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The Week,

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE
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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

IN presence of the long list of exemptions, the average ratepayer exercises more patience than an impartial judge would be disposed to put on the list of his virtues. At a meeting in Toronto an attempt was made to pass a resolution shielding exemptions on Church property; but the majority rejected the proposed exception and denounced all exemptions. The resolution passed called for a permissive act under which any municipality would be at liberty to abolish exemptions. To confer the necessary authority on the municipalities an Act of the Ontario Legislature would cover the whole ground except that on which the exemption of the property of the Federal Government rests. To reach this property an Act of the Federal Legislature would be necessary. If authority for the municipalities to abolish the other exemptions were given there would be no good reason why the Federal Government should stand in the way of the abolition being made complete. It is not to be expected that the Government would consent to have its property taxed while other exemptions remain; but, if the Ontario Government can be induced to let other exemptions go, the defences which guard the exemption of Dominion property would be greatly weakened. The judges who are underpaid ought to receive adequate salaries, and the invidious exemptions in their favour might then go with the rest. Among exemptions it is usual to rank municipal property and public schools. But this property is necessarily exempted; to assess it and go through the form of collecting the taxes would be to incur a needless expense which would bring no compensating gain. The Federal Government might give the Archbishop a new sensation by making known its readiness to agree that Federal property should bear its share of municipal burthens, on the understanding that all other exemptions should, at the same time, be swept away.

ANOTHER discovery of anthracite coal in the North-West is announced on the line of the Canadian Pacific, several hundreds of miles west of Winnipeg; the bed is said to be fourteen feet thick. Mr. G. M. Dawson's "Notes on the Coals and Lignites of the Canadian North-West" shows that anthracite coal was discovered last summer on the Cascade River, near its confluence with the Bow River, and close to the Railway. It is described as "merely a special case of the inclusion of cretaceous coal-bearing rocks in the mountains." The area of these rocks, in that part of the

mountain, is large, embracing the head waters of the North Fork of Old Man, the Crow Nest and North Kootanie Passes, and part of the Elk River. The lignite of the North-West will have its value enhanced by mixture with the anthracite. In a country where abundance of fuel is a primary condition of existence, a supply of anthracite coal is of the first importance. Lignite alone burns rapidly, and a fire made altogether of it could not be relied on to burn through the night without being replenished at an unseasonable hour when the repose of the household cannot be disturbed without inconvenience. Between coal and lignite the supply of fuel in the North-West is so ample that no one need be disturbed by the fear that it will give out. This will go far to conquer the terrors of the winter in that region.

THE experiment of reducing the tolls on the St. Lawrence Canals by one-half cannot be said to have been a marked success. There was a decline of over two millions of bushels in the quantity of wheat carried, while there was an increase in flour of one hundred thousand barrels. On the whole, the gain is very trifling and not worth the cost. But it must be remembered that there was less wheat to carry than the year before, and if there had been no decline in the crop of 1883, the result would have been better. If we look at the whole history of the attempts to attract traffic to the St. Lawrence by reducing and abolishing tolls, the uniform failure of the experiments warn us not to put our trust in such devices. That the Canadian Pacific has been the first railway company to procure the construction of an elevator at Montreal tells of neglected opportunities which no weaker word than culpable will adequately qualify. If that example be followed, if Montreal and Kingston furnish themselves with the appliances necessary for the handling of grain, if they deserve success as they have never taken the trouble to deserve it before, they may do better in future than in the past. To experiment in the reduction or abolition of tolls need not involve any great sacrifice: the loss of revenue is measureable, and if the game prove not to be worth the candle there is no necessity for playing it again. But the cost of a third enlargement of the Welland Canal, if it failed to bring the sought-for prize of increased traffic, would prove an irrecoverable loss. The costly experiment already made of enlarging the canals beyond the capacity that would suffice for the domestic traffic, and reducing and temporarily abolishing canal tolls, have not brought a degree of success that offers much encouragement for their repetition.

FROM many different quarters come complaints that wheat is being sold at a price below the cost of production: in England, in some parts of the United States, and possibly in India. The number of persons who can afford to grow wheat at a loss must be small, and the number who will be content to grow it on these terms is smaller still. Reduced production may be relied on to bring down the supply to the limit of consumption. But a revolution must follow the demonstration that it is possible to produce wheat largely in excess of the world's requirements. Wheat cannot long continue to be sold below cost; but while the law of the necessary price asserts itself selection will go on. The average price must cover the cost of production; but the average price will cover the cost of cultivating only the soils most suitable for the growth of wheat, all the other economic conditions as well as fertility being taken into account. Many lands on which wheat has hitherto been grown will have to be applied to some other purpose. The process of adaption is not new; it has long been going on, even in Canada. The Province of Quebec, which eighty-four years ago exported a million bushels of wheat, does not now supply its own wants. In a less degree the change will come to Ontario; the North-West as a vast wheat field will flourish till the native qualities of the soil are exhausted. Whatever else happens, of this we may be assured: those who raise the world's supply of food will not long consent to do it at a loss.

THE republication of *La Lanterne*, by Arthur Buies, is not without significance. *La Lanterne* first made its appearance at Montreal, in Septem-

ber, 1868, and expired after twenty-six weekly numbers had been published. Bishop Bourget, the support and hope of the Jesuits, was then in the ascendant of his power. Alone among the journals of the Province of Quebec, *La Lanterne* made open war upon the theocracy which aimed at nothing less than the suppression of civil liberty. If M. Buies dealt heavy blows at his adversaries, his face always wore a smile, sometimes of mockery, for satire as well as wit flowed readily from his pen. His printer, threatened with the loss of more valuable patronage, if he continued to print the obnoxious journal, decided that the bigger loaf was the better. The little urchins who sold the paper were threatened and intimidated; news-vendors were influenced to cease selling it; the friends who aided M. Buies got frightened, and at last he was brought to feel like a man alone in a desert. The conditions of existence for *La Lanterne* had passed away, and the pamphlet-journal soon followed. Since that time fifteen years have rolled over, and *La Lanterne* re-appears in book-form. M. Buies marks the significance of the fact by saying: "*Le règne de la théocratie est fini, à tout jamais anéanti.*" He adds that during these years the reaction against the Jesuits and their supporters has proceeded with marvellous rapidity. "There are," he says, "undoubtedly enlightened and educated priests who comprehend their epoch, and who look with fear to the future which the excesses and monstrosities of this party are preparing for the church; but their number is too small to enable them to arrest the torrent of blind and imbecile fanaticism." Still, he feels that no progress for French Canada is possible "till it be entirely freed from clerical control and clerical government." His hope is in the young men, whom the Jesuits can no longer hold in leading-strings; and he thinks the change may be made without shock, and without the violence that too often accompanies revolution. But it remains true that the great mass of the clergy has not abated its pretensions one jot. The Archbishop, in opposing the restoration of the Jesuits' estates and in other ways has shown that he is not ignorant of the spirit of the times in which he lives, and that he is determined to keep in check the wild and desperate schemes of the Jesuits.

THE Nicaraguan Treaty may meet opposition in the House of Representatives at Washington on some side issues. The House may want to know who are the speculators behind the scenes: who are to benefit by the appropriation which it will be necessary to ask should ratification be accorded. A Washington correspondent says: "There are members of the Appropriations Committee who will not without question accept the assurance that the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty is an obsolete instrument;" but whether they are likely to be in a majority is a point on which he offers no opinion. The old-fashioned way of terminating a treaty which had no fixed or contingent time for its cessation was by the mutual consent of the contracting parties. Any new treaty made in violation of an old one used to be accounted null and void. The violation of a treaty by one of the contracting parties authorized the other contracting party to terminate it; but text writers have laid it down that a treaty which is injurious to one of the contracting parties cannot be assumed to have been intended to be perpetual. It was open to the United States to plead any alteration of the circumstances in which the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty originated as a reason why England ought to consent to its abrogation. In the construction of the Suez Canal, which gives England a short cut to her Eastern possessions, an essential alteration of the circumstances in which this treaty originated might have been found, if that event had placed the United States at a relative disadvantage in communicating between New York and San Francisco. And this would have happened if no trans-continental railway had been built. This might have furnished a good reason why the United States should ask to be released from the obligations of the treaty. But if neither of the contracting parties could alone build or maintain a canal across the Isthmus of Panama, might the two not agree to do together what each had prohibited itself from doing alone? No more obvious question could have been asked under the circumstances. To a right of way across the American isthmus all commercial nations may be said to have a fair claim. Under what conditions that right shall be exercised is the only question about which there is room to dispute. It would not be unreasonable that a common highway should afford some guarantee that it would be managed for the general benefit of the nations whose commerce passed over it. There is nothing in the usages of nations or the principles of international law that would justify any one nation assuming exclusive control of a right of way through an independent foreign nation. There are two grounds on which such claim of exclusive control might be made: the propinquity of a predominating power, or a preponderating interest as represented by the most extensive commerce passing over this right of way. One of these claims the United States can make, England the other. But the independence of the sovereignty over whose territory the right of way is given would be best preserved by the

combined guarantee of the nations chiefly interested; and the last use that should be made of a right of way is to menace the independence of the nation whose territory is passed over, and whose rights should be held sacred. That the world's commerce would be greatly benefited by a canal across the American isthmus no one denies; the question is, what are the possible guarantees under which that commerce can best be assured of fair and equitable treatment.

IN the United States a strong tide of opposition has set in against the Spanish Treaty. The New York Chamber of Commerce considers it hostile to the interests of the country and objects to its confirmation. The treaty if confirmed would, it is estimated, cause an annual loss of revenue from the free admission of sugar of twenty-eight millions of dollars, and the objectors to the treaty believe that the nation would receive no adequate compensation for the sacrifice. They argue that the sugar on which duty would continue to be paid would regulate the price in the United States markets, and that the practical result would be to make Spain a present of an annual sum nearly equal to the amount of the duty remitted. The competition for the sugar on which no duty had to be paid would probably raise its price to nearly the level of the total cost of the dutiable sugars. Cuba and Porto Rico would gain by the increase in price. The real question, which the Chamber of Commerce did not touch, is whether this loss would be compensated by the profits on the greater quantities of American goods which would be purchased by Cuba and Porto Rico, and for which an increased price would be paid. Until this question is answered and the full scope of the treaty is brought under review, no adequate judgment can be formed of its probable effect. Certainly the experience of the Hawaiian Treaty is not encouraging. The loss of revenue under that treaty has been over fifteen millions and a-half (\$15,630,000) in seven years, during which time the American exports to the islands have been only a little more than seventeen millions (\$17,130,551). The increase in the exports was only nine per cent. over the general rate of increase, and political arithmeticians argue that for every ten cents of gain to American commerce the nation has sacrificed ninety cents in revenue. The United States trade with Cuba is at present represented by about five dollars' worth of imports to every dollar's worth of exports. Under the treaty the imports would largely increase, and the exports could not remain stationary. When a series of treaties is proposed, in which the intention is to embrace if possible the whole of Central and South America, it is difficult for Congress to deal with them in detail, so different may be the result of one treaty from that of a number of treaties. It would make a great deal of difference between admitting [into the United States free of duty thirty per cent. of the sugar consumed and admitting the whole on these terms. A remission of the duty on the sugar produced by one country would enable that country to raise the price of its sugar to almost the level of the market price as fixed chiefly by the duty-paying sugar; but if all the sugar imported were free, the partial check on competition would be removed, and the market would be supplied on the lowest possible terms. The ratification of a single treaty, when it is uncertain what others are to follow, would be a leap in the dark which Congress will probably not be in haste to take.

MR. THOMAS HUGHES whose English Letter we have the pleasure of presenting to our readers in this number has just been receiving a well-earned tribute of gratitude as the leader of the co-operative movement, a scholarship at Oxford for commercial studies having been founded in his honour. His speech on the occasion has re-opened the debate on Co-operation, and on the efforts of the Christian Socialists to substitute co-operation for competition. Distributive co-operation, or the system of co-operative stores, has been an immense success, not only economically but morally, inasmuch as by introducing ready-money payments it has begotten thrift and set the workingman free from the slavery of debt. Protective co-operation, or the system of co-operative works, has been comparatively a failure, and the lesson taught by the experiment appears to be that we shall neither be able to do without competition nor to dispense with the resources and the guidance of the large capitalist. But Mr. Thomas Hughes is the captain of a band of men who have a claim to gratitude irrespectively of any particular doctrine or experiment. He and his associates, men drawn from the upper class, but full of sympathy with the working-class, have stood at a critical juncture of social history between the conflicting interests, and by acting as mediators and arbitrators averted industrial war. It is largely owing to their efforts that England has been saved from the fierce and destructive collisions which have taken place in France and other countries. They have succeeded in giving to English industry peace, with justice. A higher service could hardly have been rendered to a community.

“BYSTANDER” ON CURRENT EVENTS AND OPINIONS.

Just as Australian Confederation was collapsing destiny appears to be providing it with that which historical experience seems to point out as the indispensable incentive to union. A foreign power with an unfriendly aspect has suddenly planted its foot in the neighbourhood, and shown that it intends to claim a share of that oceanic realm which the Australians have deemed their own, and which their prophetic imagination has peopled with the future communities of their race. The German occupation of New Britain and New Ireland and of part of New Guinea assumes a still graver character if the German Government is acting in concert with that of France. There is enough to fire the spirit of the Australians and dispose them to a league, if for no other purpose, for that of mutual defence. But, like all dependencies, those colonies are without military force of their own. They have no idea but that of running for protection to the Mother Country, and berating the Colonial Secretary because he does not take the most formidable power in Europe by the beard. If Confederation is intended to produce a development of military strength, it must be accompanied by independence. It is idle to dream that a thrifty community will tax itself to maintain armaments of its own so long as there is an Imperial country bound, and, as is imagined, capable of protecting it with her arms. Canadians know how much there is in reality corresponding to the boasts in which our politicians indulge at British dinner-tables, or when they are on the trail of Imperial honours. The capabilities of the Mother Country, however, are limited: she is still strong: the panic outcry about the state of her navy has only served to bring out the proof that she is still far the greatest of maritime powers; but she is not as she used to be, the only great maritime power, nor is it possible that she should cope with a world in arms. Summoned at once to confront Germany in the Pacific, the Boers and their Dutch sympathizers at the Cape, France in China, the Medhi with France diplomatically at his side in Egypt, Russia on the Asiatic frontier and perhaps at the Balkans, the United States on the question of the Nicaraguan Treaty and the Fisheries question, with Ireland in rebellion and rumours afloat of an impending crisis in India, how can she suffice for all these things? The Radical Jingo may dream that they can turn all the seas into water streets of a British Venice by some rhetorical process and without the aid, renounced by Radicals, of military force. If they succeed in persuading England to enter on that path, their dream is likely to have a rude awakening.

APART from our special interest in all that concerns the Mother Country, this volcanic eruption of German Colonization threatens us with serious consequences as citizens of the New World. One of the most momentous though the least noted effects of the American Revolution was the diversion of British emigration from America to Australia. Had the parting between the Mother Country and the adult colonies been friendly instead of being hostile, those British cities which now stand in Australia would have risen, with their industries and their wealth, in the United States. What is of still more importance, that element of American population in which the habits and traditions of self-government chiefly reside would have received a large reinforcement. It is pretty clear that the Anglo-American race is declining in numbers; its women have been pampered into a dislike of the burdens of maternity which is deplored by all who write upon these subjects, either from a medical or a social point of view. The question is whether its remaining stock of vitality is sufficient to enable it, before it loses its tutelary ascendancy, to complete the political education of the other races. The other races are the German, the Irish, the French, which is fast extending its borders, and the negro; to which perhaps should be added the Italian, which is now coming in increasing numbers. Of these, the German, especially the North German, is, as material for free citizens, unquestionably the best: its fundamental character is that of the Teuton, and though it has not till recently undergone much training in self-government, it is at worst a blank sheet of paper: it has contracted no evil tendencies or malignity of political disposition. It is steadily industrious, and steady industry, with the possession of its fruits, forms the essential basis of the character of a good citizen. Nor is it the slave of any superstition: for even the Catholic German shows the blood of Luther, and is a Liberal compared with the Irishman, or with the Frenchman of Quebec. There can be no worthier or more valuable citizens than our German population in Waterloo County. Among the Germans the family also remains unimpaired; sexual revolution has not yet touched it or affected the habits of the women, and the race seems likely, in the rivalry of races, to hold its own. The diversion of German emigration from these shores to Africa or Australia, on which Bismarck appears bent, would, therefore, withdraw from this continent

so much of the element on the steady supply of which depend our best hopes for the political future. Whatever may be the gifts and graces of the French or the Irish character, nobody has ever ascribed to either a special aptitude for the creation or the maintenance of free institutions, and the doom of political hopelessness pronounced by Mommsen on the whole of the race to which the vivacious and romantic Gaul belonged, if it is not the final verdict of history, is at least by comparison true. Of the political character of the negro the outcome and monument is Haiti. The Italians are chiefly from Calabria or other districts in Southern Italy, which till yesterday had not seen the face of freedom since the ruin of Amalfi. The French, the Irish and the Italians are alike completely under the sway of a Church which always has been and always must be anti-national as well as hostile in spirit to liberty of every kind, and which is now at open war with popular right and the other organic principles of our new-world civilization. The welfare of the emigrants from Germany themselves will be sacrificed to Bismarck's fancy for keeping them under the German flag. An immense advantage is enjoyed by the emigrant who can find room in a long settled country, where the rough work has been already done for him, and all the benefits of civilization, both material and social, surround him as soon as he steps ashore. The pioneer in a new country, even in the most fertile of new countries, is one of a forlorn hope; he has to wage in loneliness a single-handed contest with nature, and he is fortunate if his body does not help, like those of the Russian soldiers at Ismail, to build the bridge over which happier generations are to advance to the capture of the town. After all, Bismarck is likely, as was said before, to find that distant colonies, whose infancy will long be in need of protection, are nothing like so real a source of strength to him and his diplomacy as the German vote in the United States.

No plea surely can be more righteous than that of the brewers and others interested in the liquor trade for the requirement of a fair proportional majority, as a proof that the opinion of the community is really and deliberately in favour of a sumptuary law. Those who decline to vote for the Scott Act must be counted against it, since they show by their abstention that in their opinion a case has not been made out for this extraordinary legislation; and reckoning thus, it will be found that the Act has almost everywhere been carried by a minority of the constituency. The result of course is that when carried it has no force of public sentiment to sustain it, and the only grant of the measure is the conversion of the liquor trade from a licensed and regulated business into unregulated contrabandism. Fresh evidence appears, and in the columns of a journal which supports the Scott Act, that in Maine you can have as much liquor as you please, only of vile quality, and in an illicit way; while an English writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette* reports that he has been looking in Maine for the good effect of Prohibition on the character and condition of the people, but no such effect is to be seen. The alcohol panic will in time subside; perhaps it will be succeeded by an opium panic, a tobacco panic, or a tea panic; people will get tired of decorating themselves with the Blue Ribbon of Superior Virtue; the political adventurers who are in that line of business will have gathered in their harvest; and the Scott Act will either be repealed or fall into desuetude. We shall then find ourselves in face of an unlicensed liquor trade, while by the suppression of beer and cider the people will have become used to drink nothing but ardent spirits, and the moral agencies which are now successfully combating drunkenness will have fallen into abeyance. These adoptions of the Scott Act are ostensibly measures of local self-government; in reality they scarcely deserve that name. Local opinion is not left to act spontaneously and with freedom. The movement is in fact carried on by a centralized organization, which brings its machinery to bear on one county after another, and some of the chief wire-pullers and stump-orators of which are now Americans, who of course have no compunction in ruining a Canadian trade. The menaced trade has not a fair chance because it may be attacked at any moment, and it cannot be always in a posture of defence or carrying on a counter agitation. It is time that Parliament should do its duty. This abandonment of legislation to agitators, local or general, is mere poltroonery. If it is necessary that a restriction should be imposed on the habits of the people, let the national Legislature impose it and see that it is carried into effect.

An eminent contemporary, in some remarks on independent journalism, of which, as a whole, writers in *THE WEEK* had certainly no reason to complain, noted as drawbacks a want of sympathy with the men engaged in the public life of the country, a tendency to encourage cynicism towards the only political system possible in this country, and the creation of an unhealthy disposition in young men by making them fancy them-

selves superior to those whom the people have sent to represent them. These undoubtedly would be serious deductions from any good that an independent journalist could do. But, as to the first, let our contemporary look over his own files, even for the last week, and see what epithets are there bestowed upon the opposite party and its leaders; with the savory fruits of this research let him combine a similar anthology culled from the files of his chief antagonist. He will find that if ten per cent. of the things said on both sides is true, the most adverse judgments of the "Bystander," instead of being charged with evincing a want of proper sympathy, ought rather to be arraigned as attempts to whitewash infamy. To the second charge the "Bystander" would reply, that cynicism is a very bad habit of mind, but its root is the indifference to good or evil begotten of a despair of improvement; and the "Bystander" would hold that he was guilty of propagating it, indeed, if he were to preach that an everlasting faction fight, with its passions, its corruptions, its calumnies, its substitution of party feeling for patriotism, of party morality for the rule of public honour, with its fatal selection of low natures for high places and its progressive ostracism of those who would best serve the state, was the only political system possible for Canada. He always recognizes the system as established, and tries to judge public men by its rules and with equitable allowance for its exigencies; but he cherishes the hope of better things. Perhaps his readers often think that he has Party on the brain. There is present to his mind, perhaps, more vividly than to the minds of those whose studies have not lain in the same direction, the conviction that faction is the ruin of commonwealths, and that elective institutions, sacred and deeply rooted as they may seem to us, have no charmed life. Finally, respect for constituted authority is an excellent thing in freemen, and we may well wish that we had a good deal more of it; but it is not exactly the sentiment which a Party opposition most sedulously or effectually promotes. The reputed representatives of the people will have a better claim to it when they are really chosen by the people and not nominated by the managers of a machine.

THE utterances of Mr. Gladstone's new Secretary for Ireland, Mr. Campbell Bannerman, have made that still more clear which was clear enough before. The Radicals are prepared to purchase the Irish Vote by the sacrifice of the Union, and in this matter Mr. Gladstone is in the hands of the Radicals. He is now like any other king, inaccessible to unwelcome truth. If his policy of conciliation is a failure, masked only by the operation of the Crimes Act; if all his appeals to Irish good-will are met by renewed outbursts of insolent hatred; if his own life and those of his colleagues have still to be guarded by squads of policemen against the daggers of a grateful and admiring people; if Irish obstruction and vituperation are unabated in the House of Commons; he is still persuaded by those who have his ear that the policy, nevertheless, is preternatural wisdom, and that its success would at once be apparent if it were only carried out by more docile and faithful agents. He got rid of Lord Cowper and Mr. Forster, and was prevented from ratifying the compact of Kilmainham only by the Phoenix Park murders, which compelled him to do something for the protection of loyal life in Ireland. The successors of Lord Cowper and Mr. Forster, Lord Spencer and Mr. Trevelyan, have governed in the mildest and most equitable manner: indeed they have protected rebel and discouraged loyal demonstrations to an extent of which loyalists had not a little reason to complain; but they have enforced the law, and for so doing they have been assailed by the Disunionists with rabid and bestial abuse. They accordingly are to give place, Mr. Trevelyan to an ultra-Radical Secretary who somewhat ludicrously makes his debut in Disunionism surrounded by detectives; and Lord Spencer, if the announcement is correct, to the Roman Catholic Lord Ripon, in whose favour the law excluding Roman Catholics from the office of Lord Lieutenant is first to be repealed. The repeal of any religious disability would in itself be welcomed by all men of liberal mind; but the measure will wear a different aspect if it is intended as a fresh concession to violence, and at the same time as a rebuff to the loyal Protestants of the North of Ireland, who are the greatest obstacle to Disunionist machinations, and are accordingly the constant objects of Radical hatred and abuse. Mr. Campbell Bannerman talks in the usual strain of England governing Ireland and governing her with injustice. Ireland has not been a dependency; she has had more than her share of representation in Parliament, and there has been nothing to prevent her delegation from exercising the same influence in everything concerning her local interests which has been exercised by the Scotch delegation in everything concerning the local interests of Scotland. Saturated with the venomous hatred of England and the British Government which has been instilled by the Disunionist platforms and press, the Irish people will receive these new bribes and flatteries as they have received all the rest. As a finance minister and a

legislator Mr. Gladstone holds the highest place: as a Prime Minister, while nobody questions the purity of his intentions, he has brought the country into a complication of dangers such as have not beset it for many a day.

WILL the festival at which Christians celebrate the advent of charity as well as of spiritual life never cease to be marred by the uncharitable anathemas of the Athanasian Creed? This is a question which not a few members of the Church of England ask when they attend service on Christmas Day. Old George III. never would stand up when the Athanasian Creed was read, and he showed by this silent protest against its parade of paradox and its reckless denunciations the spirit of a true Christian. Some of the best and wisest of Anglican prelates and divines have avowed that they wished the Church well rid of it. It is an ecclesiastical fabrication like the false Decretals, the Donation of Constantine and the list of the Early Popes of Rome. If it embodies the spirit of the age in which it appeared, the other forgeries did the same. It never existed in the language in which St. Athanasius spoke and wrote, nor can its origin be traced even in the Latin Church higher than the end of the eighth century. This seems now to be a settled point. Its anathema includes the whole of the Eastern Church, which has never embraced its doctrine as to the procession of the Holy Ghost from the Second Person; and thus High Anglicans are constantly consigning to eternal perdition a communion with which all the time they are trying hard to bring about an alliance. Nay, the writer of the Fourth Gospel can scarcely escape the ban, for it is hardly possible to construe the fourteenth verse of the first chapter in the original otherwise than as a contradiction of the words "not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh." Active participation in denouncing curses on your fellow-Christians for misbelief is a different thing from mere tacit acquiescence in doctrinal definitions for which you do not care; and those who do not concur are bound positively to express their dissent. If a lie is, as Bacon says, an unclean sacrifice to be offered to the God of Truth, surely the solemn recitation of a form of words without meaning is not much better; and what meaning can any human understanding attach to such terms as "begotten" and "proceeding" when applied to relations between Beings believed to have existed from eternity? If venerable antiquity is pleaded as the title of the Athanasian Creed to retention, the antiquity of the whole Roman Catholic system, or at least of its essential parts, is at least equally venerable. This unhappy relic of mediæval dogmatism and intolerance is a heavy stone round the neck of the Church while she is struggling in deep waters. Is there no hand which can set her free?

A BYSTANDER.

AMERICAN CLERGYMEN IN POLITICS.

AN important consequence of the nomination of Mr. Blaine to the Presidency was the strain it put upon the morals of the people, who, either willingly or reluctantly, came to the support of their party's candidate. Politicians, hitherto deemed to be high-minded and conscientious, found themselves gradually driven to juggle with the hard facts of the letters to "Dear Mr. Fisher"—all the harder by reason of the untenable explanations which the author had given of them from his seat in Congress. Editors and stump-speakers plunged into an abyss of cant, hypocrisy and wilful exaggeration with regard to the private character and habits of Governor Cleveland, in desperate efforts to turn public attention away from the real issue raised by the appearance of Mr. Blaine as the leader of the party of moral ideas. Voters yearning for righteousness in politics drugged their consciences by adhering to "the regular ticket" while disclaiming responsibility for the names upon it. All these classes are more or less hurt in their own esteem and in popular estimation; such is the chastening effects of defeat. But no class has been so hard hit as the clergy: a misfortune all round; for what with one thing and another the clerical profession has been steadily losing in position and influence these latter years. The lubricious inventions of the Rev. Mr. Ball, of Buffalo, first given to the public in the columns of a sensational and disreputable newspaper, and subsequently enlarged, improved and circulated by millions in the form of pamphlets, came at an opportune moment to the relief of the unscrupulous men in the inner circle of management, who had found to their despair that the Mulligan letters would not do, and that the gauzy "American policy," which had found a name, but not an exposition, was overshadowed by them. The word was accordingly passed along the line of local committees to "work the ministers" in behalf of imperilled purity in the American home, and unhappily many of the clergy took the bait and worked far more zealously than honestly in behalf of good morals and the Grand Old Party. The ill-assorted alliance between religion and

politics found its fitting culmination in the extraordinary speech of the Rev. Mr. Burchard in behalf of the motley gathering of real and constructive clergymen brought together in New York to give a high moral and religious colouring to the canvass of Mr. Blaine at a critical period thereof. The smallness of the plurality by which the Republicans lost New York State and the Presidency has induced the disappointed spoilsmen to lay the blame at the door of this unhappy clergyman, and he has been the subject of abuse so coarse and irreverent as to throw a strong side-light upon the utilitarian view which the genus politician takes of things sacred and properly removed from the grosser concerns of earthly life.

The extensive and open support which Mr. Blaine received among the lower grades of the Catholic priesthood was an unconscious tribute to the shiftiness of his character. Having been nurtured by a pious Catholic mother, these gentlemen of the black robe evidently regarded him as a good Catholic at heart, who had merely put on Protestantism as a needed disguise among a Puritan constituency, in order thereby to prosper, as a good Catholic has the right to prosper, amid the ungodly. Now that the whole venture has ended in failure, it cannot be agreeable to the dignitaries of the church that such a departure from precedent, by a portion of the inferior clergy, should be emphasized by contrast with the total abstention of the Episcopalian clergy from dabbling in the muddy pool of politics, wherein so many brethren of other denominations have bedraggled their garments. The Catholic Church in the United States has no really formidable rivals other than the Protestant Episcopal organization and the Agnostics. It would not be possible within the limits of an ordinary article to explain why the Episcopal communion has become so vigorous; but "Bystander" has very lately suggested the leading causes in THE WEEK. The dignified reserve of its clergy during the recent political saturnalia cannot fail to strengthen its position, and unless I have been reading the signs of the times backward this particular church has a future that the Mother Church can look upon only in hopeless admiration.

B.

ENGLISH LETTER.

DECEMBER 13TH.

THERE is something almost uncanny in the sudden peace and calm which has settled down on us over here in the last three weeks. Ever since the leaders of the two parties had the good sense to meet for the settlement of the question which has been keeping our politicians savagely by the ears since February, and threatened to drag on for at least another session, and require a revolution to get the government apparatus in working order again, this blissful condition has been ours. For a few days after it was known that the meeting of leaders was serious and likely to be successful, the storm birds of politics shrieked and fluttered. Mr. James Lowther on one side, and Mr. Labouchere on the other, hastened to brandish the "No Surrender" flag, with a number of rank and file behind them to do the appropriate shouting. But somehow the crews declined to answer, and the flags have had to be furled for the moment. I fear it is almost too much to hope that we shall not see them out again next spring, but short views are best in these critical times, and we must be thankful for small mercies. So all reasonable politicians are rejoicing over the bright political weather as we all are over the natural weather, which has not been so genial within living memory. There has as yet been scarcely a day in which an overcoat has been needed, and we are within a fortnight of Christmas.

Of course this new departure in politics is the most interesting topic for all who pay any serious attention to public affairs. What does it mean? Are we really at the beginning of a new era, or is this settlement of the Reform question merely a lucky accident, indicating conditions not likely to occur again in a generation? It is much easier to ask than to answer such questions. So far as I have been able to judge, the great majority of public men here regard it as an exception, and look upon government by party, as at present in force in England, as both a necessity and the best method we are ever likely to get for managing great affairs in our country. The unique position of Mr. Gladstone is assumed to have made the late arrangement possible, and it is neither likely nor desirable that we should see any leader, for some generations at any rate, who can occupy that position again. Concert may be all very well for settling social questions, however important—for instance this most serious one of rehousing our people, upon which there is no difference of principle, but only of methods between men who belong to the opposing camps—but when you come to high political matters it is mere illusion to suppose that they can be dealt with except in the old way. You are only fooling people to pretend that it is otherwise; trying to persuade them you are playing

whist when you are really playing beggar-my-neighbour—an effort which will only make things worse in the end. Such I freely admit is the prevailing view of men who are by no means enamoured of party, or disposed as a rule to be distrustful of new ways, and who have had long experience in Parliamentary life. Nevertheless one cannot help asking—and there is a growing section of serious politicians amongst the questioners—where are you going to draw the line? In dealing with social questions—undoubtedly the most vital of all just now, and likely to be so for a generation or two—you admit that concert is the true method. Where the honour of the country is at stake again, as in Egypt and South Africa, you agree that considerations of party should be forgotten. Where then should they be kept in mind? Precisely, one would suppose, in the domain of what are commonly called pure politics, of which the representation of the people may be taken as, at any rate, one of the most important branches. And yet here—in this preserve of pure politics, the undoubted happy hunting-ground of the ambitious politician—concert has been tried when the usual methods had brought the parties to a deadlock, and the country to the brink of a bitter war of classes, and the cloud has cleared away in a few days. We have got the enfranchising act passed, and the Redistribution Bill before the House, with a pledge of loyal support from the leaders on both sides. Of course for all this government by party *may* be the last and highest word which can be spoken about government in a perverse and blundering world like ours; but it must, I think, be admitted that there is still room for a suspense of judgment.

It must not be supposed, however, that the peace which is so appropriately reigning once again at this Christmas time, and which in all likelihood will not be seriously disturbed so far as the completion of the Reform measure by the passing of the Redistribution of Seats Bill already before the country is concerned, will prevent the question of the Reform of the House of Lords from coming up again in a very serious shape in the early days of the new Parliament, if not sooner. Nothing can be clearer than the resolution of the constituencies upon this point; in fact they are much more resolute upon it than their members or the new candidates, with few exceptions. That the House of Lords will be abolished as a second chamber is very unlikely, but that they will be able to hold their present position is much more so. In fact, the attitude of a man like Lord Rosebery, who may be taken as a good representative of the younger members who have a claim to be considered serious politicians, shows that reform is courted by those of the body who are worth retaining in the service of the country. Of course there are fifty schemes of reform in the air of which perhaps the most sensible is, the selection of some two hundred from the present Peers; nomination of a certain further number by the government of the day; and the addition of eminent men from the professions from time to time as occasion serves. At present, however, such plans are in camera: discussed in clubs, but not yet formulated. Only this seems perfectly clear, that if the Peers fail to utilize next session for the purpose of reforming themselves they will find the subject taken up in a resolute manner by the next Parliament. When Duke's grandsons, already in office, are telling popular meetings that there is no use for a second chamber, and no excuse for the House of Lords in its present shape, and their audiences frankly agree with them, the reform cannot be far off.

Lord Ripon is on his way home from India, and Lord Dufferin reigns in his stead. The journey of the late Viceroy from Sinta to Calcutta was one long triumph, so far as the natives were concerned. They turned out in enormous numbers and literally almost buried him in flowers at several of the larger stations, while the Europeans, as a rule, stayed away. His vicerealty has been a critical one, and may possibly be the beginning of great changes in the East. Ever since the Queen's proclamation, when India was taken over from the East India Company, the theory has prevailed that the country was to be ruled for the good of the people, who were to be trained and encouraged to take an active part in their own affairs, and treated in all respects as British subjects. As a rule, the viceroys from Lord Canning downwards have been loyal to the proclamation, the only marked exception being Lord Lytton, Lord Beaconsfield's nominee. Under him we had the invasion of Afghanistan, and the expedition to Cyprus, resulting in a dangerous development of the Jingo spirit both in the civil and military departments of government. Meantime the University of Calcutta and other places of education had been turning out hundreds of highly educated natives, while those who had been successful in entering the Civil Service in the early years of the Queen's reign were rising into high positions as judges or administrators. At this juncture Lord Ripon succeeded, and as every one who knew his character expected, set himself to work to carry out loyally the spirit of the Queen's proclamation. The Jingo spirit resented this after its usual manner, and for more than three years the English in India, with, of course, many notable

exceptions, have been engaged in doing everything in their power to humiliate the Viceroy and thwart his policy. They have not had much success, though in the case of the Ilbert Bill they managed to frighten the Council, and so to some extent to spoil the Act; but the social self-government policy is working far better than its authors anticipated, and the land law reform is too far advanced already to be in any danger of reversal. It will be interesting to watch Lord Dufferin's handling of these burning questions. It will be a new sensation to him to find himself in antagonism to the dominant section of the society round him; but his first utterance at Bombay, though to a certain extent ambiguous, would seem to indicate a resolution to carry out his predecessor's policy loyally. Possibly his unsurpassed tact may enable him to reconcile the English genteel mob in Calcutta and elsewhere to the inevitable. If so his appointment will prove a blessing to India and England; for now that the Queen's proclamation has been made a reality for four years there can be no falling back on the old lines without serious danger at once, and certain disaster in the future; and meantime it will be interesting to observe how the late Viceroy is received in high quarters at home. There have been rumours of differences between him and the Government, and particularly that, as to the raising of the age of Indian candidates in the examinations for the Civil Service, he has been overruled. We will hope for better things from the Gladstone Government, though not from the Indian branch of the Privy Council; and the acceptance of an Indian gentleman, Mr. Samohim, as the liberal candidate for Greenwich, and the vigorous growth of the Indian Reform Association, are hopeful signs that the people at home are roused, and are on the right track.

The Queen is off again to the Riviera; indeed at last it looks as though she had abandoned all the old court tradition of staying at home, and letting royalty be seen in the midst of the sumptuous ceremonial which the nation provides for it. Possibly she may be right in thus educating people to set as little store by the trappings as she does; but then probably it would be wise to find incomes for the young princes and princesses without coming to the country.

THOMAS HUGHES.

NORTH-WEST NOTES.

WINNIPEG, December 22.

AFTER a lapse of about eight months, during which time the political issues between this Province and the Federal Government were allowed to partially subside, the people here have again been roused to interest by the mission of the Hon. Premier Norquay and Mr. Murray, Speaker of the Local Legislature, to Ottawa. It will be remembered that the entire Legislature united before the close of the last session, and formulated a Bill of Rights for presentation to the Dominion Government. The old claims are embraced in the Bill of Rights, viz.: local control of Provincial lands, and compensation for those sold by the Dominion Government; the right to charter railways to the boundary; reduction of the tariff on agricultural implements and canned fruits; and other concessions of more trifling moment. It is quite well-known that the demands will not be conceded, for the set policy of the Federal Government is to protect the Canada Pacific Railway at all hazards, and visiting Dominion Ministers here last summer pointed out upon different occasions that any scheme by which traffic would be diverted from the Canada Pacific Railway could not be endorsed by the Dominion Government. Mr. Norquay's instructions are to accept nothing short of the entire Bill of Rights. Mr. Norquay knows that the Dominion Government is prepared to offer certain liberal concessions which will increase the subsidy to this Province to an extent in some degree commensurate with its requirements. The House will not accept as a whole anything short of what was agreed upon last session, and it is quite probable that Mr. Norquay will recommend the acceptance of what the Government has intimated privately it is prepared to concede, and then appeal to the country. With a redistribution of seats, which Mr. Norquay has promised before another appeal to the constituencies shall be made, the chances of the present Government being sustained would be anything but favourable. The farmers of Manitoba are a strong body and they feel very keenly upon the railway question. Any settlement which did not concede the right to charter lines of railway to the south would scarcely be tolerated by them. Besides, the redistribution of seats would result in the opening of many constituencies in the western part of the Province and the abolition of a number of little "pocket boroughs," for which French members, all supporters of the Government, are now sitting. Mr. Norquay's personal popularity is very considerable, but unless his policy be sound he would be taking a dangerous step by appealing to the country at present upon any platform which did not accord to Manitoba the absolute right to charter roads to any point in the Province without any prescription.

The people of Manitoba do not attach much importance to the rumours regarding Norquay's possible entrance into the Dominion Cabinet. There is a strong feeling here that Mr. Norquay's action at the Tory chieftain's anniversary in Toronto was not sufficiently dignified, in view of the object of his mission east. Outside of a small handful known as the "Old Guard," there are few Conservatives in this country, in the eastern sense of the

word "Conservative." There is a strong "Manitoba First" party, composed of men who have forgotten their early political predilections, and are now merged into a party who see that their interests lie solely in Provincial advancement without any regard to Dominion politics.

The removal of Attorney-General Miller from position was a stroke of policy on the part of Mr. Norquay, which served greatly to increase his popularity. While perhaps the hands of the Local Government were not entirely free from responsibility in the flogging of the convict Cormack, the odium fell upon the unfortunate head of Mr. Miller, and this crowning blunder of a series since he entered the Cabinet gave the Government the pretext it doubtless desired to rid itself of an awkward load. The result of his libel suit with the *Sun* was a fitting close of a public career in Manitoba as unenviable as it was unfortunate to the actor.

The result of the civic elections here will have a salutary effect upon the interests of this place, as it will do much to restore confidence in the integrity of the city. The complete rout of the party whose administration has been characterized by fraud and corruption, and the signal victory of the party pledged to economy and retrenchment, was an event for which the city has reason to feel proud. The men elected are as a body above reproach, and their term of office, which begins with the new year, will doubtless prove salutary to the city. Winnipeg has now reached that extremity when the utmost caution is necessary to save her from bankruptcy and ruin. All the money raised by debentures last year is gone, and the daily expenditure is met by money raised as a mortgage upon the taxes for the present fiscal year. A very large proportion of last year's taxes, as well as those of the previous year, are still uncollected, and the prospect of collecting arrearages is very gloomy. People have not got the money, and there are no immediate prospects of better times.

When the harvest was reaped, the prospect of an improvement in the financial situation of the Province was encouraging, but the price of wheat went down and continued to descend until to-day it scarcely brings enough per bushel to recoup the farmer for his trouble, and therefore nothing is left to wipe off the outstanding notes of a year or two, which were given for agricultural implements, etc. The price of wheat ranges from thirty-five cents to fifty-six or sixty cents per bushel, according to quality, and complaint is made of the rigour exercised in grading the wheat at Port Arthur, and of the high grades adopted. The lack of snow in the country has also proved a drawback, for the farmer has been unable to bring his wheat to market, and there is still a very large quantity remaining in the granary all over the Province.

The discovery of an inexhaustible supply of coal of a superior anthracite character in the North-West Territories, on the line of the Canada Pacific Railway, forever solves the problem of fuel supply in this country. Last week at Crowfoot Crossing, a station eight hundred miles west of here on the Bow River, a seam fourteen feet thick was discovered at a depth of 135 feet. The seam is known to extend thirty miles, for it crops out on the banks of the Red Deer River that distance from Crowfoot Crossing. Several tests proved the coal to be anthracite, and exactly adapted for coal stoves and locomotives. The coal is said to equal in weight and quality the Pittsburg coal. The development of the coal industries of this country will be a pursuit to which much attention will soon be directed.

R. L. R.

HERE AND THERE.

THE contest for the position of Chief Magistrate in Toronto will be watched with more than ordinary interest. Advocates of Municipal Reform have increased in numbers and in courage, and have voiced their protest against the present system with no uncertain sound. It is felt that the municipal institutions which have hitherto done duty are on their trial—that they have been found woefully wanting. Civic government, by party has proved even more disastrous than the partisan administration of the national business. Incompetence and dishonesty, encouraged by the immunity resultant from general indifference, have at last issued in jobbery and mismanagement of so glaring a character as to open the eyes of somnolent ratepayers, and the word has gone forth that measures not men will be voted for in the future. An important step in this direction is the liberation of the mayoral contest from party considerations. Without touching upon the respective personal fitness of the gentlemen nominated for the responsible position during the coming year, it is generally conceded that the one is the nominee of the Conservative Party, whose franchises he will command as such, whilst the other represents the new creed—Municipal Reform—the dissociation of politics and civic affairs, and a more guarded expenditure of the city's revenues.

IN the contested Aldermanic Elections in Toronto the leaning of Municipal Reformers appears to be in favour of the following candidates: St. Paul's Ward, Gibson, Saunders and Hastings; St. John's Ward, Proctor and Hunter; St. Patrick's Ward, Brandon and Pepler; St. David's Ward, Lamb; St. Lawrence Ward, Taylor, James and Frankland; St. Thomas' Ward, Carlyle and Drayton; St. Andrew's Ward, Hall and Carlyle; St. James's Ward, Steiner, McMillan and Gormley; St. Mark's Ward, McKenzie and Denison.

ALL who know Mr. Mason will acquiesce in the propriety of his re-election to the civic chair of Hamilton, not only on account of his general popularity, but of the necessity—consequent upon depression of trade and a somewhat heavy expenditure for improvements—for carefully watching financial matters.

In the course of some remarks upon the Mayoral election in Ottawa, the *Sun* of that city takes occasion to protest against the introduction of politics and sectarian issues into municipal matters, a practice which, as is very properly indicated, has proved not only "a failure in municipal matters, but a positive injury—an injury not less to the man elected by it than to the city at large." The *Sun* then goes on in the following humorous strain:—"Ottawa does not want a Tory for Mayor, nor a Grit, nor a Reformer, nor a Liberal, nor a Conservative, nor a Liberal-Conservative, nor a Conservative-Liberal, nor an Englishman, nor an Irishman, nor a Scotchman, nor a Frenchman, nor a German, nor a Scandinavian, nor an American, nor a Protestant, nor a Catholic, nor a Methodist, nor a Presbyterian, nor a Baptist, nor a Calvinist, nor a Quaker, nor a Reformed Episcopalian, nor a Lutheran, nor a New Adventist, nor a Freethinker, nor an Agnostic. There are good men in the city of Ottawa belonging to each of these denominations. What Ottawa wants is a square upright, honourable man. A man of business, a man of character, a man of wealth and position in the community, a man with something like inflexibility in his composition, who will hold the balance between contending interests equitably. It will be a sad thing for the city if such a man cannot be found and when found elected, no matter from whence he draws his lineage or where he goes on Sunday. But failing, as we are pretty sure to fail in securing such a man, we must, or we ought, to take the next best we can find."

THE "Sandwich Man" has made his unpoetical appearance on the streets of Toronto—a striking proof of the "hard times" it is so industriously sought to conceal.

EVERYTHING seems to point to the probability that the approaching Winter Carnival in Montreal will be a great success. Preparations of the most vigorous nature for the carrying out of a full and attractive programme are in progress, the citizens seeming to vie one with another in their endeavours to assist the central committee.

LET those who bemoan the fickleness of the Ontario climate, and more particularly the recent barometrical eccentricities of Toronto, read and extract comfort from the following description of what passes current for "weather" in London:—"If Mr. Mantalini were alive and in town this week, he would have had no occasion to change the sovereign and take a bath in order to be a demd damp, moist, unpleasant body. Everybody has been moist and damp. It has been demd moist, and damp, and unpleasant weather. Life under an umbrella, life splashed with liquid mud up to the knees, life with damp boots, and spoilt hats, and wet clothes, and rheumatism in every limb, is the most absolutely unpleasant form of life I know, and that is the form of life to which we who cannot spend the seven days in an easy chair over the library fire have been condemned for many days past. The soaked and sodden existence which the generality of us have of late endured has told upon the spirits and temper of the town. I haven't seen a smiling face in the streets for a week, and there is but one reply to the stereotyped greeting, 'How are you?' and that reply is, 'Jolly miserable.'"

THERE were thirty-three failures in Canada reported to *Bradstreet's* during the past week, as compared with twenty-six in the preceding week, and with twenty-four, seventeen and twelve, respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1883, 1882 and 1881. In the United States 278 failures took place in the past week as compared with 305 in the preceding week, and with 260, 242 and 161, respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1883, 1882 and 1881. About eighty per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000. The estimated total number of failures in Canada for the year is 1,400 against 1,464 in 1883 and 755 in 1882. The estimated total number of failures in the United States for the year is 11,600, against 10,299 in 1883 and 7,635 in 1882.

THERE can be no greater encouragement for Tariff Reformers than the *suppressio veri* policy adopted by the N. P. organs in this country. The barefaced manner in which these reproduce exaggerated statements of commercial distress which occasionally appear in English papers, and burke all *per contra* statements, is a clear confession of weakness—an instance of "no case, blackguard the opposite side." No sound cause suffers by the truth being told about it. It was only the other day that a prominent New York journal stated there was more distress in the United States than in England, and the *Manchester Examiner*—one of the most reliable dailies in England—of a recent date says: "Notwithstanding the protracted dulness of trade, pauperism appears to be absolutely on the decrease, probably because of the cheapness of the staple articles of food." It is not possible that the zealous journalists who so pertinaciously bolster up a bad cause are ignorant of the reverse of the medal. But it is a melancholy spectacle this—morality prostituted to party exigences.

THE "Fair Traders" in England are trying another dodge. They say that if the country will only give them a five-shilling duty on corn they will answer for it that there shall be no increase in the price of bread. Now, what is the object of a five-shilling duty on corn? Why do the farmers want it? Because, as they say, wheat is too cheap. If the five-shilling duty is put on and the price of corn is not increased, the farmers will get no advantage, except in the relief of taxation. Economically, the five-shilling duty would be nothing but a tax for revenue. If the foreign producer did pay it, the English farmer would be no better off than he is at present. He would have the same depressed markets: he would have

wheat still at its low price; he would be in all respects where he is now. The "Fair Trader" is just simply palming a fraud off by talking of such a thing.

THE marvel is that English farmers have so little discernment as to permit themselves to be swayed by the selfishness of the class immediately above them. One would think they had perspicacity enough to see that the artificially-increased prosperity would signify a corresponding increase in rent values. Instead of being the material gainers they would be merely the collectors of the added margin of profit, with the obligation of paying it over to the landlords under the title of rent. Luckily there is no prospect of its imposition. Whatever the farmers may consent to do at the bidding of the lords of the soil, the great mass of the people will not tolerate any attempt to enhance the price of their food. Five-sixths of the population will not allow the loaf to be touched in order that comparatively a handful may recover fat revenues.

MR. GLADSTONE is certainly a very fortunate man, and many a business man must envy him his life-long ability to throw off all care at the threshold of his chamber. What a blessed faculty that must be—to be able to become at once locked in the embrace of nature's sweet restorer on retiring, leaving the animosities, the wrangles of political strife, the clashing of positive minds, in short all worldly struggles in the shades of oblivion! Recently Mr. Gladstone was in conversation with a friend, when he said: "I never allow business of any kind to enter my chamber door. In all my political life I have never been kept awake five minutes by any debate in Parliament." The happy fact ought to compensate him for all the worry of the day.

IF there were any doubts as to the feeling of annoyance which exists in France with regard to the unpleasant Chinese business, it should be dispelled by the significant piece of small-mindedness which has just been exhibited in the Police department of Paris. Christmas and New Year's toys, it seems, have to undergo the scrutiny of the Prefect of Police before their sale is permitted, and any little knick-knacks recalling in the most remote degree the war now proceeding at Tonquin were rigorously prohibited. "Grotesque figures of Mandarins and Black Flags, and even an inoffensive fan on which the storming of Sontay was depicted," were ruthlessly tabooed, and Young France must console itself with figures of the Mahdi worked with springs!

BLESSINGS upon the Salvation Army come from queer and unexpected quarters. Cardinal Manning has welcomed it because it is a form of Popery with the General in place of the Pope. Dean Plumtre has given it his approval because it is in earnest; and now Canon Liddon, the leader of the High Church party in England, has been commending it because its creed is truncated and its system is bad, its votaries, so far from being ashamed of their profession, boast themselves in their Christianity, and wear badges which show them to the world for what they are. Sir Robert Peel acted on this principle, and left a room once where his creed was being abused, saying, "I am still a Christian." But is not this sort of faith a little too self-conscious? Would it not be better to stay and argue than to leave an opponent? Would Canon Liddon leave a room if religious questions were being debated (say) by Professor Tyndall?

IT will be remembered that some time ago the Mayor of Litchfield proposed to get up a Johnson Centenary, but that the scheme fell flat, even in these days of anniversaries. It then occurred to a few literary men, artists, and journalists that it was not quite right to let the day pass altogether without recognition of the "hero of literature." So they obtained the use of the famous chop-room, in the "Cock Inn," Fleet Street, for the night, and there, around the fireplace where Johnson was wont to give laws to the world, they met to sup and talk Johnsoniana. For two hours the conversation went on, everybody adding his best. Men who had edited some of Johnson's works, men who had illustrated them, publishers, and others went on seeking points to admire in the sage. One who was present says: "It was more like a conversation recorded by Boswell than anything one is likely to hear nowadays. Everybody kept to the subject; nobody made what may be called a speech; and through the whole there ran a fine humour which kept alive the spirit of the place." Mr. O'Connor Power and Mr. Passmore Edwards were in good form. Dr. Macaulay told story after story from his stores; and when all was over we came away feeling as though we knew Johnson better than ever before. I doubt whether it will be possible to renew such a successful talk. I am afraid not."

IN the long-promised dramatic narrative of Thomas à Becket, the English Poet Laureate enters into the pregnant body of English history and tells the great Archbishop's tale as he had told from imagination the tale of his mythical Arthur. Lord Tennyson has of course used poetic license; but on the whole his narrative makes no large demands on the receptive faculties of those who have read the history of the period. He opens the scene of his drama in a dialogue between Henry II. and Becket, at a moment when the Primacy of all England is vacant. The Monarch and the favourite are engaged in a game of chess, in which the description of successive movements on the board are made to tell of momentous conflicts between Church and State. But the main story of the plot has less to do with Becket as Primate or Chancellor than with Henry's intrigue with "Fair Rosamund" and Eleanor's jealousy. Very powerful use has been made of the meeting between the much-injured wife and the wronged

mistress and the fickle monarch, who in the hands of women was weak as water, yet was resolute enough to beard the Pope, and wager his kingdom and his life in the struggle. The closing scene of the tragedy is the murder of Becket, and adequate justice has to be rendered to the proud dignity with which the great Primate bears himself in the face of his assassins. "Becket" as a tragedy would not have suited the theatre. Lord Tennyson's new work is altogether unplayable. Yet notwithstanding that, it has to be said, as might be said, too, of Browning's "In a Balcony," it offers an absorbing interest and many delightful passages of poetry to the reader. The very atmosphere of the time which was so much missed in "Queen Mary" seems to have been compelled into obedience to his behests by the poet in this excursion into mediæval English history. Opinions have differed and will continue to differ as to whether the poet as peer is equal to the poet who was the seer of "Locksley Hall." In rhythm and rhyme and melody, the conditions one would like to see observed, the drama or tragedy of "Becket" is however certainly often wanting.

PROFESSOR JOHN STUART BLACKIE has the courage of his opinions. Burns would have been delighted to have heard that a lecture had been given in Glaisgie on the "Sawbath too, and that on love songs." The Professor hit out at the "unco guid" who said such things were wrong on Sunday, and retorted that nothing should be said on a week-day that could not be said on a Sunday. Ministers came in for a slashing cut, the Professor remarking they objected to his lecturing on love songs and pretty women, but as a rule the clergy looked for pretty wives with big purses, the bonnie lass wi' the long tocher. The Professor on some points goes far, but he is always original.

THE founder of journalism in France has lately been brought before the public, and the following inscription placed upon the house on the Quai du Marché-Neuf, where, in 1681, the first French newspaper was published:

Ici s'élevait la maison du Grand-Cocq
Ouvrant rue de la Calendre,
Et sortant du Marché-Neuf,
Où Theophraste Renaudot
Fonda, en 1681, le premier journal parisien,
La Gazette de France.

ALMOST, if not quite, as important in the history of journalism was the starting of the first French daily paper, the *Journal de Paris*, in 1777. Its cradle in the Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré deserves to be commemorated by an inscription similar to that lately placed upon the house on the Quai du Marché-Neuf. Various vicissitudes attended the new journal in its infant days. Voltaire complained that it credited him with various productions that were not his—a complaint which may be regarded as the first step taken by the philosopher of Ferney to repudiate certain works that were not his. By degrees the founder of the paper, Laplace, dropped from his post, and fell into obscurity. The *Journal de Paris* was then taken in hand by a triumvirate composed of d'Ussieux, a man of letters, Corancey, a man of figures, and Cadet de Vaux, a man of drugs. These did something towards ushering it into the vigorous life of journalism.

WOMEN are not enthusiastically encouraged to become doctors and surgeons in Paris. The Surgical Society and the Societe des Hospitaux there have both just declined to admit girl medical students as internes in the hospitals. The majority against them was very large, they not obtaining but four votes in either case, the total number in one being thirty-eight and the other sixty-six. It was declared that women are neither sure-handed enough nor sufficiently courageous to take active part in all the operations which fall to the care of house surgeons. The question was not discussed upon any other consideration.

PHILADELPHIANS have made "quotation parties" all the rage this season. *Progress* gives circulation to this *on dit*. Each guest, says our contemporary, comes with three quotations, and the company is to give the names of the authors. Prizes, or favours, as a flower, of the like, are presented to those returning correct answers. When there are a number of correct answers the favours are drawn by lot. All winds up with a supper at the expense of the hostess. The suppers must not be very extravagant, as the quotation party is simply a pleasant little amusement, to be given every other week or so at different houses. The gentlemen subscribe to a fund for the favours, and it is expected any gentleman winning favours will present them to a lady. Consequently all the favours are selected with a thought of the taste of ladies, and must be in no sense masculine. The happiest lady at the end of the season is the one who has the most favours, won by herself or given by gentlemen. To the favours are attached cards with the names of the gentlemen who gave them, and at the last party of the year they are counted up. The lady with the biggest lot gets an additional prize, of course paid for by a gentleman, and this should be a very handsome affair.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

FRANK HORRIDGE.—Your communication received too late for this issue.

CANADA'S CAPITAL.

To the Editor of *The Week*:

SIR,—In the article under the above heading in *THE WEEK* of 25th December it is stated:—"The farmer is the pillar of the commonwealth, and the lumberman is the enemy of the farmer. The sterility resulting from the deforesting of the country

will be the only lasting and visible memorial of Ottawa's present prosperity." After an extended examination of the Ottawa River and its tributaries many years ago, the late Sir William Logan, a very accurate observer, said: "The occupations of the lumberman and the farmer are a great encouragement to one another, as the wants of the lumberman afford to the farmer a ready market for his produce at high prices."

The lumberman does not deforest the country: he cuts the monarchs only of the forest, and is the pioneer of the farmer, who is the true deforester. The farmer, in making his clearings, cuts and burns up all kinds of wood, and, when he does these wildly, is an absolute destroyer. Hitherto the forest has brought more shipping to our ports than the field; but to the field, the factory, and the mine we must look for larger trade developments.

Ottawa's future prosperity will be the outcome of the industry of the people of the Ottawa valley and of Canada. She must steadily advance, as she possesses in the water-sheds of her noble river and its tributaries vast agricultural and mineral resources. On the completion of the railway from Lake Nipissing to the foot of Lake Temiscaming, the hidden treasures of the great and fertile tracts of slate and limestone formation at the head of that beautiful sheet of water in Ontario and Quebec will be unfolded to the view, and Ottawa will rejoice when these treasures are poured into her lap.

A. K.

Toronto, December 29th, 1884.

DOMINION GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

To the Editor of *The Week*:

SIR,—I have in reading your valuable paper fallen upon the article headed "Geological Surveys" in the number for December 11th. There are two criticisms in the article which seem not to be quite fair. The geologists engaged in the survey of the Dominion have to attack problems of the greatest complexity under difficulties of the greatest magnitude. Some of these difficulties are far greater than they are in the United States. In a very large portion of the Dominion the geologic structure of the country—that is, the systematic arrangement of its indurated formations—is deeply masked by overlying drift, and every well-informed geologist fully appreciates that the gentlemen engaged in the survey of the Dominion have to use the utmost care and proceed with great diligence and great caution before pronouncing upon or publishing conclusions respecting that structure. It would be very unwise to urge speedy publication to such an extent as to bring about premature publication, and thus give to the world incomplete and erroneous ideas of the geology of that vast area.

Those who are engaged in geologic and geographic researches are placed under peculiar conditions. Most scientific men carry on their researches in the laboratory, the museum and the library. Geologists, however, travel in the field, and must necessarily traverse the whole region under investigation. While thus engaged in performing their proper functions as geologists, if they are broad men, with such an appreciation and knowledge of the whole realm of science as make them worthy of being intrusted with geologic work, they necessarily discover many facts and are able to make many observations relating to other departments of knowledge than geology itself. It has thus happened that throughout the world geologists have come to be students of physical geography and ethnology; and to a large extent the geologists of the world constitute the chief authority in physical geography and ethnology. It would therefore be a reproach to the geologists of the Dominion were they to neglect such opportunities as arise for the collection of ethnological data. It must be remembered that in doing this work very little additional expense is incurred, and that the same amount of ethnologic research could not be prosecuted by any other agency to the same economic advantage. I therefore beg of the editor of *THE WEEK*, and of its readers, not to consider the small amount of ethnologic work done by the Geological Survey of the Dominion to be improper or valueless, but those officers should in fact be commended for the broad views they take in respect to the prosecution of many lines of research. The ethnologic materials which have been collected and published by the members of the Survey of the Dominion as a part of their natural history work are of interest and value to scholars in America and Europe alike, and it would be wisdom to strengthen this work. The savage races of all that part of the continent are rapidly changing their institutions, languages and other characteristics, and if they are to be studied and their history become a part of the history of the world the work of collecting the data must be begun at once, and be pushed with vigour.—I am, with respect, your obedient servant,

J. W. POWELL.

U. S. Geological Survey, Washington.

CAST-IRON STOVES.

To the Editor of *The Week*:

SIR,—In your issue of the 25th is a timely article on "House-Heating in Winter," by "Rho Sigma." To the following clause of this article will you permit us to take some exception:—"In using iron stoves, heating-plates, pipes, or coils it should also be remembered that certain noxious gases pass with comparative ease through red hot cast-iron." The writer probably bases this statement on the experiments of Gen. Morin, of the French Academy, made in 1869, but has overlooked the conclusions arrived at by German and United States scientists who reviewed his work. The latest and most noteworthy of these were the result of experiments by Professor Ira Remsen, of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, undertaken at the request of the National Board of Health of the United States. His tests were exceedingly delicate and thorough, he using a furnace of cast-iron only one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness, heated to a white heat. He was able to detect one part of carbonic oxide in two thousand five hundred parts of air. Without troubling you with his results in detail, he reported that he could detect no carbonic oxide gas in the rooms tested by him, and there was no passage of gas through even the thinnest portions of the cast-iron used. This position of Professor Remsen has not, so far as we are aware, been controverted, and should allay the common prejudice as to the permeability of cast-iron by hurtful gases.

Yours truly,

THE OSHAWA STOVE CO.

AN index to the first volume of *THE WEEK* (from Dec. 6, 1883, to Nov. 27, 1884) has been prepared, and, together with a title-page, may be had on application to the office.

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

THE dying year, at the supreme command,
Fades slowly in the dim weird shadow land
(That mystic home of Time's departed dead,
Whither the shades of bygone years have fled)—
Fading with all its actions in its train,
And sad-voiced Memories alone remain
To chide the weary drooping hearts which sigh
For wasted moments in the hours pass'd by.
Vows lightly made,—ah! better to redeem—
Plans, roseate once, swift-faded as a dream;
Weak, erring souls, swerving from Duty's line,
Dead incense offer now at Honour's shrine;
And the fair moon, by gath'ring clouds o'er-cast,
Looks down in sorrow on the wasted past,
As silent vesper-stricken shadows fall
And veil the year now fading past recall.

The midnight hour has struck. The old church bell
Has toll'd the past year's sad departing knell;
Loud sounding o'er the ether sweet and clear
The gladsome chimings hail the newborn year,
And sorrow-soilzied hearts their kindred greet
As from the kirk they pass adown the street,
The future scann'd, the bitter past reviewed,
The broken vow, and covenant renewed.
All vanished now the darkling careworn trace
Of haunting Restrospection's gloomy face;
The Old Year's sadness, faded now from view,
Is merged within the brightness of the New,
And Luna, radiant Majesty of night,
Floods the New Year with cloudless streams of light
That pierce each shadowed path, as though to cheer
The way-worn pilgrim through the coming year.

HERWARD K. COCKIN.

THE PASSING OF THE YEAR.

THE Gates of Day are shut,
Their Prince hath entered in,
The night is dark without,
Dark is the night within,
The Old Year sits alone, he hath no kith nor kin.

The years are passing now,
He hears their ghostly tread,
He hears the night wind call,
His winding-sheet is spread,
Phantoms beckon him on, spectres of old years dead.

He goes, the good Old Year,
The play is near its end,
Goes as he came alone,
No courtiers him attend,
Empty handed he goes—he brought to me a friend—

“Farewell, if thou must go,
A blessing on thy head;
Thy hand, departing year,
All I can say is said;
At midnight cometh he who ruleth in thy stead.”

The Gates of Day are shut,
Their Prince hath entered in,
The night is dark without,
Dark is the night within,
The Old Year dies alone, he hath no kith nor kin.

NATHANAEL NIX.

GEORGE IV. ON SHERIDAN.

I SOMETIMES heard of him, said the King, and once saw him by accident, as I shall tell you. He now took to live in a very low and obscure way, and all he looked for in the company he kept was brandy and water. He lived a good deal with some low acquaintance he had made—a harness-maker; I forget his name, but he had a house near Leatherhead. In that neighbourhood I saw him for the last time, on the 17th August, 1815. I know the day from this circumstance, that I had gone to pay my brother a visit at Otlands on his birthday, and next day, as I was crossing over to Brighton, I saw in the road near Leatherhead old Sheridan coming along the pathway. I see him now in the black stockings and blue coat with metal buttons. I said to Blomfield, “There is Sheridan,” but as I spoke he turned off into a lane when we were within about thirty yards of him, and walked off without looking behind him. That was the last time I ever saw Sheridan, nor did I hear of or from him for some months; but one morning MacMahon came up to my room, and after a little hesitation and apology for speaking to me about a person who had lately swindled me and him so shamelessly, he told me that Mr. Vaughan, Hat Vaughan

they used to call him, had called to say that Sheridan was dangerously ill, and really in great distress and want. I think no one who ever knew me will doubt that I immediately said that his illness and want made me forget his faults, and that he must be taken care of, and that any money that was necessary I desired he would immediately advance. He asked me to name a sum, as a general order of that nature was not one on which he would venture to act, and whether I named or he suggested £500, I do not remember; but I do remember that the £500 was to be advanced at once to Mr. Vaughan, and that he was to be told that when that was gone he should have more. I set no limit to the sum, nor did I say nor hear a word about the mode in which it was to be applied, except only that I desired it should not appear to come from me.

I was induced to this reserve by several reasons. I thought that Sheridan's debts were, as the French say, *la mer à boire*, and unless I was prepared to drink the sea I had better not be known to interfere, as I should only have brought more pressing embarrassment on him; but I will also confess that I did not know how ill he was, and after the gross fraud he had so lately practised upon me, I was not inclined to forgive and forget so suddenly, and without any colour of apology or explanation; for the pretended explanation to MacMahon was more disrespectful and offensive to me than the original transaction, for he had before told me why Whitbread wished to keep him out of Parliament, namely, lest he should serve me in the object nearest my heart, and yet he had suffered Whitbread to bribe him out of my service with his own money, and had then swindled me out of mine. And, finally, there is not only bad taste but inconvenience in letting it be known what pecuniary favours a person in my situation confers, and I therefore, on a consideration of all these reasons, forbid my name being mentioned at present; but I repeated my directions that he should want for nothing that money could procure him.

MacMahon went down to Mr. Vaughan's and told him what I had said, and that he had my directions to place £500 in his hands. Mr. Vaughan, with some expression of surprise, declared that no such sum was wanted at present, and it was not without some pressing that he took £200, and said that if he found it insufficient he would return for more. He did come back, but not for more; for he told MacMahon that he had spent only £130 or £140, and he gave the most appalling account of the misery which he had relieved with it.

He said that he found him and Mrs. Sheridan both in straw beds, both apparently dying, and both starving. It is stated in Mr. Moore's book that Mrs. Sheridan attended her husband in his last illness. It is not true; she was too ill to leave her own bed, and was, in fact, already suffering from the disease (cancer of the womb) of which she died in a couple of years after. They had hardly a servant left. Mrs. Sheridan's maid she was about to send away, but they could not collect a guinea or two to pay the woman her wages.

When he entered the house he found all the reception-rooms bare, and the whole house in a state of filth and stench that was quite intolerable. Sheridan himself he found in a truckle bed in a garret, with a coarse blue and red coverlid, such as one sees used as horse-cloths, over him; out of this bed he had not moved for a week, not even for the occasions of nature, and in this state the unhappy man had been allowed to wallow, nor could Vaughan discover that any one had taken any notice of him, except an old female friend, whose name I hardly know whether I am authorized to repeat—Lady Bessborough, who sent £20. Some ice and currant water were sent from Holland House—an odd contribution; for if it was known that he wanted these small matters, which might have been had at the confectioner's, it might have been suspected that he was in want of more essential things.

Yet notwithstanding all this misery, Sheridan on seeing Mr. Vaughan appeared to revive; he said he was quite well, talked of paying off all his debts, and though he had not eaten a morsel for a week, and had not a morsel to eat, he spoke with a certain degree of alacrity and hope.

Mr. Vaughan, however, saw that this was a kind of bravado, and that he was in a fainting state, and he immediately procured him a little spiced wine and toast, which was the first thing (except brandy) that he had tasted for some days.

Mr. Vaughan lost no time in buying a bed and bed-clothes, half-a-dozen shirts, some basins, towels, etc. He had Sheridan taken up and washed, and put into the new bed. He had the rooms cleaned and fumigated. He discharged, I believe, some immediately pressing demands, and, in short, provided as well as circumstances would admit for the ease and comfort, not only of Sheridan, but Mrs. Sheridan also.

I sent the next day (it was not till next day that MacMahon repeated this melancholy history to me) to inquire after Sheridan, and the answer was that he was better, and more comfortable, and I had the satisfaction to think that he wanted nothing that money and care and kindness of so judicious a friend as Mr. Vaughan could procure him; but the next day, that is two days after Mr. Vaughan had done all this, and actually expended near £150, as I have stated, he came to MacMahon with an air of mortification, and stated that he was come to return the £200. “The £200” said MacMahon with surprise. “Why, you had spent three-fourths of it the day before yesterday.” True, returned Vaughan, “but some of those who left these poor people in misery have now insisted on their returning this money, which they suspect has come from the Prince. Where they got the money, I know not, but they have given me the amount, with a message that Mrs. Sheridan's friends had taken care that Mr. Sheridan wanted for nothing. I” added Mr. Vaughan, “can only say that this assistance came rather late, for that three days ago I was enabled by His Royal Highness's bounty to relieve him and her from the lowest state of misery and debasement in which I had ever seen human beings.—From the “Croker Papers.”

THE SCRAP BOOK.

QUEBEC, AS SEEN BY A BRITISH SAVANT.

AMONG the recent visitors attracted to Canada by the meeting of the British Association at Montreal was Professor Struthers, M. D., of Marischal College, Aberdeen. The next meeting of the Association is to be held in the City on the Dee; and a special interest is accordingly felt there in the reception given to the British savants by their Canadian hosts. Dr. Struthers was accordingly invited by the Aberdeen Philosophical Society to report his observations on Canadian science. In doing so the Universities of Quebec and Ontario, as schools of letters and science, naturally came under review, along with the geological survey of the Dominion, and Ottawa Museum. We are tempted to select, as most interesting to our readers, the record of the impressions formed by a Scottish scientific observer on visiting the venerable city of Quebec and its ancient University:—

"Quebec presents a striking contrast to Montreal. In the older part the streets, narrow and ill-paved, or paved with wood, many of the houses of wood, irregular and overhanging, reminding one of the imitation of old London in the recent Health Exhibition; the chief language French, and the general aspect suggesting, if not decay, at least stand-still, while the rest of Canada progressed. The University, Laval University, suggests various reflections to the British visitor. It is under the 'supreme direction,' in 'doctrine, discipline, faith, and morals,' of the Bishops of the Province of Quebec, under the presidency of the Archbishop, who is also 'apostolic chancellor,' and the latter functionary 'has the right of veto on all the rules and nominations.' The buildings, though not new or elegant, would do, as far as rooms for collections are concerned, but the walk through them is depressing. The melancholy condition, as well as the deficiency of some of the science collections, might be passed in silence were it not for the ridiculously boastful description of them in the pamphlet catalogue which the visitor (admission one shilling) receives. The two museums of the Medical School, for instance, about which the less said the better, are characterized as 'very complete.' The kind of collection for which that apostolic University seems to have mainly gone in is that kind of anthropology represented by the portraits of monks, saints, and the like. It is a relief to escape alike from the old streets and from the University to the lofty terrace on the Citadel, which commands a magnificent view of river, rock and mountain, reminding one of the scenery of the Scottish lakes. The fortifications are of great strength, and the place is full of historic interest. Among other objects the monument of General Wolfe meets the eye. The view from the great fortified rock, or mountain, is to the tourist the redeeming feature of Quebec. The general reflection occurs here that Britain, when it took Canada, made a mistake in far-seeing statesmanship in not enacting that, after a time, English should be the official language. Canada is now, and is still more to be in the future, a great essentially English-speaking country. The existence officially of two languages—the French still predominating in the Province of Quebec, together with the ecclesiastical system with which it is identified—stands in the way of progress, and is a source of much embarrassment, which will continue until the new western Provinces have grown by the tide of British emigration now setting towards them."

MADAME DE STAEL AND HER BONS-MOTS.

MOORE in his lately published "Life of Sheridan," has recorded the laborious care with which he prepared his *bons-mots*. Madame de Staël condescended to do the same. The first time I ever saw her was at dinner at Lord Liverpool's at Coombe Wood. Sir James Mackintosh was to have been her guide, and they lost their way, and went to Addiscombe and some other places by mistake, and when they got at last to Coombe Wood they were again bewildered, and obliged to get out and walk in the dark, and through the mire up the road through the wood. They arrived consequently two hours too late and strange draggled figures, she exclaiming by way of apology, "Coombe par ci, Coombe par là; nous avons été par tous les Coombes de l'Angleterre." During dinner she talked incessantly but admirably, but several of her apparently spontaneous *mots* were borrowed or prepared. For instance, speaking of the relative states of England and the Continent at that period, the high notion we had formed of the danger to the world from Buonaparte's despotism, and the high opinion the Continent had formed of the riches, strength, and spirit of England, she insisted that these opinions were both just, and added with an elegant *élan*, "Les étrangers sont la postérité contemporaine." This striking expression I have since found in the journal of Camille Desmoulins.

The conversation turned on the Count of Berlin, and Lord Liverpool asked if M. de Ségur, then ambassador there, was related to the old family of Ségur, of whom his lordship mentioned one whom he had known. She answered laughingly that they were related "du côté des syllabes," meaning that they were *not related*, though their names were the same. Lord Liverpool did not see what she meant, and repeated his inquiry in the form of asking whether they were of the same family. She replied with great readiness, "Milord, ils sont du même alphabet." Nothing could appear more extemporaneous than this double jest, yet it must have been prepared, for every one now knows that the M. Ségur of Berlin was one of the old Ségurs, and he was in fact the very man that Lord Liverpool was inquiring about. Madame de Staël had the phrase *cut and dry*, as the expression is, ready to be used on any of the occasions, then very frequent, when strangers inquired if such or such of Buonaparte's chamberlains or diplomatists were of the old stock whose names they bore;

and the phrase of "du même alphabet" I have since seen somewhere in print.

She was ugly and not of an intellectual ugliness. Her features were coarse, and the ordinary expression rather vulgar; she had an ugly mouth, and one or two irregularly prominent teeth, which perhaps gave her countenance an habitual gaiety. Her eye, was full, dark, and expressive; and when she declaimed, which was almost whenever she spoke, she looked eloquent, and one forgot that she was plain. On the whole, she was singularly unfeminine, and if in conversation one forgot she was ugly, one forgot also that she was a woman.—From the Correspondence and Diaries of John Wilson Croker.

A BUDGET OF ANECDOTES FROM CROKER'S NOTE-BOOK.

ONE day an officer came very late to dinner at Talleyrand's, an unusual negligence in France where everybody is exact. He made a kind of impertinent apology, alleging that he had been delayed by a *péquin*, the nick-name which French soldiers give civilians. M. Talleyrand, himself a *péquin*, asked what a *péquin* was; "Nous appelons péquin," replied the Hector, "tout ce qui n'est pas militaire." "Ah! ah!" replied Talleyrand, "c'est comme nous, nous appelons *militaire* tout ce qui n'est pas *civile*." This joke is even better in English than in French.

I MUST tell you an anecdote of old Talleyrand. Murray wanted an autograph to engrave. S. E. benignantly consented, and taking a *long sheet* of paper, wrote his name. You guess where—at the very extreme top of the page, so close that the French lady, who wrote with a feather from the humming-bird's wing, and dried it with the dust of the butterfly's wing, could not have squeezed in an I. O. U.

LADY HOLLAND was saying yesterday to her assembled coterie, "Why should not Lord Holland be Secretary for Foreign affairs—why not as well as Lord Lansdowne for the Home Department?" Little Lord John Russell is said to have replied, in his quiet way, "Why, they say, Ma'am, that you open all Lord Holland's letters, and the Foreign Ministers might not like that!"

EVERY one knows the story of a gentleman's asking Lord North who "that frightful woman was?" and his lordship's answering, that is my wife. The other, to repair his blunder, said I did not mean *her*, but that monster next to her. "Oh," said Lord North, "that monster is my daughter." With this story Frederick Robinson, in his usual absent enthusiastic way, was one day entertaining a lady whom he sat next to at dinner, and lo! the lady was Lady Charlotte Lindsay—the monster in question.

THERE is an inscription on the great Spanish mortar in the park in no very classical Latin. Part of the ornaments on the carriage are dog's heads; why *dogs' heads*? "to account for the Latin," said Jekyll.

MR. PEPPER, a gentleman well-known in the Irish sporting world, asked Lord Norbury to suggest a name for a very fine hunter of his; Lord Norbury, himself a good sportsman, who knew that Mr. Pepper had had a fall or two, advised him to call the horse "*Peppercaster*."

MR. O'CONNELL, whose arrest by the civil power as he was proceeding to meet Mr. Peel was supposed to be quite involuntary on his part, was soon after arguing a law point in the Common Pleas, and happened to use the phrase, "I fear, my Lords, I do not make myself understood." "Go on, go on, Mr. O'Connell," replied Lord Norbury, "no one is more easily apprehended."

THE PERIODICALS.

A CAREFULLY compiled biographical sketch of Wyclif forms the opening article of the January *Harper's Magazine*. It is from the pen of A. W. Ward, and is illustrated by drawings from old prints by H. M. Paget. Seymour Hayden contributes a most interesting paper on "The Revival of Mezzotint as an Engraver's Art," and elucidates his ideas by six pictures executed by him in one afternoon on Whatman paper blackened over with charcoal—an experimental substitute for mezzotint copper-plates. Mr. Hayden recommends a return to the art of mezzotint in its purer forms, though he fully recognizes the difficulties of his proposal, since the same objections still exist as contributed to the decline of mezzotint—"fine art recommends itself to the few; the commercial instinct addresses itself to the many." The essay on "The Town Meeting," by John Fiske, is a capital explanation of the origin and real meaning of a New England form of municipal government which the writer claims to be an inheritance from pre-historic Aryan antiquity. In a richly illustrated article entitled "A Pair of Shoes" Howard Mudge Newhall gives a graphic description of the multifarious processes of boot and shoe-making. The illustrations accompanying the second part of "She Stoops to Conquer" are marvels of the engraver's art. The fiction of the number includes a complete story by Sarah Orme Jewett, and the opening chapters of serials by Constance Fenimore Woolson and an anonymous writer. Barnett Phillips has a travel paper, there is some admirable poetry, and the editor's "Easy Chair," "Literary Record," "Historical Record," and "Drawer" departments are amongst the most attractive features of this popular and excellent magazine.

THE holiday *Outing* greets the new year with a feast of jollity and good-cheer. "The Wheelman's Vision" starts in symbolically with an appropriate poem. Mr. Arthur Gilman goes "After the British on a Tricycle" in a sort of historical-humorous fashion, and his paper is effectively illustrated by Edmund H. Garrett. Maurice Thompson's exquisite "Tangle-Leaf Papers" are continued. John Boyle O'Reilly writes enthusiastically of his summer's voyage "Down the Susquehanna in a Canoe." Edith M. Thomas contributes a charming poetical conceit. Albert H. Maunsell illustrates his own paper on "A Municipal Regatta in Boston Harbour." Ruth Hall has a bright little poem, "Only a Girl." There is a very clever story by Edward B. Getz,

"A Fugue and a Wheel," and a personal essay on John Burroughs, by Henry Litchfield West. "In El Dorado" is a sketch of a pedestrian excursion among the Sierras to Coloma. The "Amenities" department is bright and witty; the "Letter-File" contains contributions on various topics of interest; the Records are well kept up, and the Editor's "Open Window," though closed against the winter wind, is open to the sunshine that fills all departments of this charming magazine.

THE most interesting paper to Canadians in *Lippincott's* is that signed James Macdonald Oxley on "The Premier of Canada." The sketch is an exceedingly readable one, though it is a very one-sided summary of the career of Sir John Macdonald. Many useful hints to curiosity-hunters are given in a contribution entitled "The Fine Art of Picking Up." A. Von Starke has a short paper, "The Bismarks," and W. C. M. shows how Shakespeare has been murdered in "La Juif de Venice." A picturesque account of "Housekeeping in a French-Canadian Town," from the pen of Mary Stoyell, will also prove attractive to many on this side "the invisible line." Seasonable reading is provided in a Christmas story, by Emily F. Wheeler, and "Rome and the Campagna," by Dwight Benton. A new serial, "On This Side," is commenced; and a couple of chapters of "Aurora" assist to develop that story. Amongst other interesting editorial topics is one telling "How to Spend a Christmas."

THE *Canadian Methodist Magazine* is well to the fore in the first number of its twenty-first volume. An able review of the Marquis of Lorne's book is made to do duty as first article, and is followed by a timely and well-written paper on the Montreal Ice Palace and Carnival. The editor, who is also responsible for the paper last mentioned, tells his readers how Mr. Gladstone appears at home. The log-book of the "Challenger" has been laid under contribution in this number; Rev. Dr. Nelles' discourses on preaching; Mr. Gladstone's views on Christianity are given; an abridgment of Dr. Sexton's lecture on scepticism follows; Charles Wesley's minstrelsy is treated of; and many other interesting topics receive intelligent attention. There is also a good selection of poetry and a quantity of capital illustration.

THE *St. Nicholas Magazine*, as usual, is full of delightful reading and beautiful illustration. Most interesting among seasonable topics is E. Vinton Blake's description of an ice-boat ride—the very perusal of which sets the blood bounding through less excitable veins than those of the youth it was written for. A varied contents also includes fairy and goblin stories in poetry and prose, further consignments of serials, music and words of a song, the opening paper on "Historic Girls," and many other attractive features.

THE *January Magazine of American History* is strong and interesting in its varied features. The frontispiece is a fine portrait of Count De Vergennes, illustrating a well-considered paper by Hon. John Jay, on the life and character of the great French statesman. The "Manor of Gardiner's Island" is an illustrated paper by the editor, sketching not only the romantic career of the founder of the first English settlement in the State, but the growth, development, and general history of the manorial property, and its twelve successive proprietors. "Puritanism in New York," by Rev. Charles A. Briggs, D.D., will attract distinguished attention, as he traces the origin and growth of this religious force until the middle of the eighteenth century. There are several other articles fully up to the high standard of this magazine.

IN his "Gossip" the editor of *Literary Life* gives some very interesting facts regarding Mark Twain and his tribulations with the publishers. The same department contains much other entertaining reading. The other principal contents are a biographical sketch of Will Carleton, some stories from Schiller's "Wallenstein," a paper on "Bossuet," and a quantity of selected clippings.

WITH the December issue the *Art Union* completes its first volume. The announcement that thereafter the excellent "official journal of the American Art Union" will only be published quarterly will be received with general regret, it being one of the few publications in which art topics are discussed from artistic standpoints. Each number in future will contain three or more carefully chosen etchings from the hands of the best American picture-etchers. The current part contains five reproductions from the artists' drawings—"Mother and Child," "A view on Pompton Plain," "A Bit of Eastport Harbour," "A Sketch from Nature," and "An Old Stable."

THE Christmas number of *The Varsity* contains a large amount of valuable matter, and the management are to be congratulated on the enterprise shown. Amongst other contributors we note the names of Dr. Wilson, Dr. Hodgins, D. R. Keys, H. K. Cockin, the editor of the *Harvard Crimson*, and others.

THE January number of *The Eclectic Magazine of Foreign Literature* has reproduced papers by Prof. Seeley, Charles Mackay, "Stepniak," Surgeon-General H. L. Cowen, William Archer, E. Lynn Lynton, Emile de Laveleye, Prof. Jebb, Herbert Spencer, and by the editors of the *Edinburgh*, *Cornhill*, *Saturday Review*, *Chambers' Journal*, *Temple Bar*, *Blackwood's*, and others. An engraving of a child's head forms the frontispiece to this excellent eclectic.

THE numbers of the *The Living Age* for the 13th and 20th of December contain papers on "Mr. Gladstone," "An Artist's Autobiography," "Goethe, part III," "The Memoirs of Madame de Tourzel," "Barbados," "The Death of Mr. Fawcett," "Mr. Fawcett's Heroism," "A Chapter of Blunders," "Aristotle's History of Animals," "Boroughdale of Boroughdale," "Among the Trappists," "Karlsbad, the Queen of Bohemian Watering-Places," "Curiosities of the Bank of England," "Edmund Yates," "A Solitary Island," with instalments of "At any Cost," and poetry. A new volume begins January 1st.

BOOK NOTICES.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON. By Oliver Wendell Holmes. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company.

GENIUS AND CHARACTER OF EMERSON. Lectures at the Concord School of Philosophy. Edited by F. B. Swinburn. Boston: James R. Osgood and Company.

Probably no contribution to the "American Men of Letters" series has been looked forward to with more curiosity and eagerness than the above book. Dr. Holmes is a comparatively modern convert to Emerson, and even now he is not so whole-souled in his admiration as most of our neighbours would like to see. One thing he does,

however, which no previous writer has contrived: he publishes for the first time a few of Emerson's best letters, and reprints portions of others, which are almost unknown. Dr. Holmes pays a high indirect tribute to the subject of his book by freely quoting from his writings. The narrative of Emerson's life is enlivened not a little by the Doctor's bright style. It is not to be supposed, however, that these attractive features will reconcile the general reader to the comparison of Emerson with Shakespeare and Milton. The following passage gives a fair idea of Dr. Holmes' estimate of Emerson's poetry:—

"Emerson was not only a poet, but a very remarkable one. Without using the Rosetta-stone of Swedenborg, Emerson finds in every phenomenon of nature a hieroglyphic; others measure and describe the monuments—he reads the sacred inscriptions. Emerson makes 'Cheshire's haughty hill' stand before us as an impersonation of kingly humanity, and talk with us as a god from Olympus might have talked. This is the fascination of Emerson's poetry; it moves in a world of universal symbolism. Everywhere his poetry abounds in celestial imagery. If Galileo had been a poet as well as an astronomer, he would hardly have sowed his verse thicker with stars than we find them in the poems of Emerson. His poetry is elemental; it has the rock beneath it in the eternal laws on which it rests; the roll of deep waters in its grander harmonies; its air is full of eolian strains that waken and die away as the breeze wanders over them; and through it shines the white starlight, and from time to time flashes a meteor that startles us with its sudden brilliancy."

There is much more close criticism and careful analysis in the book which will be found of great value.

The lectures may be profitably read in conjunction with Dr. Holmes' book. They contain a large amount of comment, chiefly laudatory, on "The Character and Genius of Emerson," viewed from standpoints not touched in the biography, though it might easily be imagined that Dr. Holmes had availed himself of the collected lectures. They were delivered at the Concord School of Philosophy by Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney, A. B. Alcott, Julian Hawthorne, Mr. René de Poyen Belleisle, Rev. C. A. Bartol, D.D., Miss E. P. Peabody, F. B. Sanborn, Edwin D. Mead, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Rev. George W. Cooke, William T. Harris and Protap Chunder Mozoomdar. The book also contains an historic sketch of the Concord School of Philosophy (now in its seventh year); and pictures of Hillside Chapel and the Orchard House, and a new heliotype portrait of Emerson.

POEMS OF SIDNEY LANIER. Edited by his wife. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs.

Mrs. Lanier has edited this edition of her late husband's poems; and the preface is the work of Dr. William Hayes Ward. Given the most lenient judgment, it is not easy to see how this Southerner's poems can be called other than crude and bald, though Dr. Ward claims that had he lived Lanier would have made good his claims to a front rank among American poets. His earnestness is beyond question; his ethics are pure; his observation keen. As an instance of the latter he says of Swinburne, "He invited me to eat; the service was of silver and gold, but no food therein save of pepper and salt." It is but just to remember that the poet was in constant ill-health, and died when his friends thought there were abundant signs of promise.

AN AMERICAN POLITICIAN. By F. Marion Crawford. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. Toronto: Hart and Company.

This story has been received by the reviewers with less favour than previous ones by the same author; but though it may be "caviare to the general," it will prove abundantly interesting to those who are partial to character study. John Harrington is the "American Politician" in question. He is a Democrat, with a noble ideal which is in pleasing contrast with the venal office-seeker and patronage-dispenser usually associated with the typical American politician. In tracing the political life of his hero Mr. Crawford cleverly blends with it a love story which pleasantly assists to vary the relation without breaking its continuity. In excellent language it is shown that in no place in the world are politics at once the source of so much high-souled self-abnegation and noble ambition, and such petty trickery and gigantic fraud, as in the United States. "An American Politician" may be commended to the special attention of public men.

THE BASSETT CLAIM. By Henry R. Elliot. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

This is one of the "Knickerbocker Novels," and a most interesting story it is. The plot is located in Washington, many of the characters playing in it being Congressmen—from which it will properly be surmised that there is plenty of legislative intrigue in the book. There is, however, besides, an absorbing romance connected with the lives and loves of some leaders in Washington society, ending with a dash of mystery. Mr. Elliot's style throughout is vivacious, and his book is sure to have many admiring readers.

MUSIC.

THE Richter Orchestral Concerts, which took place in London this autumn, have become a well-established institution in the Metropolis. The programme of the first concert comprised the overture to "Tannhäuser," a selection of orchestral portions of the "Ring des Nibelungen," the prelude to the third act of the "Meistersinger," and the funeral march from the "Götterdämmerung." These works of Wagner formed the first part of the concert, which concluded with Schubert's 9th Symphony, considered by Sir George Grove to be his 10th. At the second concert were performed, Wagner's Overture to the "Meistersinger," the sensuous and passionate introduction to "Tristan," the wild "Ride of the Walkyries," Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, originally written for piano, and Brahms's 3rd Symphony (in F). The third programme contained the overture to Weber's "Euryanthe," which the audience vainly tried to encore, the exquisite "Probelied" from the "Meistersinger," sung by the popular tenor, Mr. Edward Lloyd, and the portion of the "Ring des Nibelungen" called "Wotan's abschied und Feuerzauber," in which Wotan condemns his daughter Brunnhilde to sleep surrounded by a circle

of fire until some courageous knight shall brave the fire and break the charm. At this concert the *piece de resistance* was the great 9th Symphony of Beethoven. Herr Richter has the same happy faculty with the band as that possessed by Mr. Henry Leslie with voices—the power of playing on it as on an instrument. When he made his first appearance in London in 1879 effects were brought out in well-known classical works under his direction that had scarcely been observed before, delicate *nuances* introduced and hidden subjects in the inner parts brought to light. In that first season he had not the best performers nor much time for preparation, and yet his performances at once placed him at the head of conductors in England—in fact, he is now, by almost general consent, looked on as the first orchestral conductor in the world.

Herr Richter is a Hungarian, his father having been Capelmeister at the Cathedral of Raab. At the age of ten he became a choirboy in the Court Chapel of Vienna, where he afterwards entered the Conservatory and studied the horn. After passing some years as horn-player in the orchestra he met Wagner in 1866, when he spent a year with him at Lucerne, being occupied during that time in making the first fair copy of the "Meistersinger." After this he became successively conductor at the Hof und National Theatre, Munich, at Brussels for the production of "Lohengrin" in 1870, and at the National Theatre, Pesth, where he acquired much knowledge of the stage and stage business. In 1875 he conducted a grand orchestral concert, where his ability attracted so much attention that he was soon after appointed conductor of the Court Theatre and the Vienna Philharmonic. He was at the same time engaged in conducting the rehearsals of Wagner's great Tetralogy for its celebrated first performance at Bayreuth, of which he had the entire direction. At the close of the festival he received the order of Maximilian from the King of Bavaria, and that of the Falcon from the Grand Duke of Weimar. In 1878 he became Capelmeister at Vienna, receiving at the same time the order of Franz Joseph. Herr Richter owes much of his success to his intimate knowledge of the *technique* of the various instruments in the orchestra, particularly the wind, a department with which conductors are often imperfectly acquainted. To this he adds a great power in interpreting the works of the great composers, which he conducts always without the music. His only rival appears to be Dr. Von Bulow, who also conducts the great works without a book, and has even made his orchestra play some of them entirely from memory, which it was claimed gave the players greater freedom to watch the conductor and attend to expression. He also, not long ago, made them accompany a piano concerto without any conductor. On the whole these *tours de force*, though interesting as showing what can be achieved by perseverance, are hardly to be desired, as a break-down is always possible under such circumstances. Herr Richter has the advantage of Dr. Von Bulow of an equable temper, by which he is enabled to gain the attachment and interest of the members of his orchestra.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to an English musical paper on the subject of organ voluntaries during divine service. He says: "What are voluntaries really intended for? Are they an aid to devotion (as some claim them to be, but which I very much doubt)? or do they serve as a kind of musical gratification or musical display? . . . I cannot see that they improve the service from a devotional or a musical point of view. On the other hand, I think there is something most impressive in the silence that precedes the service; and that, when the last words of the sermon are uttered and the benediction pronounced, to leave the sacred edifice in quietness, meditating on the solemn words we have heard, is more likely to produce good results than the loud crash of the organ generally resorted to immediately the minister finishes. Whatever may be the opinion as to the desirability of opening and closing voluntaries, there are undoubtedly grave objections to the offertory piece played at so many churches during the service. From an artistic point of view it is bad, inasmuch as it is merely introduced to fill up the time whilst the collection is being made, which lowers the most dignified of instruments to the level of a theatre band playing selections between the acts and always ready to stop at any point in the piece at the ringing up of the curtain. If an organist could time his piece to exactly coincide with the time occupied taking up the collection, the objection would not be so great; but this a palpable impossibility, and the organist is reduced to the necessity, if the piece be too short, of tacking on some irrelevant improvisation of his own, or, if it be too long, to cut it short, unless he is disposed to provoke the unseemly manifestations of impatience often exhibited during the conclusion of the piece. This conflict between the organist and clergyman is a not uncommon and most objectionable result of the offertory piece. Many a musician, unable to resist the opportunity for display, will play a piece he knows to be too long, thus causing a very unpleasant break in the service. On the other hand, a clergyman revelling in his musical ignorance conceives that an organ piece has no continuity, no special construction, and can, like many a sermon, be commenced or ended anywhere without injury to the effect. Where a clergyman or organist is capable of sympathizing with the other's function, the organ performance in the middle of the service may not be objectionable; but the ideal combination of Theology and Art is so rare that it seems a desirable thing to eliminate the voluntary and either use offertory sentences as performed by the Episcopal Church, often with good effect, or an appropriate hymn."

A COMMENDABLE effort is being made in Montreal by a private citizen for the encouragement of chamber music. Mr. George Drummond has engaged a quartette, led by Mr. C. Reichling, violinist, to give a private concert at his house every week to which his friends are invited. The music used is purchased at his expense, and is all of the highest class, the modern school being chiefly represented, although the older classical

music is also wisely included in the programmes. The professionals who form the quartette are thus encouraged to work at their art with more vigour from the fact that their efforts receive remuneration, and that they are sure of an intelligent and sympathetic audience on every occasion. On the other hand, the listeners are instructed in the highest class of music, to which they are expected to listen in a more respectful manner than is usual at that anti-musical entertainment known as a musical party. Whilst arrogant patronage is a thing to be deprecated and fought against by musicians, such earnest assistance as this, privately given by leading citizens, is of the greatest benefit to the spread of music, particularly in a young country like ours, where the public cannot be educated to a love of the highest music by special efforts on the part of professional and amateur musicians.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

A BIOGRAPHY of Coleridge, by his grandson, Ernest Hartley Coleridge, is in course of preparation.

A NEW edition of Byron's works is to be brought out in London, Mr. Buxton Forman being the editor. He intends to produce a text (with profuse notes) which will be considered final.

IN his forthcoming novel Mr. Black comes out in a new *rôle*. He makes his hero, "White Heather," a Scotch poet, and scatters throughout the story many specimens of the imaginary rhymster's poetic effusions.

HUGH CONWAY'S "Called Back" was first published in a Bristol, England, office, and fell flat. E. R. Howe's "Story of a Country Town" was first published at Atchison, Kansas, and fell flatter. Now both are the rage.

AT last we are within measurable distance of the completion of Mr. Kingslake's "History of the Crimean War." It will probably be in the hands of the trade early in the year. Some twenty-two years have elapsed since the commencement of the work.

A PERMANENT memorial to Charles Reade is to be erected in the form of a memorial church at Willesden, England. The *Willesden Herald* states that the friends of the deceased poet and novelist have made themselves responsible for the cost of the building.

"OUIDA" does not think she has had justice at the hands of Americans. She writes in a private letter: "I fear you have seen little that is true regarding me in the newspapers. The *Boston Herald*, some three or four years ago, had a long tissue of falsehoods about me, and described my housekeeper as myself."

GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA, the "G. A. S." of the *London Illustrated News*, whose white vest and big cigar are so well known on Fleet Street, and who has done so much to instruct and amuse newspaper readers of the present generation, is now on the Atlantic *en route* for Australia via New York and San Francisco.

THE *Athenæum* announces that Mr. Buxton Forman has undertaken to edit for Mr. Murray the poetical works of Lord Byron. The first object will be to produce in a handsome library form a text which can be considered final, with such various notes as the case demands, and such illustrative notes of value as can be gathered in without over-burdening the text.

THE American Committee for the Revision of the Authorized Version of the Old Testament has issued a circular announcing, after fourteen years of labour, the completion of its work. The Book will be published next spring, from the Oxford and Cambridge University presses, and a memorial edition, handsomely bound (\$25 in two volumes, \$30 in four volumes), will be issued to subscribers.

D. APPLETON AND Co., New York, publish "The Hundred Greatest Men." It consists of graphic sketches and portraits, reproduced from rare steel engravings of the most distinguished men in history. Ralph Waldo Emerson furnishes a general introduction. Among the writers of the biographical sketches are Matthew Arnold, H. Taine, Max. Muller, B. Renan, Noah Porter, L. Stanley, H. Helmholtz, F. A. Froude and John Fiske.

THE long-expected "Life of James Hogg," by his daughter, Mrs. Garden, is in type, and will be published immediately. It will contain, in addition to a curious correspondence that Mr. Hogg had with Mr. Ruskin and his father about the early poetic compositions of the former, a number of hitherto unpublished letters from Scott, Southey, Lockhart, Allan Cunningham and others. An introduction to the work is contributed by Prof. Veitch, of Glasgow.

THE *Academy* having stated, on the authority of Mr. Julian Hawthorne, that the first American of that name came "probably from Wilts," in 1630, Mr. Charles J. Robinson writes to the editor of that paper to say: "It is, at any rate, worth notice that the parish register of Windsor contains the baptismal entry of 'Nathanael, son of Nath^o Hawthorne,' in the year 1631. I copied the entry many years ago from the original."

A LITERARY and biographical history of the English Catholics, from the Reformation in 1534 to the present time, from the pen of Mr. Joseph Gillow, formerly of Manchester, will shortly be published. The object of this work is to present, in the most ready and convenient form, a concise category of the literary efforts, educational struggles, and religious sufferings of the English Catholics from the Reformation in 1534 to the present time. In proof of the comprehensive scale on which the work is based, it is mentioned that 500 lives come under the letters A and B alone, embracing many thousands of bibliographical and critical notices.

THE NIGHT COMETH.

BE wise, and take Youth's heritage,
Rememb'ring this—there comes old age.
When the eye has lost its flash and fire,
And the heart has lost its strong desire ;
When the master-love of man for maid
Rests, for ever dead and laid
With the lusty voice that rung
Through the woods when you were young ;
When the gun your hand once clasped
By a younger hand is grasped ;
And the marsh, and moor, and field
Pleasure can no longer yield ;
When for you no horn shall sound,
Stirring hearts of horse and hound,
And the merry men who bide,
Watching at the covert side,
Till the red fox steal away
In the clear December day ;
When the drowsy trout may lie
All unharmed by cunning fly,
And the stream will feel no more
Nervous pull of bending oar ;
When the muscles, once so strong,
Feebly bear your limbs along,
And you cower close indoors,
And another's way is yours ;
When the bleared eyes dimly see,
And remains but Memory ;
Then, as days on days go by,
And on lonely bed you lie,
Memory will bring again
All your past of joy or pain,
And unpack from out her store
All the pleasures loved of yore—
Face of friend, old jest, old song,
All your acts of right or wrong,
All the good your days have brought,
All the hurt your life has wrought.
Shut within your chamber's space
You and Memory, face to face,
Nought to stand between you two—
None to break the interview.
And Remorse will sting and bite
Through the silent hours of night :
Awful guest for lone bedside :
Guest who will not be denied.
Be wise ; and take Youth's heritage,
Rememb'ring this—there comes old age.

Ah, well I know, no life is spent
Leaving nothing to lament.
Human are you, brother mine ;
Human are you, not divine.
Frailty, error, wrong—all this
Poor humanity's sad essence is.
Still, regret can purify
All sad things before we die.
Since, then, Memory's hand must trace
All your acts of shame or grace :
Since, some day, you, sure, will know
All her gathered pictures show,
Let your wrong make just amends :
Gather round you store of friends
(For of friendship's deepest heart
Selfish soul can have no part).
Let the share that on you lies
In the world's harsh cruelties
Be offset by kindly deed :
Mercies shown to those in need,
Broken lives your hand has healed,
All injustices repealed,
Smiles that you have made to stay,
Tears that you have wiped away.
So, grown old, friend, you and I
Shall not dread our Memory.
Yet, wisely take youth's heritage
Rememb'ring this—there comes old age.

FREDERICK A. DIXON.

CHESS.

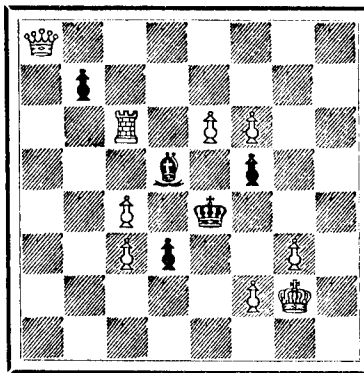
All communications intended for this department should be addressed "Chess Editor," office of THE WEEK, Toronto.

PROBLEM No. 69.

Composed for the WEEK.

By Charles W. Phillips, Toronto Chess Club.

BLACK.



WHITE.

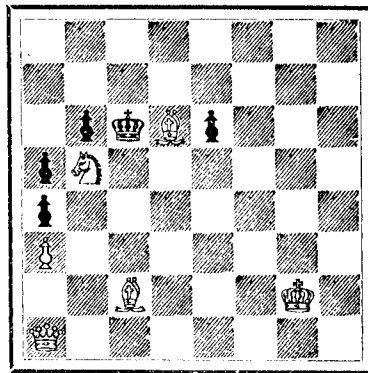
White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 70.

TOURNEY PROBLEM No. 17.

Motto:—"All's well that ends well."

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

CHESS AT NEWCASTLE.

From The Field.

The following game is one out of eleven games played simultaneously, blindfold, at the Art Gallery, Newcastle, on the 4th inst. :

Vienna Opening.

| White. | Black. | White. | Black. |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| J. H. Zukertort. | R. Osmond. | J. H. Zukertort. | R. Osmond. |
| 1. P to K 4 | P to K 4 | 31. Kt to K 4 | R to B 6 |
| 2. Kt to Q B 3 | Kt to K B 3 | 32. R to K sq (h) | R to K 6 |
| 3. P to B 4 | B to Kt 5 (a) | 33. Kt to B 6 | R takes R ch |
| 4. P takes P | B takes Kt | 34. B takes R | B to B 3 (e) |
| 5. Q P takes B | Kt takes P | 35. B to Q 2 | P to Q Kt 4 |
| 6. Q to Kt 4 | Kt to B 4 (b) | 36. P takes P | B takes P |
| 7. Q takes P | Q to R 5 ch | 37. P to K Kt 4 | K to Q sq |
| 8. P to Kt 3 | Q to K 5 ch | 38. P to R 4 | K to K 2 |
| 9. B to K 2 | R to B sq (e) | 39. P to R 5 | P takes P |
| 10. Kt to B 3 | Q to Kt 3 (d) | 40. P takes P | K to B 2 |
| 11. Q takes Q | B P takes Q | 41. P to R 6 | P to B 4 |
| 12. B to R 6 | R to Kt sq | 42. P to B 4 | B to B 3 |
| 13. Castles | Kt to B 3 | 43. P to R 7 | K to Kt 2 |
| 14. B to Q B 4 | Kt to K 3 | 44. B to R 6 ch | K to R sq |
| 15. Q R to K sq | Kt to R 4 | 45. B to B 8 | Kt to B 6 |
| 16. B takes Kt | P takes B | 46. K to B 2 | Kt to K 5 ch |
| 17. Kt to Kt 5 | B to Q 2 | 47. K to K 3 | Kt to Kt 4 |
| 18. R to B 7 (e) | Castles | 48. B takes P | Kt takes P |
| 19. R takes P | R to R sq | 49. Kt takes Kt | K takes Kt |
| 20. R takes R | R takes R | 50. K to Q 4 | K to Kt 2 |
| 21. B to Kt 7 | R to Kt sq | 51. B to R 3 (f) | K to B 2 |
| 22. B to B 6 | Kt to B 5 | 52. K to B 5 | B to Q 2 |
| 23. P to Kt 3 | Kt to R 6 | 53. K to Kt 6 | K to K sq |
| 24. R to K 2 (f) | Kt to Kt 8 | 54. P to Kt 4 | K to Q sq |
| 25. P to B 4 | Kt to B 6 | 55. P to Kt 5 | K to B sq |
| 26. R to B 2 | Kt takes P | 56. P to B 5 | K to Kt sq |
| 27. B to K 7 | Kt to B 6 | 57. P to B 6 | B to B sq |
| 28. B to Kt 4 | Kt to Q 8 | 58. B to Q 6 ch | K to R sq |
| 29. R to K 2 | P to R 4 (g) | 59. K to B 7 | Resigns. |
| 30. B takes P | R to B sq | | |

NOTES.

(a) An inferior defence. Preferable is 3. . . . P to Q 4, with the probable continuation of 4. P to Q 3, Q P takes P ; 5. P B takes P, Kt to Kt 5 ; 6. Kt takes P, Kt takes P, etc. The next move might be played after 3. . . . P to Q 4, but it leads then to an unsound sacrifice of a piece by Black, introduced by Blackburne. We give the variation for the benefit of those of our readers who may not be acquainted with it :

| WHITE. | BLACK. | WHITE. | BLACK. |
|----------------|-------------|--|--------------|
| 3. . . . | P to Q 4 | 7. K to K 2 | B takes Kt |
| 4. P to Q 3 | B to Q Kt 5 | 8. P takes B | B to Kt 5 ch |
| 5. B P takes P | Kt takes P | 9. Kt to B 3 | P takes P |
| 6. P takes Kt | Q to R 5 ch | 10. Q to Q 4, and White keeps the piece. | |

- (b) The only move under the circumstances.
- (c) Obviously Black dare not capture the rook, because of 11. Q takes R ch, K to K 2 ; 12. B to Kt 5 ch, K to K 3 ; 13. Q to B 6 ch, K to Q 4 ; 14. P to B 4 ch, K to Q 5 ; 15. P to K 5, dis. ch, K to K 5 ; 16. Q to B 4 mate.
- (d) Perhaps Black should not have proposed the exchange of queens. 10. . . . Kt to K 3 could have been played. The complications arising therefrom might be considered to tell more against the blindfold player.
- (e) White could have taken the pawn at once.
- (f) White could have attacked the knight at once with 24. B to K 7, and if Black had captured the pawn then 25. R to K 2, Kt to R 8 ; 26. B to R 3, followed by 27. B to Kt 2, winning the knight.
- (g) An ingenious attempt to save the knight which is in danger ; but it ought to have been of no avail if White had retired the bishop instead of the text move—e.g. :

| WHITE. | BLACK. | WHITE. | BLACK. |
|----------------|------------|--|----------|
| 30. B to Q 2 | P to R 5 | 33. B to Kt 4 | P to R 7 |
| 31. R to K sq | Kt to Kt 7 | 34. R to R sq, followed by 35. B to R 3, &c. | |
| 32. R to Kt sq | P to R 6 | | |

- (h) It is too late now to capture the knight, because if 32. K to B 2, Black has a valid reply with 32. . . . R to B 4, followed by 33. . . . B to B 3, etc. Anything else on the part of Black would lose. For instance: 32. K to Kt 2, R K 6 ; 33. K to B sq, B to B 3 ; 34. Kt to Kt 5, followed by 35. K to K sq, etc.
- (i) Somewhat better would have been 31. . . . Kt to K 6, whilst there was time.
- (j) Of course anything will win now, but Dr. Zukertort's is a very safe course.

NEWS ITEMS.

MR. STEINITZ has secured the necessary four hundred subscribers to his *Chess Journal*, and the first number will be issued early in January, 1885.
The number of chess clubs has nearly doubled in the past three years. There are now about 400 clubs with a membership of about 10,000.—*Cincinnati Commercial*.
CHESS was unknown to the ancient Romans. The Gibbon of the *Philadelphia Times* remarks that "the beautiful game was kept a close monopoly by the bloody heathens until about the middle of the eighth century, when we hear of Eudes, Duke of Aquitaine, receiving a 'check' from the Saracens, and shortly afterwards Pepin, 'the short,' king of France, received, along with an organ and some other traps, a set of 'crystalline chessmen' from a correspondent, Constantine Capronymus, who had a seat of work as Emperor of the East.—*Cincinnati Commercial*."

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From the Mail (Can.) Dec. 15.

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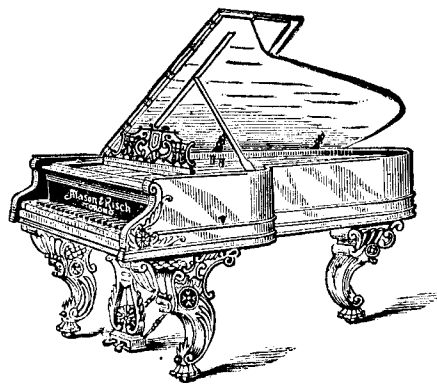
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