have faded:—That "Science commits suicide when it adopts a creed" were the words uttered by Professor Huxley, in an address which he delivered before unveiling the statue of Mr. Darwin in the museum at South Kensington.

"COLUMBUS; or, A Hero of the New World,"|| an historical play, by D. S. Preston, and a recent production of the Knickerbocker Press, is, despite some drawbacks, an excellent attempt at dramatic composition. In five acts, the good old regulation number, and with thirty-eight principals, it will be gathered that the author is fairly ambitious, and has endeavoured at least to produce something which shall stand beside Shakespeare. As a literary work the play has certainly very strong points, and the asseverations of Hon. James Russell Lowell and Edwin Booth, which are printed in an appendix, are really quite unnecessary to assist the reader to form some idea of the scope of the drama, its story and its aim. The introduction of the miraculous element is a mistake, and while there are many fine descriptive passages throughout the work, and some attempt at characterisation, the general effect is heavy, and the author makes a great mistake in thinking that it would be effective on the stage. Indeed, it were better for the sake of the book that the appendix be eliminated, as it is only too easy to read between the lines of some letters from various actors, authors, and managers to whom the play has been offered, and whose well-meant criticisms Mr. Preston publishes in great good faith. Besides, the grand transformation scene bringing up the rear of the fifth act, displaying in fourfold grouping the allegorical impersonations of the States composing the American Union, is hardly in keeping with the literary merit of the lines, and is only equalled by a later postscript of patriotism and blazonry, out of which are supposed to emerge, with sudden vividness, the glorious images of Columbus, Washington, and Lincoln.

ALDEN'S "Manifold Cyclopædia of Knowledge and Language"¶ will be found to be an excellent publication of its kind. Slight and sketchy the articles must be from the size of the volumes, but accurate, concise, and carefully-prepared they still appear to be. The work is illustrated, is beautifully bound and printed, and undertakes to present a survey of the entire circle of knowledge, whether of words or things, thus combining the characteristics both of a cyclopædia and a dictionary. In the specimen number submitted, A to America, there is, by the way, no separate notice of Acadia, or *Acadie*, the word being simply stated to be the original and poetic name of Nova Scotia. For information we are therefore referred to the article Nova Scotia, which seems at least a pity.

§ "The Factors of Organic Evolution." By Herbert Spencer. New York: D. Appleton and Co.; Toronto: Williamson and Co.

|| "Columbus; or, A Hero of the New World." D. S. Preston. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, Knickerbocker Press. Toronto: Williamson and Co.

¶ "Alden's Manifold Cyclopædia of Knowledge and Language." With Illustrations. New York: John B. Alden.

SAUNTERINGS.

FROM the pen of Miss B. Caralampi, the secretary and amanuensis of the popular critic and journalist, Mr. G. A. Sala, we have some interesting particulars of the art treasures enshrined in his unfashionable residence, No. 46 Mecklenburgh Square. When asked to describe that locality, the owner is accustomed to reply that "travellers thither usually change horses at Meaux's Brewery, the corner of Tottenham Court Road." As a matter of fact, Mecklenburgh Square, in the parish of St. Pancras, is the most easternmost of the squares in the west London district, and is one of two tall old houses, the other, No. 47, being occupied by the Hon. Lewis Wingfield, of artistic fame. Mr. Sala's residence is an apt illustration of the power of originality and design to triumph over such apparently unpromising material as an ordinary, middle-class, detached city residence, without the slightest pretension to architectural beauties without or within. The hall, a vestibule of somewhat narrow proportions to its apparent height, is adorned by a beautifully painted ceiling, representing the apotheosis of Psyche, which was executed by Mr. W. J. Callcott and Mr. Balcarri under the direction of Mr. Sala, who was himself in early life an assistant in the painting room of Mr. William Beverley at the old Princess's Theatre. The wall on the left hand is wholly covered with fine old line engravings of the fable of Cupid and Psyche after the paintings of Raphael in the Farnesina at Rome; that on the right is filled with three magnificent works of art which reach from a fine mahogany press to the ceiling. First comes an artist's proof of the engraving after De Neuville's "Tel-el-Kebir;" next is an artist's proof of the etching after Munkaczy's "Christ before Pilate," on the margin of which the great Hungarian painter has written a brief but affectionate dedication to the inhabitants of No. 46; thirdly, is a splendid drawing, in monochrome, of an "Arab Wedding," by Mr. R. Caton Woodville. Among the decorations of the inner hall, besides engravings and miniatures galore, are the mezzotint portrait of Thomas Carlyle by Whistler, and a water colour by W. Callcott, one of the painters of the ceiling in the entrance-hall, of the act-drop at the old Alhambra Theatre, which has at least the merit of being unique, for the Alhambra, act-drop and all, perished in the flames. Ascending the stairs to the first floor, not an inch of wall is visible. It is covered with delightful drawings, about one hundred in number, known as Boucher's Cupids, executed by that facile artist for Madame de Pompadour. Among the works of art, from the first landing to the drawing room, are artists' proofs before letters after Briton Riviere's "Charity," G. H. Boughton's "Dutch Maiden," and Gustave Doré's "Night of the Crucifixion." There is also an exquisite water-colour of "Sunset," by William Beverley; a life-size crayon portrait of the late Madame Sala, Mr. Sala's mother; there is also a full-length portrait, by Bradley and Rulofsen of San Francisco, of the late Mrs. Sala; and there are two frames full of scratchy, coloured etchings, political caricatures, drawn and engraved by Mr. Sala some forty years ago. Want of space obliges us to reserve mention of other art treasures till our next issue.

FROM a detailed review of the Salon in the September number of the *Magazine of Art*, we learn that in addition to Jules Breton's charming picture already referred to, "A travers Champs," he contributed another work, full of enthusiasm and ideality, called "La Fin du Travail," in which he attacked one of the most difficult of atmospheric problems, the representation of the setting sun, as it nears the horizon, and inundates with its almost horizontal rays the whole landscape, turning it to liquid gold. That most masculine of painters, Madame Demont-Breton, sends this year two of the noblest and most earnest works in the exhibition, "Le Pain Dauphiné," in which the modelling of the figures, and especially of the nude torso of the man bending over the blazing fire, is very remarkable; the other, "Danse Enfantine," is a delicious idyl, full of life and vigour, and reveals besides unmistakable qualities of style. M. Carolus Duran is less brilliantly represented than in the Royal Academy, his "Andromède" furnishing yet another proof of his inability to depict the nude, though he has freshness, power, and delicacy as a colourist, and is a perfect master of the difficult art of flesh-painting; that is, if we admit and accustom ourselves to his anti-Venetian technique. M. Jules Lefebvre recedes somewhat from the high position he occupied last year, his "Morning Glory," an idealised study of a female figure, showing a tendency to return to a too highly refined subtlety, closely verging on affectation.

It is evident that the point of view and ultimate aim of the landscapists have changed, their greatest effort now being directed to secure lightness and airiness of tone, with a certain symmetry and decorativeness of aspect rather than emotional effect or true dignity of style. In curious realisation of the theory just advanced is M. Duez's enormous canvas, one of the largest in the exhibition, an impression entitled "Le Soir," devoted to the representation of a section of vivid green turf crowning a cliff, upon which are pasturing cows of life size, the rest of the picture being taken up with a vast expanse of sea and sky, both of an odd, all-pervading tone between pale mauve and lilac. As a piece of decoration the work must fail, on account of the want of harmony shown in its principal lines, and by reason of the peculiarly unpleasant character of the contrast afforded by two almost unbroken masses of colour brought into violent juxtaposition.

THEATRICALY speaking, Paris is at a standstill. Sarah Bernhardt has returned, but not to act. The Opera is open three days of the week, but on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays choice lies between the "Menus Plaisirs" and "The Eden."

It is not generally known in this country that the wife of the French Prime Minister has achieved considerable distinction as a sculptor. Madame Claude Vignon, to give Madame Rouvier the name under which

she won her early successes, and under which she continues to veil her artistic personality, is not a mere amateur, but a serious and laborious artist, who has produced several works of real merit, one, at least, of which has been thought worthy of a place in the Luxembourg. This is the "Peter Pecheur" which she exhibited at the Salon of 1878, and which had the honour to be included in the works purchased by the State that year. Another statue of hers, "Daphne," occupies a conspicuous place in the museum of Marseilles. The group in the Square Montholon is another of the productions of her chisel; and she has executed a series of bas-reliefs for one of the stairways of the Louvre, which are highly spoken of by critics.

M. ROBERT MOLS, the distinguished marine painter of Antwerp, has been commissioned by an English nobleman, from whose yacht he witnessed the Spithead Royal Naval Review, to reproduce the scene in a painting of the largest size.

THOUGH London is socially deserted, the masses and classes have not been forgotten by the energetic management of the Adelphi Theatre, who have lately brought out Messrs. Pettitt and Grundy's new play, "The Bells of Haslemere," with extremely elaborate effects. The house has been newly decorated, the stage greatly enlarged, and never did the Adelphi play-goers manifest so much enthusiasm and delight as they did on the opening night. After the remarkable success of "The Harbour Lights" it might almost have been supposed that the managers of the home of melodrama would have found it impossible to secure an immediate successor to that popular drama which would thoroughly meet the requirements of a mixed audience; the new play, however, has proved to be thoroughly well chosen in this respect, and it is safe to predict that its career will not be one whit shorter than that of its nautical predecessor, and "The Bells of Haslemere" may be expected to ring the public into the Adelphi for many hundreds of nights.

THE new drama to be produced in September at Drury Lane is to be called "Pleasure," and will deal with the eventful incidents in the life of a rich young man who falls into evil ways on the threshold of his career. A realistic presentment of the recent earthquake in the South of France will be the great scene of the new play, in which other exciting effects will be liberally introduced. The highly successful open air rendering of "Midsummer Night's Dream," given at Pope's Villa, Twickenham, in August, was repeated by special request, for a charitable purpose. Neither the names of the performers nor further particulars of this interesting novelty have yet appeared.

GOODWOOD was not a society success this year for some inexplicable reason, perhaps owing to the deaths of the Duchesses of Richmond and Norfolk, whose houses in the neighbourhood have always gathered fashionable parties; there was, however, a sufficient number of pretty faces and lovely gowns to help to redeem the emptiness of the Royal Enclosure. Yachting seems to have monopolised the interest of society at large, and boats have superseded horses for the nonce in the fickle freaks of fashion. The Cowes season, though of briefer duration than that of any other watering place, was proportionately brilliant; one short week concentrating, so to speak, all the smartest people in England, who came down to hold an aquatic carnival in the little town. It opened two days earlier than usual for the special occasion of the visit from Her Majesty, who honoured the seaport with her presence, so that everything was *en fête*, the streets profusely decorated; the houses facing the sea adorned with flowers, flags, and artistic devices. Though the Prince of Wales' yacht, the *Aline*, and those of several noblemen, contended for the great race of the year, Her Majesty's Cup, the trophy was secured by a sailor proper in the person of Captain Bainbridge, R.N., with his yacht *Morna*, which sailed the course in a little over five hours.

THE Queen Regent of Spain is said to be a great admirer of Wagner's works, and has desired the director of the Madrid Opera to produce some of them, commencing if possible with "The Nibelungen Ring." The mention of a queen reminds us of a pretty little anecdote of the domestic life of the Italian royal family. Queen Margaret of Italy is very anxious not to appear too youthful. At the beginning of the summer she asked King Humbert whether she was not growing too old to wear her favourite style of dress—white muslin. "That point needs consideration," replied the King. Nothing more was said on the subject for several weeks, but one morning the King's chamberlain entered the Queen's apartment announcing that he brought the royal answer to Queen Margaret's inquiry. The answer consisted of a huge trunk containing six elaborate white muslin dresses from Paris.

SIGNOR DEPRETIS, the Italian Prime Minister, who died on the 29th of July, at his native town in Stradella, Piedmont, was born in 1811. He studied jurisprudence at the University of Turin and practised for some years as an advocate; he took an active part in effecting the unity of Italy, and, after the troubles of 1848, was appointed Civil Governor of Brescia. In 1850 he entered the Piedmontese Parliament, and for some years was a prominent member of the Opposition. In 1861 he was made Pro-Dictator of Sicily by Cavour, and on August 3 of that year, it was Depretis who proclaimed the Italian constitution. In 1862 he entered the Rattazzi cabinet as the Minister of Public Works, and in 1866 was a member of the Ricasoli Ministry. For many years after the fall of the latter party Depretis was the leader of the Opposition in the Italian Parliament, again attaining ministerial rank in 1876, when he became President of the Council and Minister of Finance. Since that time Depretis has seldom been long out of office, he and Signor Cairoli having for many years held alternately the premiership of the kingdom.

WE hear a great deal just now about Prince Ferdinand of Saxe Coburg Koley, Prince-elect to the throne of Bulgaria, but not so much of Prince Nicholas of Mingrelia, who is the Russian candidate for that much vexed principality. He is the son of the late David Dadian, Prince of Mingrelia, whose dominions were situated between the Caucasus and the Black Sea, extending along the bank of the River Thasis, and being almost identical with the Colchis of the ancient world. This prince was a man of advanced ideas, and did his best to introduce European culture among his subjects; an attempt which the Russians looked upon with distrust. However, he died young, and his widow, a Princess of Tschawtscharadze, after having been declared regent during the minority of her son, left Mingrelia, and wandered about France, Germany, and Russia, where her children were educated. When Prince Nicholas came of age in 1867, he relinquished his sovereign rights to Russia, reserving for himself the family estates and the title of Highness, besides receiving a million roubles in cash. The Emperor Alexander invited him to St. Petersburg, and made him his aide-de-camp. In 1874 he married the daughter of Count Adelburg, the omnipotent minister of the Imperial House, and took up his permanent abode in Russia, only spending the summer upon his Mingrelia estates. He is described as a very amiable, intelligent prince, who is nearer allied by race to the Bulgarians than any of the other candidates, and belongs to an ancient house which dates back to the time of the Later Empire. E. S.

CURRENT COMMENT.

IN thinking of "Don Juan," we should do what Doctor Johnson recommended—clear our minds of cant. We should read it as we read "Gil Blas," not as we read "The Scarlet Letter." It is a story of life and manners—the life of a young man of a passionate race, whose blood was tumultuous, whose senses were alive, and who was enamoured of the pride of life and the lust of the eye, and manners which were believed to be common in the south of Europe, and which were not unknown in the England of the Prince Regent. It is not the story of Sir Galahad, but the story of Tannhäuser. But what a story, what a poem, what an Odyssey it is! Twinkling with humour, sparkling with wit, flushed with tenderness and pathos, and darkened with the shadow of death, it has every element, every quality, every charm that a modern epic should have, and wedded to sweet and solemn music, one tragic episode which defies oblivion. Juan and Haidee will be remembered as long as Romeo and Juliet, and Manfred as long as Hamlet.—*R. H. Stoddard, in New Princeton Review for September.*

QUOTATIONS from Mr. Stevenson are like the drinking of drams, one leads to another; but I have taken the pledge and will give no more. This essay of his is a slight thing, as befits the book which it adorns ["The New Amphion"]. But Stevenson is a writer who seldom pens many lines without a delicious phrase, a quaint turn of thought or some delicacy of style that carries you at once out of the heated air and hurried methods of these Nineteenth Century days. He writes much, but seems never to write with any printer's devil at his elbow—never to do any of that writing against space which Mr. Lowell has said is not less fatal in its results than talking against time. If I have said a good deal about a book which I have called slight, it is because of the share in it of these two writers, Mr. Andrew Lang and Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson. I quarrel sometimes with Mr. Lang, but I confess to the fascination of his prose when he is at his best, and I confess I think he is at his best when he is in his dressing-gown and slippers. With Mr. Stevenson I have no quarrel, and if more urgent duties would give me time, I should like to write of him oftener than I do. Not for his sake; he needs nobody's praise; but to commend him to any young readers whom I may have, as one of the few authors of the moment whom they may read, if they care to search for some of those secrets in the handling of words and phrases which make the difference between what is literature and what is not.—*Mr. Smalley, in The Tribune.*

WITH all the limitations and cautions which a careful survey of the history of profit-sharing thus far, at home and abroad, will suggest, it remains true that there are in the new scheme immense possibilities, yes, immense certainties, of good. It will surely tend to do away with the great majority of strikes, if experience is any witness; it will tend to increase the net profits of the employer by raising the level of labour in quantity and quality; it will satisfy most of the well-grounded claims of the working classes for a fuller compensation, and will reveal to them the weakness of other irrational demands; it will tend powerfully to bring about peace and friendship, as it is, in fact, a partnership between master and man; and when further problems rise in the industrial world, as rise they must, it will enable us to confront them with far more confidence than we should have met them had we been standing upon the present inequitable and unsatisfactory basis of the pure wages system. The employer, on the one side, and the trades union, on the other side, will surely come in time to see that here is a more excellent way than the present way, which leads to perpetual contention. Competition will, of course, continue, but it will be a natural competition of establishment with establishment on horizontal lines of division, as Professor Jevons has said. "The present doctrine is that the workman's interests are linked to those of other workmen, and the employer's to those of other employers. Eventually it will be seen that industrial divisions should be perpendicular, not horizontal. The workman's interests should be bound up with those of his employer, and should be pitted in fair competition against those of other workmen and employers."—*Nicholas P. Gilman, in the Forum for September.*

THE Canada Life Assurance Company is an institution of which this country may well be proud. As we learn from the General Manager's speech at the Annual Meeting last week, it has in force a larger amount of insurance in this country—\$42,546,631—than all the American companies put together, as much as all the other Canadian companies put together, and two-thirds as much as all the British companies. This is a remarkable showing even for a company in its forty-first year; and proves that its career has been distinguished by liberal and fair dealing as well as enterprise. Not otherwise than by exceptionally good management could the Canada Life have won such a foremost position among the financial institutions of the country. The evidences of the goodness of the management are scattered throughout the Report, from the line which tells us of the new business of the year,—\$4,523,083, yielding a premium income of \$1,638,567, which shows an increased income of \$145,000,—to that where we are told of the removal from the Company's policies, of two years' duration, of all restrictions and conditions as to residence, travel, and occupation. Such a liberal measure is only possible to a company whose stability is beyond question, and will doubtless be appreciated by its vast clientage, existing and to come. With respect to the financial strength of the Company, we note with pleasure that its assets are invested in a great variety of public securities, of such a character as to ensure the ready conversion of any into cash at need, and the permanent maintenance of their market value. This, the holding invested of funds and assets to the amount of eight million dollars, in sound securities and under careful custody, is, as Mr. Ramsay justly said, a matter of which it is not unnecessary to be assured; and it must be most satisfactory to the shareholders and policy holders to have the testimony of the Committee on Investments as to the solid value of those investments, and to know the care that is constantly exercised in that respect by the directors.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE Russian censor has obliged three magazines and five daily papers to discontinue the publication of Zola's latest novel.

THACKERAY's son-in-law, Mr. Leslie Stephen, will write the prefatory note for the volume which is to contain the letters now appearing in *Scribner's*.

A SERIES of unpublished letters from Charles Dickens will follow the appearance, in an early issue of *The English Illustrated*, of a chapter of "Personal Reminiscences" of the great novelist. Beginning with the October number, H. D. Traill will contribute to the magazine a monthly budget of literary, social, and artistic criticism.

THE "Pilgrim's Progress" has been translated into Japanese, and appears with—to European eyes—most comic illustrations by native artists. Christian has a close-shaven Mongolian head. Vanity Fair is a feast of lanterns, with all the popular Japanese amusements; the dungeon of Giant Despair is one of those large wooden cages well known to Eastern criminals; and the angels waiting to receive the pilgrims on the farther side of the bridgeless river are dressed after the latest Yokohama fashions.

CLARK RUSSELL's latest story, now in course of serial publication, certainly discloses a new situation in fiction. His shipwrecked hero is cast away on an enormous iceberg, and finds imprisoned therein a pirate vessel which, as is shown by various indications, has been frozen there for a half century. The three pirates with her are stiff in death, but everything is in good order, and the live mariner immediately proceeds to go to house-keeping comfortably. He makes a fire in the galley, thaws out some of the fifty-year-old provisions and finds them delicious, and the last instalment leaves him in a state of wild hilarity over his bowl of punch.

GEORGE MEREDITH, the novelist, of whom little is known in this country, is thus described by Mrs. Moulton in the *Boston Herald*: "Meredith, also, is a handsome man. I should think he was between fifty and sixty. He has iron-gray hair, and a most expressive and interesting face. He quite realised my preconceived ideal of what he ought to be. He is large and tolerant of nature, genial and unaffected, and to the last degree witty and brilliant in conversation. I asked him if he had found 'The Egoist' in actual life and had really been acquainted with him. He said he had known him well, and that the real man was just as sure of his claim on the world's interest, just as amazed when any one failed to share the enthusiasm of his self-worship, as was the character so vividly portrayed in that very remarkable novel. There is nothing languid or dilettante about George Meredith. He has great charm of manner, and a beguiling air of interest in everything you say to him, which is the subtlest of compliments. Like several other great novelists, his most passionate attachment is, I think, to his verses."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

WE have received the following publications:

- CENTURY. September. New York: Century Co.
- NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW. September. New York: 3 E. 14th Street.
- NEW PRINCETON REVIEW. September. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Co.
- BOOK BUYER. September. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
- SWISS CROSS. September. New York: 47 Lafayette Place.
- LIBRARY MAGAZINE. September. New York: John B. Alden.
- ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. September. New York: Macmillan and Co.

THE CANADA LIFE.

ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING AUGUST 30—INTERESTING RETROSPECT OF THE BUSINESS.

The annual general meeting of the Shareholders of the Canada Life Assurance Company was held at the Company's offices, in Hamilton, on the 30th. Mr. Ramsay took the chair, and called upon Mr. R. Hills to read the notices calling the meeting, the minutes of previous annual meeting, and the annual report and financial statement of the affairs of the Company for the past year.

The minutes were on motion confirmed. The annual report and financial statement were taken as read, being in printed form before the members. They are as follows:

REPORT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The statements and accounts of the Company's 40th year again indicates that success and prosperity which the Directors have for so long had the satisfaction to report.

The new assurances applied for during the year were 2,475 for \$5,061,683. Of these were issued 2,177 for \$4,523,053—165 were declined for \$311,250, and the balance of 133 for \$227,350 were not carried out.

At the close of the year, on the 30th April last, the total assurances in force were 21,060 for \$42,546,631.75, upon 16,220 lives.

The income receipts of the past year were \$1,638,567.60, and after the payment of all claims upon the Company, including \$642,015 paid in cash to policy-holders, the sum of \$793,687.69 was added to the assets, which, at the 30th April, amounted to \$3,190,435.19.

The death claims during the year amounted to \$394,559.70 upon 147 lives, under 183 policies, a sum greatly under the amount for which provision was made.

The usual dividend was paid to the proprietors during the year.

The Directors having lately carefully considered the question of making the policies of the Company free from all conditions or stipulations as to residence, travel or occupation, have resolved that for the future all ordinary policies, after being in force for two years without infringement of their conditions, and age proved shall be absolutely free and untrammelled, subject only to the due payment of their respective premiums. This further evidence of the Company's desire to afford assurers every useful advantage and facility which prudence and the Company's safety and stability warrant, cannot fail to add to that public satisfaction and confidence which the Canada Life already so largely enjoys.

The Company's building in Toronto being without an elevator, it has been found difficult to rent the upper portions, not required for the Company's own use, a desirable tenant at remunerative rents, and the remedy for that difficulty has received the very careful consideration of the Directors. The present building was found too small to admit of the profitable employment of an elevator, and architectural difficulties interfering with its introduction, an opportunity presented itself for acquiring the adjoining property to the east, on favourable terms.

The site being a most valuable and improving one, it was deemed more advantageous to the interests of the Company to replace the present building by an entirely new structure covering both lots, and arrangements have been made with that in view. While the new building will provide all necessary accommodation for the Company's offices, with the most approved sanitary arrangements, it will also, it is believed, by being of an attractive character, and of substantial and fire-proof construction, with all modern conveniences and improvements, attract the best class of tenants at rents such as on the assumption of a moderate basis, will make the expenditure on the property a safe and remunerative investment for the Company.

It is with very great regret that the Directors have to announce the death during the past year of their colleague, Mr. James Osborne. The Board was thereby deprived of the valuable services of one of its oldest members who had for forty years, since the formation of the Company, taken a most active and lively interest in its progress and success.

The Directors have to intimate the resignation of his seat at the Board by the Hon. Donald McInnes, who is now a resident of Montreal. Mr. McInnes' long connection with the Company as one of its Directors had been most valuable to its interests, and his retirement is very much regretted by his colleagues.

The Directors retiring from the Board by rotation upon the present occasion are Messrs. John Stuart, Dennis Moore, Wm. Hendrie, the Hon. George A. Kirkpatrick, M.P., and A. G. Ramsay, who are eligible for re-election.

(Signed), A. G. RAMSAY, President.
R. HILLS, Secretary.

The Canada Life Assurance Company, Hamilton, Ont., 25th August, 1887.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE 40TH YEAR, ENDING 30TH APRIL, 1887.

RECEIPTS.		
To balance at 30th April, 1886		\$6,858,964 46
" Premiums received on new policies and renewals	\$1,159,926 30	
" extra risks	1,071 56	
" fines	355 73	
" Interest earned on investments and profits on sales of debentures, etc., less reduction of debentures to par value	477,214 01	
		1,638,567 60
		\$8,497,532 06
PAYMENTS.		
By expense account		\$212,143 77
" re-assurance premiums		3,569 36
" suspense account—payment		241 14
" claims by death	\$358,679 15	
" less re-assurance	4,712 72	
		\$353,966 43
By claims by matured endowments		15,000 00
		368,966 43
By cancelled (purchased) policies		41,878 10
By profits of mutual branch—		
" Bonus	\$52,513 09	
" Cash	47,479 40	
" Diminution of premiums	130,777 98	
		230,770 47
By dividends on stock		25,000 00
" annuities		400 00
		\$882,969 27
By balance of assets as per general abstract of assets and liabilities		7,614,562 79
		\$8,497,532 06

(Signed), A. G. RAMSAY, President.
R. HILLS, Secretary.

Audited and approved. (Signed), JAS. SYDNEY CROCKER, Auditor.
The Canada Life Assurance Company, Hamilton, 27th August, 1887.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, AS AT APRIL 30TH, 1887.

ASSETS.		
Cash on hand \$297.07, and in the banks \$12,899.72		\$13,196 79
Mortgages on real estate—value in account		2,214,383 05
Debentures—value in account (par value)—		
City	\$599,463 45	
County	137,573 34	
Township	383 179 90	
Town	642 538 94	
Village	553,944 30	
Harbour of Montreal	60,000 00	
Ontario Government subsidy	2,711 23	
Canadian Pacific Land Grant Bonds	375,000 00	
Loan Companies	20,000 00	
Dorchester Bridge Company	6,000 00	
Railway Bonds	7,942 41	
Street Railway Bonds	108,000 00	
		2,886,353 57
Bank Stocks		253,210 15
Stock in Loan Companies		25 655 50
Dominion Telegraph Company Stock		5,723 50
Gas Company's Stock		16,565 15
Loans on Policies		631,429 77
" Stocks, etc.		1,076,284 25
Real Estate—Head office and branches		312,894 63
Liens on half-credit policies in force		154,143 22
Ground rents (present value)		8,831 69
Office Furniture		6,891 31
		\$7,614,562 79
OTHER ASSETS.		
Cash in Agents' and others' hands, including receipts held by them for premiums which have since been accounted for	\$321,226 60	
Half-yearly and quarterly premiums secured on policies, and payable within nine months	151,597 09	
	\$472,823 69	
Deduct 10 per cent. for cost of collection	47,262 36	
		425,561 33
Accrued Interest on Debentures, etc		150,381 07
		\$5,806,465 19

LIABILITIES.		
Capital Stock paid up		\$125,000 00
Proprietors' Account		91,567 46
Assurance Funds		5,785,112 48
		118 06
NOTE.—From this falls to be deducted \$79,697.54, as it is paid for death claims not fully due, or for which claimants had not presented valid discharges at 30th April, 1887, nearly all since paid.		5,427 30
Assurance and Annuity Funds		1,513,456 67
NOTE.—From this falls to be deducted \$20,598.70, as it is paid for vested Profits on the above unpaid Death Claims, and "Cash" and "Diminution" profits unpaid at 30th April, 1887.		81,687 52
Reserve Profit on Mutual Policies		2,193 99
Suspense Account—balance of items awaiting arrangement		\$7,614,562 79

(Signed), A. G. RAMSAY, President.
R. HILLS, Secretary.

Audited and approved. (Signed), JAS. SYDNEY CROCKER, Auditor.
The Canada Life Assurance Company, Hamilton, 17th August, 1887.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENTS.

We hereby certify that we have carefully examined and passed in detail the several securities specified in the "General Abstract of Assets and Liabilities to the 30th April last," and find the same to be correct, and have also verified the balance of cash.

(Signed), F. W. GATES,
GEORGE M. INNES.

Canada Life Assurance Company's Offices,
Hamilton, 25th August, 1887.

AUDITOR'S REPORT, 1887.

To the President, Vice-President and Directors of the Canada Life Assurance Company:

GENTLEMEN,—I have completed the audit of the Company's books of account to the close of the financial year ending 30th April last; their several entries have been duly vouched and correctly recorded, and the cash balances agree with the banker's statements at the above date, after deducting the outstanding cheques as noted in the ledger.

The debentures, mortgages and other securities were severally produced and examined their amounts correspond with the schedules of investments herewith submitted and with the totals of the several investment funds as stated in the ledger.

The accompanying statements of "Assets and Liabilities" and "Receipts and Payments" have been examined with the ledger balances, and are certified as correct.

I remain, gentlemen, yours very faithfully,
(Signed), JAS. SYDNEY CROCKER, Auditor.

Hamilton, 25th August, 1887.

Mr. A. G. Ramsay, President of the Company, in moving the adoption of the report, said: The statements of the receipts and payments and of assets and liabilities now before you give full details of the year's operations and of the Company's financial position, and enable you to judge of the successful and sound position which it continues to occupy, and the reports of the Committee on Investments and of the Auditor testify to the safety of its funds and assets. The testimony of these gentlemen will, I have no doubt, satisfy your minds of what is far from unnecessary nowadays, viz., that the long list of securities—amounting to over eight million dollars—is no mere figment, but that these sound investments are undoubtedly held, and under such careful custody as to guarantee their absolute safety and security. The business of the year was again a very large one, making the assurances in force amount to \$42,546,631.75, and as a late editorial notice of the Montreal Gazette remarked, in calling attention to the large life assurance business now transacted in Canada: "It was noteworthy that the single Canadian institution, the Canada Life, has in force a larger amount of insurance in this country than all the American companies put together, and about two-thirds as much as all the British," and it might have added about as much as all the Canadian companies put together. The year's income receipts amounted to \$1,638,567.60, an increase of \$145,000 for the year, and as regards the payments, while the Company paid \$641,815 to the assurers in cash during the year, it at the same time put aside \$755,597.33 as an addition to its assets, to meet its policy obligations as deaths occur. Assurers in that way received \$1.20 for each \$1 they paid to the Company last year. The death claims of the year were largely under the amount provided for, and the constant care which the Board and its officers exercise in the consideration of each life offered for assurance, makes it reasonable to anticipate somewhat similar results in the future. Such results, along with the considerably higher rate of interest which we obtain than is calculated upon, and the low percentage of working expenses at which the Company's business is conducted warrant our hope that assurers will continue to receive liberal profits, such as have hitherto proved satisfactory to them. The accounts show that during last year the loans upon the best class of real estate securities were increased by nearly a million dollars, at fair rates of interest, and as each loan is only accepted by the Board after very careful and experienced scrutiny and consideration, the most favourable results of such investments may be anticipated. As explained in the Directors' report, the erection of a new building in Toronto, which will contain the offices of the Company and afford accommodation for other tenants, is being proceeded with. The magnitude of the Company's business in Toronto makes it due to our branch there to erect such a building as will be worthy of it, and of the increasingly valuable site in so important a city, and calculations of the return likely to be realized, based upon the assumption of moderate rentals for the offices not required for the Company's own use indicate that the investment will prove a satisfactory and permanent one. The removal from our policies of all restrictions and conditions as to residence, travel and occupation, after they have been in force two years, as explained in the Directors' report, is another evidence of the liberality of our Company, and of the Board's desire to give assurers every privilege and facility which does not impair the safety and permanent stability of the Company, for these are at all times the first consideration of the Directors. The fact that our policies are now to be made world-wide and unconditional, and as well as indisputable, will add very materially to their value as securities to creditors and as provisions for families and dependents. As you have been informed by the Directors' report, we have, since our last meeting, had the misfortune to lose the valuable services of two much-esteemed members of the Board. The first, Mr. James Osborne, died in October last, after a long, active and useful connection of forty years with the Company. The second, the Hon. Mr. Donald McInnes, who has removed to Montreal, resigned his seat at the Board on 21st March last, to the great regret of the Company and of his colleagues. With these remarks I will add that it will afford me much pleasure to supply the meeting with any further information which may be desired, for, as I think I have upon former occasions said, we have nothing in our Company to conceal, but feel satisfied that the more its affairs are inquired into and known, the more they will prove satisfactory to you and to our policy-holders and the public.

Mr. F. W. Gates, in seconding the motion for the adoption of the report, said:—As I have frequently remarked at annual meetings, Mr. Ramsay in his remarks never leaves any ground uncovered. But I think to-day he has omitted to mention one little matter which is of moment to the Shareholders, and which is highly creditable to the Directors. I mean the reduction in the expenses of the management of the Company, which, during the past year, are much less than the previous years. I can most heartily endorse what he has said about the securities of the Company. The utmost care is exercised concerning them, and every one is most carefully scrutinized before being accepted. I am glad that the affairs of the Company are in such a favourable state, and it gives me much pleasure in seconding the resolution adopting the report.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously. Mr. Adam Brown, M.P., moved a vote of thanks to the President and Directors for their attention to the interests of the Company during the past year. In doing so Mr. Brown said that it gave him very much pleasure in submitting this resolution to the meeting. The splendid management and brilliant prospects of The Canada Life Assurance Company were known throughout the entire country, and not only here but in other countries as well. The care taken in the management of the Company's affairs was well known. The Canada Life and safety were synonymous terms. Great credit was due to the President and Directors for this state of affairs, and the resolution he had just read would, he was sure, meet with the hearty approval of the Shareholders.

Mr. Charles Riordan seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously. Mr. Justice Burton then moved, seconded by Mr. W. R. Macdonald, that the thanks of the Shareholders be tendered to the agents and officers and medical officers of the Company, to whose exertions in the interests of the Company its remarkable success is in a great measure due.

The mover said he had listened with pleasure to the remarks of previous speakers concerning the success of the Company, and he fancied very few companies could boast of such a standing at the end of forty years' existence. He thought it would not be right to part without putting on record their appreciation of the efforts of their agents and other officers. Every one, he thought, from the "man who takes a life on the street," up to the General Manager had done his duty faithfully and well. Mr. Justice Burton especially referred to the work of the agents, and spoke flatteringly of Mr. Cox's services to the Company at Toronto.

The resolution was seconded in appropriate terms by Mr. W. R. Macdonald, and was carried unanimously.

Mr. Cox thanked the meeting for their kind resolution and the mover and seconder for their encouraging remarks. He quite agreed with Mr. Adam Brown's remarks made at an earlier stage. It was much easier to secure business for the Canada Life than any other company, and the reason for this was that the excellent management of this organisation inspired perfect confidence in the public mind. He had been for twenty-five years doing business for the Company and each succeeding year the task of getting business was becoming easier.

Dr. Macdonald returned thanks on behalf of the medical advisers. He was sure that his brethren of the medical profession, not only here but throughout the land wherever the Company did business, were conscientious and painstaking. They had done all they possibly could for the benefit of the Company. Great care had been exercised by them in carrying out the desires of the Directors to accept of none but sound risks. The Canada Life did not take every life offered, and the care he referred to had gone far towards recommending the Company to the public.

Mr. Hills, the Secretary, spoke for the office staff, thanking the Shareholders most cordially for the sentiment contained in the resolution. He had been with the Company about

twenty-seven years, and he noticed that every year the work was getting greater. However, the employees of the Company were not afraid of the work and were determined to keep their end up.

Mr. John Stuart moved the appointment of Messrs. John Riddell and C. Ferris as scrutineers of the votes for the election of Directors in room of the five retiring, and that the poll shall be opened, and be closed upon five minutes elapsing without a vote being tendered.

Mr. Hendrie seconded the resolution, which was carried. Soon afterwards the scrutineers through the President reported the re-election of the following Directors for a period of four years:—John Stuart, Esq., Hamilton; Dennis Moore, Esq., Hamilton; William Hendrie, Esq., Hamilton; the Hon. George A. Kirkpatrick, M.P., Kingston; A. G. Ramsay, Esq., Hamilton.

The meeting of Shareholders then adjourned. At a subsequent meeting of the Directors Mr. A. G. Ramsay was re-elected President and Mr. F. W. Gates Vice-President of the Company for the ensuing year.

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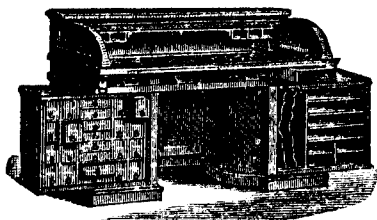
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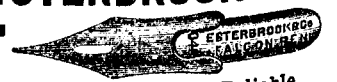
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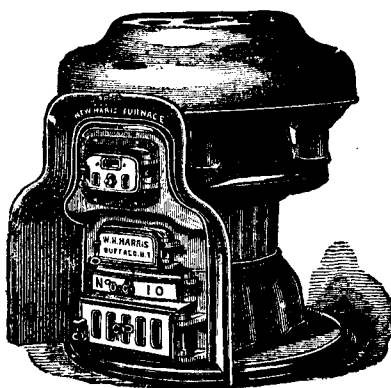
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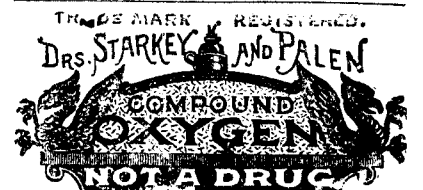
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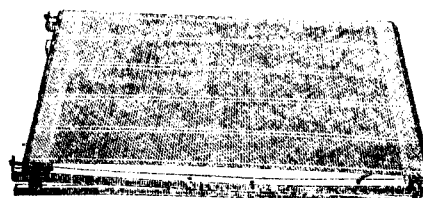


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