

# THE WEEK:

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AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE.

Edited by W. PHILIP ROBINSON.

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### TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

WHATEVER decision the Government may come to about the application of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company ought to be made known to Parliament at the earliest moment. Every day's suspense will strengthen the natural suspicion that persons who may come into possession of the secret of the undeclared intention of the Government may take advantage of their knowledge to operate in the stock. Indeed this suspicion has already found expression; and as it is neither unnatural nor unreasonable, though it may be unfounded, it ought to be terminated by a declaration of the intention of the Government. The only excuse for delay would be that a decision has not been reached. To the list of delusions which surround this enterprise, General Middleton, Commander of the Forces at Ottawa, makes the latest contribution. He raises the question of fortifying Burrard Inlet, the Pacific terminus of the road, on the supposition that this route to India may have to be substituted for that by the Suez Canal in some military emergency. If there were good reasons for making a stronghold at that point on the Pacific Ocean, it would be for Great Britain rather than Canada to incur the expense. But there is no reason why the cost of the proposed fortification should be incurred. England will be obliged to give up the use of the Suez Canal, as a means of reaching India, only if she loses her command over the ocean; and this power once gone, she would be as weak on the Atlantic as on the Red Sea. Of the two events to which many Englishmen are disposed to look as possible—the loss of India and the loss of the use of the Suez Canal as a means of reaching India—the latter is as likely to be realized as the former. On both subjects the panic is devoid of reason. England is not likely to be driven to the shift of seeking some substitute for the Suez Canal, and if she were the hour of her doom as a first-rate naval power would have struck.

To get an idea of the extent to which the high tariff has checked imports we must look back for a series of years. In each of the years 1873

and 1874 the value of the goods entered for consumption was over one hundred and twenty-seven millions; last year, ending with June, the figure fell to one hundred and eight millions. The requirements of consumers must have greatly increased within the decade, apart from the stimulus occasioned by the construction of the Pacific Railway; and the falling-off in the value of the imports of nineteen millions of dollars at the period of greater demand gives us some measure of the check which the increased duties put on importation. During the present commercial cycle the imports did not rise above those of the previous cycle, while the duties on customs increased eight millions. It was this increase of duties that kept down the importations below what they would otherwise have been, the reduction probably being not less than forty millions of dollars. Since the year 1868, the official figures show that the value of the imports have been \$342,036,633 more than that of the exports. This excess passes with some innocent people for the "adverse balance of trade." The assumed exactness by which the balance is measured is never capable of proof and is generally far from the truth. To make Sir Leonard Tilley's balance approximately correct it would be necessary to add all the shipping charges on the imports from 1868 to 1884. If this were done, the so-called adverse balance would be much greater than the figure it is put down at. But let the hobgoblin be as big and as hideous as it is possible to make it, we must not allow ourselves to be alarmed by the false notion that it represents a loss on our international dealings. But it does prove that the country is largely in debt; much of the adverse balance being caused by paying abroad interest on debt in the form of exports. These debts are in various forms, governmental, municipal, mortgage, debenture. Whether it be a disadvantage to the country to owe these debts depends upon the use to which the capital borrowed has been put, and whether a profit, direct or indirect, is made upon it. Upon some of it, notably that borrowed on the debentures of Loan Companies, a profit is regularly made. Even the debt of the Federal Government is far from representing only loss. Before our expenditure on the St. Lawrence Canals was made, it was practically impossible to export grain from Ontario, for the little that was sent down on rafts is scarcely worth notice. In the absence of any means of getting it to a foreign market, wheat has been sold in Western Ontario for half what it brings now in Manitoba. The loans which enabled us to build the canals and the railways which gave the means of access to a foreign market cannot be said to bring no return. The interest paid on them in produce represents a large part of the so-called adverse balance of trade. Some of these loans may have been so employed as to bring no adequate return even of the indirect kind; but the capital, which represents the various forms of debt for which the country is liable, was generally put to a use which made it yield a full though often indirect return of interest. The Government paid the interest on the Public Works debt out of taxes which the increased price of produce enabled the people to bear. At first, the increased tariff struck our trade with the United States with paralysis. From being nearly equal to our trade with Great Britain the American branch of our commerce was represented, in 1880, by a value of sixty-two millions against eighty millions of dollars. Next year the difference was a little less, and in 1882, our trade with the United States had again risen to an equality with that with Great Britain, and the equality has since been maintained. A recovery so remarkable deserves special enquiry. Have the *ad valorem* duties—a form which Great Britain has abandoned—anything to do with it? Or did the Americans, under pressure of our enhanced tariff, nerve themselves for a severer competition than any to which they had before been willing to submit? The old theory of a sacrifice market implies an abnormal state of things which can never be more than temporary. To enable the Americans to recover this trade, they must have cut down their invoices. Perhaps they have under pressure been accepting prices which in a more active state of home demand they would not be willing to take.

THE finances of Ontario are on the down grade. For the present year the Provincial Treasurer bargains for a deficiency, besides having to deal with one last year which was not foreseen. Perhaps he is right in

his view that a small deficiency should be made good out of the surplus rather than by an increase of public burthens; but the plea can be good only when an exceptional case has to be dealt with. It would be extremely dangerous to take the ground that deficits may, year after year, be dealt with in this way. Mr. Ross foresees a future necessity for more revenue, and he is ready with a suggestion for procuring it. He has fallen into the evil habit of Provincial treasurers of looking to the Dominion treasury as an inexhaustible source of increased subsidies. His objection to special grants in increase of Provincial subsidies is sound, and it is quite clear that if things continue in their present course Ontario will not always be content to forego a demand for redressing the disturbed financial basis of the Union. But Mr. Ross goes further in the wrong direction than the treasurer of any other Province when he asks that the Provincial subsidies should be increased every ten years. The time will come, and it cannot be far distant, when the financial necessities of the Dominion will be greater than those of any Province. It is easy to say that the Provinces will insist on getting additional subsidies from time to time; but the growing obligations of the Dominion make it certain that it will be impossible to comply with this demand. Mr. Ross admits that special grants to the Provinces lead to extravagance; and it is just as certain that a general increase of the subsidies would have the same effect. Ontario has a right to ask that these special grants should stop, and that if anything be done in the way of increasing the subsidies it should be done on equitable principles; that she should not be called upon to suffer that other Provinces may get special favours. To do this is her duty as well as her right; but a general increase of the subsidies every ten years is happily impossible, and if it were possible, it ought to be rejected on account of its corrupting and emasculating tendency on the recipients.

THE Farmers' Convention is to meet at Winnipeg on the fourth of next month, to insist upon the fulfilment of the demands embodied in the "Bill of Rights," the chief of which are the abolition of vexatious Custom duties, free railway development, and the right of the Province to an interest in its own lands. The regular politicians are scandalized at the movement. But it was evident from the outset that as soon as the North-West began to fill up, to feel its strength, and become conscious of its own interests, it would refuse any longer to be treated as a dependency by the Ottawa Government, and that, unless the Government would give way, collisions would be likely to ensue. Feeling among the North-Western farmers must run high if, as a well-informed correspondent assured us the other day, they are beginning to talk of appealing to Washington. To that, or any other extreme measure we, may be sure they will not really think of resorting, till efforts to obtain their rights in a regular and constitutional way have failed, a result which there is no reason to apprehend. Their first object should be to get themselves properly represented at Ottawa, where their delegation though small, would from the prospective greatness of their territory, have an influence out of proportion to its mere number if it were independent and true to its constituents. Unfortunately most of its members have succumbed to the influences of the place. To call these gentlemen to account ought to be one of the first measures of the Convention; and the earliest opportunity ought to be taken of replacing them by representatives above temptation.

THE spirit of England is rising to the emergency; but it is evident that she is short of troops. Well she may be, with an army about a third of the size of that of Italy, and dominions all over the world. Now, as we said before, is Canada's opportunity. We, or busy and aspiring persons in our name, have made a number of rather unsubstantial offers and promises. We have sent over somewhat apocryphal catalogues of persons who were eager to enlist, and wholly apocryphal statements as to the magnitude of our army and the military organization of our people. Let us now prove the genuineness of our affection and lay up a proud memory for ourselves by tendering substantial aid. Let Canada present to the Mother Country, in acknowledgment of all that she has done for us in the way of military protection and in other ways still more important, a single regiment, to be maintained for a certain time at our cost. Recruiting would probably not be difficult. A good many people are out of work; not a few are actually committing petty offences for the sake of being housed in gaol; and the class of men somewhat indiscriminately labelled as tramps are often rather restless than criminal, and under discipline would make good soldiers. A tramp, in fact, is generally only a soldier wasted. The cost, if it burdened us, might be saved out of emigration agencies, Senatorial indemnities, and perhaps some expenditures of a still more questionable kind. Would the proposal be too unpopular? What then becomes of all our effusions of martial ardour, and all our professions

of eagerness to take part in upholding the honour of the Empire? Were they mere words, or did they mean only that Canada would always be ready to sell England assistance at the market price provided some Knight-hoods and Companionships of the Bath were thrown into the bargain? Of all the politicians who wear Imperial decorations, gained largely by fine speeches of this kind, is there not one who will come forward in Parliament to make his words good and show forth the chivalry which has been imparted to him by the accolade? If no real aid is tendered to England now, we may close the debate on Imperial Federation. For whatever else Federation may mean or not mean, there are two things which it unquestionably does mean—Free Trade and Contribution to Imperial Armaments.

THE motion of which Mr. Beaty has given notice in the Dominion Parliament embodies what has been maintained in these columns to be the one rational, equitable and effective measure of Prohibition. Beer and light wine he leaves free; but with regard to spirits he goes straight to the mark, and proposes, instead of ineffectively meddling with the sale, absolutely to stop the manufacture and the importation, paying, as the justice on which all society is based requires, reasonable compensation to the distillers. If anything is to be done—and we have never deprecated strong measures in case of real necessity—this is the right course. Whiskey, such whiskey at all events as our people commonly drink, may be said without great violence of language to be poison; it may be said, at all events, to come fairly within the cognizance of sanitary police; it acts injuriously on the coats of the stomach and engenders the dipsomaniac craving which is apt to become hereditary. But it is to whiskey, as the liquor most easily smuggled, that imperfect measures of indiscriminate prohibition, such as the Scott Act, practically drive the people. In truth they drive the people to worse things than the worst whiskey. The *World* gave us the other day a pleasant account of the diabolical compounds which contraband dealers, practically protected in their noxious traffic by imperfect prohibition laws, are able to sell at an enormous price to the unfortunate labourers on the railroads in the North-West. Paid lecturers are going about and telling the people that all alcoholic beverages are poison. Very slow poison wine and beer must be, since in England people live to a hundred who have drunk them all their lives. The first living authority on diet has just told us that wine drunk in small quantities with the meal does no man harm in body or mind. The notion that the moderate use of light wine or beer must lead to excess, or to the use of stronger liquors, is confuted by the experience of tens of millions in the wine-growing countries, and in the countries where wholesome beer is the regular drink. When a man asserts that drunkenness is prevalent in the wine-growing countries he only shows that he can never have seen them. In Spain the sight of a drunken man is so rare that a crowd will flock to behold it.

It seems to be supposed that objections to the bestowal of seats in the Senate as payments for services done to the party or the Prime Minister in elections must necessarily have their source in Revolutionary or Radical sentiment. Precisely the opposite is the fact. It is unnecessary here to discuss the merits or demerits of the Bicameral system. That system has been adopted in Canada; and it is upon the Senate that the framers of our Constitution have relied as the conservative and regulative element of the Constitution. But this function the Senate, owing to the manner in which the appointments have been made, has become totally incompetent to perform. It is a cypher; its debates are not reported by the journals, unless there is a personal fracas; nor is it treated by the Government as a body possessed of the smallest independence, or even of any great amount of self-respect. Suppose in some time of fierce national agitation, caused perhaps by industrial distress, a violent and socialistic measure were to pass the Commons, could any stand be made by a body the vast majority of whose members would represent nothing but the favour of a single party leader who had used his patronage as party spoils? Would the Senate at such a crisis offer any sort of rallying-point for the conservative effort of the country? It would go down like a rotten sea-wall before a heavy gale and a spring tide. Conservative institutions, when destitute of moral strength, are worse than nothing; they are provocatives of Revolution. The merits of an appointment cannot be discussed without raising a somewhat personal question, though private character is not touched by the examination of public claims; this we regret; but THE WEEK is not the only journal on which an unwelcome necessity is occasionally imposed. When we are told that our reason for demurring to the nomination of Dr. Sullivan is our prejudice against Catholics, we can only reply that nobody can seriously believe such nonsense. It is not the religion to which we object, but the man of that religion, or rather the grounds on which

that man is invested with legislative power for his life. We have demurred equally to all nominations, whether Protestant or Catholic, so often as we believed them to be given as rewards for party services which were not also services to the country. Mr. Gowan's services were services to the country: Dr. Sullivan's, if we are correctly informed about them, were not. It would be difficult, we believe, to find a word in these columns indicative of enmity to the religion of any Church or man. We could name several Catholics whose elevation we should welcome. But connivance at appointments injurious to the nation, because the person appointed is a Catholic, an Orangeman, or a Methodist, must be left to those who have an interest in the Catholic, Orange or Methodist vote. In politics his religion ought neither to hurt nor to help any man: that is the motto to which this journal will invariably adhere.

If we may judge from an article by Mr. Forster, who is the leading authority, in the *Nineteenth Century*, there is a disposition to adjourn the question of Imperial Federation till the fog shall have cleared away, and to embrace as a temporary substitute the plan of a Colonial Council, composed of the Commissioners of the different colonies, to advise the Minister, as the India Council advises the Minister for India. Upon this proposal Lord Grey, an old Colonial Minister, seems to smile. But Lord Blachford, who was long Under-Secretary for the colonies, and is the highest of all authorities with regard to the administration of the office, pronounces the bureaucratic difficulties insuperable. Above all, the fact at once confronts us that, whereas the members of the Indian Council all represent the same country, the members of this Colonial Council would represent each of them a different country, with a separate interest of its own. They might sit round the same table, but they would not be a council; they would be, if anything, a permanent congress of ambassadors. Is this Board, on the other side of the Atlantic, to have real power over our affairs? If it is, our people will not endure it for a year; if it is not, what is the use of it? Cannot the Colonial Office use the Cable? Already the High Commissionership is little better than a job. Mr. Forster hopes to pin the Canadian Premier to his promise that Canada will share the responsibility and the cost of British wars. Let the honest Yorkshireman try.

THAT there will be a storm when the British Parliament meets, we need no Wiggins to foretell. But the barque of the Ministry is not likely to founder. The position of the Government, as was said before, is rendered almost impregnable by the absence of strong men on the other side. Khartoum has fallen and has involved its heroic commandant in its fate; but it fell through the treachery of its garrison, not through lack of rescue, which was close at hand. The expedition itself, whether wise or unwise, was undertaken in clear obedience to the national will. Every effort is now being made to reinforce Lord Wolseley's army, wrest victory from the Mehdî and avenge the slain. What more under the present circumstances could any Ministry do? This is not a case which a pleader so powerful as Mr. Gladstone need despair of presenting in a fair light. The more practical question, perhaps, is whether any combination can be formed sufficiently strong to defeat the Government. The only one which presents itself as possible is a coalition of the Conservatives with the extreme Radicals and the Parnellites. Into this would gladly go, with his section of the Conservatives, Lord Randolph Churchill, who avows with a frankness which the most brazen of American demagogues might envy that his motto is to win, no matter by what means, and leave the moralists to talk as they please. The Parnellites and a few of the extreme Radicals are ready for any mischief. But the moderate Conservatives would hold back on one side and so would some of the Radicals on the other. So far as the Radicals are concerned, Mr. Gladstone's influence is still strong, if not with the members themselves, with their constituencies, whose wishes they dare not disregard. The opinion which the Cable transmits to us is London opinion. In the country at large, which is not led by London, the Premier, in spite of his misfortunes, retains his ascendancy. The immediate prospect of a General Election will also restrain cabal. A more promising opening for an attack on the Government than the Egyptian disaster is presented by Mr. Chamberlain's Communistic speeches; and strenuous efforts will no doubt be made to drive a wedge into the cleft which such an escapade must have made in the Cabinet. But Cabinets are seldom split from without.

THE intensity of the excitement in Egypt is shown by the sensitiveness of the people about little things which touch their feelings. Mr. Gladstone is denounced for having been at the play and laughed after receiving the news of Gordon's death. The answer seems to be that he had not

received the news. But supposing he had, his appearance at the theatre, though it would not have been well-timed, might not have betokened levity. It might have betokened, on the contrary, the need of mental relief. Lincoln was constantly upbraided with levity, because during the darkest periods of war he kept on telling his comic stories. Yet nobody who had seen him could doubt that he was a man melancholy by nature, and almost overwhelmed with the weight of his responsibilities. After the disaster of Chancellorsville he is believed to have meditated suicide. The little stories were his mental relief. They were pinches of intellectual snuff. It is true, however, that those who have studied Mr. Gladstone's character pronounce it to be rather energetic and excitable than susceptible of deep emotion. He is certainly of a buoyant temperament, and easily throws off his burden of care: if he did not, it would have broken him down long ago. The English people are also very angry because the Court, in presence of the national calamity, thinks chiefly of its private bereavements, and carries out, as if nothing had happened, its plan of a pleasure-trip to Germany. They are looking for figs and grapes on thorns and thistles if they expect hereditary monarchy of the modern type ever to give up its personal plans and inclinations at the call of public duty: its whole training from the cradle upward, and all the influences that surround it, conspire in teaching it to think first, if not exclusively, of itself. Gracious it can be; and it can send about, or direct to be sent about, telegrams congratulatory or sympathetic to any extent: but the meaning of self-sacrifice it hardly knows. Ask it in deference to the public interest to put itself to any sort of personal inconvenience, or to forego anything on which it has set its heart, and it will stand astonished at such presumption. This, we believe, is the whispered avowal of those who have had to deal with its humours as statesmen and Ministers of the Crown. Every one of us would behave in the same manner if we likewise had been guarded through life by an invisible fence from all those practical monitions of an uncourtly world which impress upon us the idea of duty. It is curious, however, to note how completely Royalty in these its later days has renounced the leadership of the nation, and acquiesced in its position as a social divinity to be kept in safety, carried about to layings of first stones, and worshipped with banquets, battues and addresses. At a great crisis of national destiny the court goes on a pleasure-trip abroad. The other day at the coming of age of the future heir to the Crown, one of the festal performances was a representation of the Black Prince. It must have occurred to all except the most courtly of the guests that when Aquitaine was in danger the Black Prince was in Aquitaine; and that his occupation there was not shooting barn-door pheasants.

THE most dangerous part of the military situation is the passionate desire of the English people at once to "smash the Mehdî." An enemy with any power of resistance can be smashed only by putting the business unreservedly into the hands of the generals and letting them do what the art of war requires. Popular impatience, getting the reins into its hands, will ruin all. Even governments have never done anything but mischief by interfering with the action of their generals, much less can the people, acting through the press, direct operations without multiplying catastrophes. Perhaps if the nation were bent above all things upon victory it would even put a curb on its curiosity, however natural, and cease to insist on sending newspaper correspondents with the army. Some of the correspondents have displayed in their singular calling not only a power of the pen which has given literature some of its best narrative pieces, but the most marvellous energy and the most devoted courage. To speak of them otherwise than with respect would be most unjust. Yet their presence can hardly fail to increase the difficulties of a commander. The addition to the number of non-combatants and the consumption of a few more rations, though stress has been laid upon them, are the least part of the matter. Far more serious is the disclosure of information; for though no correspondent would now, like Lord Raglan's tormentor in the Crimea, betray to the enemy the position of the reserve ammunition, the publication of anything that is going on in his camp, especially of anything affecting the condition or spirits of his troops, must be more or less annoying to a general. But worst of all perhaps is the disposition which can hardly fail to be engendered in officers, when they have the eye of the Press upon them, to look for praise or blame to that quarter rather than to their commander, which can hardly fail to impair his authority, and to carry with it a tendency to seek individual distinction at the expense of devotion to the common cause. Lastly, all the reports come back, transmuted into a shower of criticism, upon the camp. Those who have read the history of Lord Raglan's military martyrdom must know too well what is meant. The British public, will no doubt insist upon the gratification of its curiosity; in fact, the exercise of any "censorship" on the part of the general seems

to be matter for complaint. But the Mehdi, who is unencumbered with correspondents and whose men look to him alone, may be said in that respect to enjoy an addition of five per cent. to the chances on his side.

It is very likely that the sudden insurrection of the unemployed which has just startled London was swelled by a large contingent of roughs. It may also have been partly the consequence of the discharge of Irish workmen on account of the dynamite outrages. Still it is an ominous sign, and not the only one of the kind on the social horizon. The advanced Radicals are proclaiming in the *Fortnightly Review* and elsewhere that this is to be a social revolution. The revolution of 1832 was purely political. Social agitations were set on foot, as the consequence of the general ferment, but they remained entirely subordinate to the main movement, which was one of purely political reform, and speedily came to a close when political abuses had been removed. The present revolution, on the contrary, is to be social, and, as the more outspoken of those engaged in it avow, socialistic. Thanks to the speeches of Mr. Chamberlain and his associates, the idea has certainly penetrated masses of the people that a great improvement is to be at once effected in their condition, and if their expectations are not fulfilled dangerous discontent is likely to arise. Their impatience already shows itself in menacing forms. Though highly optimistic language is held by members and supporters of the Government, it is difficult not to regard the situation as serious. A political and a social or agrarian revolution are going on at the same time, while the three Celtic and Catholic provinces of Ireland are in a state of moral rebellion, a war which appears likely to be protracted has commenced in Egypt, and in the regions of diplomacy clouds are gathering on all sides.

NOTHING has transpired to contradict the belief that Mrs. Dudley was half insane, and became for the time entirely insane under the excitement produced by the Dynamite outrages. But her act, and the effect which it has evidently produced, are instructive as foreshadowing the dire expedients to which civilized society may be some day driven if Dynamite continues its work. Dynamiters are out of the pale of humanity; some day they may be regarded as out of the pale of law, and vengeance may be let loose upon them without legal restraint. Hitherto civilization in dealing with them has had its hands tied by moral scruples; but moral scruples will give way at last to a paroxysm of rage and fear. It is now pretty manifest that there is a way in which in the last extremity Dynamitism may be mated and terrorism turned against its authors. Legal processes are precarious as well as tedious; and even if successful they only bring to the gallows the instrument of the crime, usually one of those brutal or fanatical natures whom the arch-contrivers of villainy employ to strike the blow and suffer the penalty while they plot in safety themselves. The dagger is shivered; the hand that held it and the head which directed the hand remain untouched. But if the leaders and the instigators, the Parnells, the Healys, the Patrick Fords once felt that when the victim fell by the hand of the assassin they would be the marks for the vengeance of his kinsmen, and that a jury would be sure to acquit the avenger, they would grow prudent; and to this, some day, it may come. There seems also to be a security, though one of which many would be slow to avail themselves, in membership of a secret society. The Prince of Wales, the Fenians say, is safe because he is a Freemason, and the Freemasons have done so much good: that is to say, the Fenians fear their vengeance.

THE impertinent curiosity of Americans, though still a by-word, is really a thing of the past: it belonged to the period when they lived in isolation, and like all other people living in isolation were greedy of news. If the habit lingers anywhere now, it is in the far west where the old conditions remain. Few living persons can say that impertinent questions have ever been addressed to them by an American fellow-traveller. The reserve and exclusiveness of the Englishman abroad is another phantom of the same kind. When Englishmen first went on the Continent after being shut up in their island for twenty years by the war with France, they were naturally reserved and exclusive: but habitual intercourse with foreigners has by this time thawed their ice. The refusal of an English party to associate with Mr. Davitt at the table of a foreign hotel would not, however, in any case have been what it has been represented as being, a sign of insular temperament, or of inability to doff British prejudices and associations. Mr. Davitt is not merely like Bradlaugh, a politician of an unpopular stripe, he is a sworn enemy of Englishmen, one of a party which has been pouring upon them torrents of the foulest slander, and which is identified in their eyes with the most devilish machinations for their destruction. The avowed object of his life is to dismember the British Commonwealth. Would loyal Americans, in the time of the Civil War, have sat down to dinner with Mason and Slidell?

FALSE advertisements do no concern any good in the end. What can be the use of telling the people in England, after such a spell of weather as we have just had, that the winter in Canada is not severe, and that the poor emigrant is in no more danger of suffering from cold here than he is in his own country, in some parts of which the winter is merely nominal? It is very well for the warmly-clad, the well-housed, and the well-fed to talk about brightness and exhilaration; but in those who are not so provided sensation overpowers sentiment, and the emigrant, shivering beneath a brilliant sky with the glass below zero, wishes himself back in his mild though cloudy Devonshire. What is the consequence of mystification? The consequence is that poor people come here unprepared and unprovided for the bitter cold which they have to encounter: they suffer sometimes terribly; their cries are heard in England; and the upshot is that we have advertised ourselves as impostors.

WE should be exceedingly sorry to have it thought that in discussing University Confederation we had shown any feeling other than those of respect and sympathy for Queen's College and its administrators; but we have not. We have fully admitted that the reluctance to embrace Confederation on their part was natural, such efforts having been recently made to build up the local college, and the tie which binds its members to it being so strong. That there were no insuperable obstacles, material or of any other kind, seemed to be implied by the presence of the Principal at the Conference, which, it may be presumed, he would have declined to attend had he considered the acceptance of any scheme of Confederation by his College out of the question. Of the financial part of the problem, the authorities of Queen's alone are judges; we would only beg them to remember how much a College saves by being enabled to take advantage of a University professoriate and equipment. But their arguments have not been confined to the financial part of the problem or to a single case; they have extended to the general question between Confederation and Local Colleges, and have furnished arms to the opposition in all quarters. To meet them was necessary, if the case for Confederation was to be made good. Queen's will apparently remain for the present as it is, and will, no doubt, under its excellent and energetic Principal, do as good work as the limitations of a small University permit. With regard to the other Colleges, the scheme will go forward; Queen's will watch the experiment, and will be guided in the end by its result.

THE life of George Eliot is now in everybody's hands, and is no doubt being eagerly devoured. It is in fact an autobiography, the extracts from her letters being connected only by a very slight thread of narrative. The thread of narrative is indeed so slight that with regard to the most momentous of the personal events of her life, the reader is left to guess what it was that she did, and for which her moral justification is tendered. Nor is it concealed that everything which she would not have wished to be published has been withheld. The self-portraiture, therefore, can hardly be supposed to be complete. Yet it is perhaps as complete as it need be. It is, at all events, profoundly interesting. Of the novelist we have little. Hardly a trace appears of the humour displayed in such characters as that of "Mrs. Poyser." This appears to have been wholly dramatic. But we have the dramatic and social character of the woman, which though grave is very sweet, and we have, what is most important of all, the history of the philosopher's opinions. As a philosopher George Eliot exercised a powerful influence on her generation. She regarded herself, it seems, only as "an aesthetic teacher" of the morally right and beautiful, considering it her main office to increase the happiness of mankind. But it cannot be doubted that she was, though in a negative rather than a positive way, a most effective disseminator of Agnosticism, and did much, rightly or wrongly, to undermine theological belief. The biography shows her setting out as an Evangelical Christian. She first gave up Christianity and afterwards her belief in a personal God, or indeed in any definite conception of God at all. Her husband says that "hers was emphatically a religious mind." She retained certain religious tastes, such as reading the Bible, and occasionally going to a Ritualist church. She also affected, without actively embracing, the Comtist Religion of Humanity, and was in close relation with Dr. Congreve, the head of the Positivist Church in England. The tone and elevation of her morality are decidedly spiritual, or what we have been accustomed to associate with spirituality: they are indeed pretty evidently survivals of the faith of her youth, and she seems to have had a dim vision of some religion which was to arise in the future when the revelation of science should have become complete. But from any definite belief she had totally divorced herself. For all practical purposes she was an Agnostic, and perhaps, though involuntarily and unconsciously, the first influential teacher of that negative creed.

### THE RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL POLICY.

THE Finance Minister has put forth a Report, drawn up by Commissioners of his own selection, and very manifestly of his own way of thinking, on the industrial condition of the country. It exceeds in jubilant optimism anything that has appeared since the Budget speeches of "Prosperity" Robinson. What, the reader must ask, is this voluminous collection of statistics adduced to prove? Is it adduced to prove that by assuring to a particular trade legislative protection you can produce an abnormal inflow of capital and an artificial development of the trade? Who ever denied or doubted that you could? The only question is as to the ultimate effect of such a policy. Sir Leonard Tilley does not suppose that by laying on new taxes, or by any other fiscal expedient he can increase the amount of capital in the country. He must know that all he can do is to give the existing capital a different direction. Which direction then is likely to be the most profitable, the natural or the artificial? that which the owners of the capital, using their best judgment with regard to their own interests, select, or that which is selected for them by a paternal government? There can surely be little doubt as to the answer even on the assumption that the Government is really paternal, that it takes a perfectly impartial view of the commercial situation, and is entirely free from the political pressure of special interests. If it is demagogic and yields to political pressure the danger of misdirection is greatly increased. The probability is in that case that a few strong interests will control protective legislation, while weak interests which in the aggregate are of not less importance will go to the wall. The wails of the weak are in fact heard even in this Report. We see of course only what capital has produced in the channels into which protective legislation has forced it; we do not see what it would have produced had it been left to flow in the channels from which it has been withdrawn.

Artificial stimulus, especially if applied to a very narrow field, leads to inflation and over-production upon which follows collapse. This is a familiar truth, often illustrated by experience; nevertheless it seems to present itself to the framers of the Report with all the freshness of novelty. "It is true" they say, "that in some instances the privilege of supplying the Canadian market with manufactured goods, the produce of our own mills, has been too largely taken advantage of by capitalists anxious to put their money to a profitable use, and in this way the market (which though a growing one has its limits) was for a time unduly stocked with this class of goods." In explanation they plead that Canadian manufacturers could know little of the wants of the Canadian market which had been largely supplied by foreigners, and that they were "groping in the dark" to ascertain the amount of any particular article which would be needed. But how is this groping in the dark performed? Not merely by tentative calculations, but by setting up a number of superfluous mills and enlisting a multitude of hands that are not required. Then comes the collapse: but the weak members of the protected interest are not disposed meekly to resign their lives as necessary sacrifices to the success of a grand experiment, or to regard themselves and their ruined factories as shavings from the creative lathe of the great financial artificer. They demand an increase of Protection; and thus the system, being intensified so as to meet the needs of the weakest, affords an extravagant degree of Protection to the strongest. As some of the manufacturers declined to give information, it may be suspected that the full results of the "groping" have not been yet disclosed. Had the Finance Minister, with his superior knowledge, raised a voice of timely warning, instead of careering joyously over the country and cheering on sanguine investment, possibly some of these disasters might have been averted. But the consequence of artificial stimulus acting on a small area will always be violent fluctuations, and we must look for a recurrence of these industrial convulsions, not without their social accompaniments, in the future.

The framers of the Report deplore the fact that in the North-West, with regard to the trade in agricultural implements, there is still, in spite of the increase of duty, some United States competition. This is ascribed to "the prejudice in favour of the United States made implements as better adapted to prairie farming which still lingers in some minds, but is being gradually rooted out by reason of the exceedingly fine machines now being produced by Canadian makers." This is an admission as frank as can be expected from an advocate that Canadian mechanics were at first not well adapted to prairie farming, and that North-Western agriculture was cruelly handicapped at its birth by being compelled to use unsuitable implements, or pay an excessive price for those which were suitable, in order that the manufacture of a special class of implements might be forced into existence in Eastern Canada. Was agriculture made for the implement or the implement for agriculture? Some indulgence is surely due in

this matter to the prejudice of the ignorant Manitoban, especially as he was at the time paying, in a winter of extreme severity, a tax upon his coal, the object of which was to force Ontario and Quebec to draw their coal from the mines of Nova Scotia. The Report, by the way, omits to trace the beneficial results of the coal-tax, and to demonstrate the wisdom of forcing manufactories into existence in Provinces which have no coal and preventing the importation of coal at the same time.

The complaisant framers of the Report point to the operation of a protective duty on musical instruments as sufficient in itself by its beneficence to justify the policy of the Government. This seems to imply rather a high estimate on their part of the importance of musical instruments; yet in that respect we cordially agree with them. Music is destined to play a momentous part in softening and refining national character, in the promotion of sociability, in the substitution of pure for vicious pleasures. And for that reason any impediment to the free importation of good instruments must be specially noxious in the case of this country, where our power of producing them is, and must long remain, extremely limited. A natural advantage belongs, irrespectively of any protective duty, to the builder of an organ on the spot; and Canada may produce pianos of a certain class. To suppose that she can be made by the stimulus of protective duties to produce first-class pianos, or first-class instruments of other kinds, wind instruments for example, or violins, is to imagine that she can be transmuted by a wave of the fiscal wand into a land of rare mechanical skill, trained taste and consummate science. Wonderful as our agricultural or lumbering resources may be, our Stradivarius is still in the distant future. There are articles the construction of which is so expensive and requires so much science that they can be produced only in countries furnished with specialists and affording a very large market. A first-class printing-press is one of these; and to prevent us from importing first-class printing-presses is simply to retard our civilization. Another instance is mining machinery, from want of liberty to purchase which, as well as from the general effects of exclusion from natural markets, mining enterprise expires on the northern shore of Lake Superior while it flourishes on the southern shore.

We come back to the old point. Sir Leonard Tilley framed on his first assumption of his office a tariff which amply justified his wisdom by filling the deficit and producing a surplus. Had he adhered to the principle of a tariff for revenue only, and let it be understood that when taxation was no longer needed for revenue it would be reduced, all would have gone well with him, and we should now be singing pæans in his honour. But at the critical moment the Evil One tempted him with the Protectionist Vote, and the fiend is now coming to claim his bond. Canada is not like the United States, a self-sufficing continent: it is a comparatively small country with a narrow range of production, and the effect of a false commercial policy is soon seen. If we allow, as it is always safe to allow, half a million for what may be politely called the favourable presentation of the accounts, the Financial Minister's surplus is now merely nominal. His mind will soon be recalled from lofty schemes of commercial development to the humble necessity of making the two ends meet. From the language of his Commissioners it would seem that he has now embraced Protectionism in its extreme form, and meditates nothing less than the absolute exclusion of all foreign goods. But he cannot fail to be aware that with importation the revenue from import duties will cease.

YORK.

### ICE FORMATIONS AT QUEBEC.

So long as the City of Quebec remained the distributing point for westward freight, and that for all practical purposes it was the head of deep water navigation, the ice formations at "the Ancient Capital" possessed but little interest for the general public, except perhaps during the early spring, when the interruption of traffic between Quebec and Levis became a source of public inconvenience. But the building of the North Shore Railway and an efficient ferry service have combined to minimize a state of things to which in former years the travelling and business public had to submit. Still matters are not by any means satisfactory, and the commercial interests west of Quebec complain that in the beginning of spring the free navigation of the St. Lawrence is impeded for a period of from ten to twenty days in consequence of certain ice formations which are permitted to take place at or in the immediate neighbourhood of Quebec. What is known as the ice-bridge at Quebec has now become a factor in the commercial problem of the Dominion, and if it constitutes an obstruction at a period of the year when obstructions are least desirable, it is the imperative duty of somebody to protect the interests of the general public against the imbecility and corruption which appear to dominate all muni-

cial interests in Quebec. Before the inauguration of the steam ferry service between Quebec and Levis there can be no doubt whatever as to the public service conferred by the ice-bridge, because it gave a freedom of travel which could not otherwise be obtained, and, locally, it conferred some benefits upon the City of Quebec itself. But the conditions of the problem have changed, and nearly all the experts whose opinions are worth having declare against the general utility of the ice-bridge; yet many, from the strength of old associations, and others from a settled antipathy to all progressive movement, prefer an ice-bridge, even though it involves the total suspension of a cheap, comfortable ferry service for more than three months of the year when such a service is most needed. Of course there is no use in quarrelling about tastes, and if the good people of the hospitable old capital prefer paying at one season from twenty-five to fifty cents to cross on an ice-bridge, and at another a dollar for the risky pleasure of rowing over among the ice-floes of the St. Lawrence, an outsider has probably no reason to find fault. Yet, we may be permitted to say that time is evidently not so valuable in Quebec as it is elsewhere. For a fortnight every year, when the ice-bridge at Quebec begins to break up, the travelling public going from Quebec to Levis or from Levis to Quebec are put to great inconvenience and no small peril of life because a few interested parties find it advantageous to keep up the delusion about the benefits conferred upon the city by an ice-bridge. The Ferry Company could without any great difficulty keep their boats running all the year round, and it would be in their interests to do so, if the Corporation of Quebec—one of the worst retrogressive bodies on the continent—did not interfere to prevent them. And at this stage we are met by the important question, Can the City of Quebec or Levis, or Three Rivers, or Montreal, or in fact any place on the St. Lawrence, step in and bar the navigation of this great international highway? Our own opinion is that it cannot, and that any by-law pretending to control navigation after this fashion is entirely and absolutely void. We are glad to know that the question is under consideration, although we are free to confess that almost any decision short of the Privy Council is not likely to prove satisfactory. Some two years ago the master of the ferry *Prince Edouard* was arrested and brought before the Records Court charged under the provisions of 29 Vict. cap. 57, s. 29, s.s. 78, which is very explicit, and prohibits "Any person from preventing in any manner whatever the ice from stopping and forming a bridge on the River St. Lawrence from Montmorency River as far and comprising the place called 'Cap Rouge' on the said river, or from breaking, shattering or damaging in any manner whatsoever all such ice or ice-bridge formed or stopped in the said limits, and to punish by penalty not exceeding \$800 all infringement of any of the provisions of all bye-laws passed to that effect; said penalty shall belong to the corporation of the said city, and may be sued for in a summary manner before the Records Court of the said city." Now against all this it is contended that neither the statute law nor the by-law can take from any person the public right of navigating the St. Lawrence at all times and seasons. It is a highway which all Her Majesty's subjects are entitled to use whenever it may suit their convenience, and they cannot be deprived of so invaluable a right by implication or inference. High authorities are quoted in support of this view. Sedgwick, for example, who holds that the uniform language of both English and American law is that all grants and privileges are to be liberally construed in favour of the public, and as against the grantees of the monopoly, franchise or charter to be strictly interpreted; and that whatever is not unequivocally granted in such acts is taken to have been withheld. For example, a grant of the right to build a bridge does not confer the right to obstruct navigation without an express provision to that effect. It is further contended against the position taken by the Corporation of the City of Quebec that, if any such powers as they claim exist, they are vested in the Harbour Commissioners as successors to the old Trinity House. But perhaps the most cogent argument of all is that by existing treaties and statute law the citizens of the United States have the right of navigating the St. Lawrence at all times, and possessing a privilege denied to Canadians themselves. However, without going very minutely into the legal aspects of the case, it is as clear as possible that if that wretched travesty of representative institutions called the Corporation of Quebec possess such powers, the sooner they are deprived of them the better. In the meantime the ice-bridge nuisance will continue, and Atlantic steamers must discharge their freight at Portland or Halifax until the ice disappears from the harbour of Quebec. It is safe to say that steamers are kept at least a fortnight behind their time of reaching Montreal in the spring owing to the ice formations at Quebec and Cap Rouge. It is contended that the Cap Rouge ice is entirely independent of that between Quebec and Levis. There is some truth in this statement; but only truth in a limited sense, as may be easily shown. The Cap Rouge is disinte-

grated not by solar but by tidal influences, which are unquestionably obstructed by the Quebec ice-bridge, which breaks the force of the current before it strikes the ice formation at Cap Rouge; hence it is that not unfrequently the ice at Quebec has disappeared several days before any movement takes place in the Cap Rouge ice. On the whole, therefore, the question appears to be one of no small importance, and that for many reasons; but particularly owing to the fact that the loss of two weeks at the opening of the season of navigation inflicts incalculable loss upon the country as a whole. Except for square timber, Quebec has lost beyond all hope of recovery both her imports and exports trade, and the handful of corrupt jobbers composing her municipal corporation must not be permitted to place obstructions in the great highway of Canadian commerce. We hope the Dominion Parliament will take the matter into consideration at the forthcoming session.

OBSERVER.

### REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION FOR THE YEAR 1884, WITH THE STATISTICS OF 1883.

THE present Report bears evidence of careful preparation, the matter is systematically arranged, and, so far as we have been able to examine, the figures have been carefully compiled and the results correctly stated. In several respects it affords favourable indications of the influence of Mr. Ross' practical mind, and by aid of the new matter he has introduced we are better able to form an opinion of the condition of our school system than could ever have been done before. The receipts for all Public and Separate School purposes amounted to \$3,570,731. Of this amount the Legislature contributed 7 per cent., 71 per cent. was raised by taxes, and the Clergy Reserves, etc., yielded the remaining 22 per cent. The total expenditure amounted to \$3,108,430, which is at the rate of \$1.62 per head of the whole population. Of this 71 per cent. was paid in teachers' salaries, 18.35 per cent. for rents, repairs, etc., sites and buildings took 10 per cent., and 65 per cent. went for maps, apparatus, etc. Both receipts and expenditure show an increase. With regard to school buildings, the minister has the pleasant fact to record that there is rapid improvement. As an indication of this he states that, while in 1870 there were 1,406 log school-houses, in 1883 there were but 617. The total school population between the ages of five and sixteen was 478,791; of this number 452,661, or 94½ per cent. were enrolled as scholars, the number of other ages was 11,708, making a total on the school registers of 464,369 pupils. Did this number even approximately represent those who regularly attended school the condition of the Province in education would be a happy one; but we have only to look at the next page, to find that less than one-half of this number, or 215,561, attended school every day. This gives us an average attendance of about 46 per cent. Of the remainder, 88,432, or 19 per cent., between the ages of seven and thirteen years are reported as not attending any school for the period of 110 days as required by law, and 7,266 attended no school whatever. These facts confirm what we learn from some of the Inspectors' reports, that our compulsory law is a dead letter. But for the fact that it acknowledges the principle of compulsion it would be better off our statute book. Admitting that a considerable portion of those who did not comply with the law by attending a minimum of 110 days were detained from school by sickness or other necessary causes, there were still large numbers of our school population who reaped no material benefit from the excellent means of education provided for them. In stating that there was a decrease of 5,026 in the school population between the ages of five and sixteen years, and of 7,143 in the total school attendance, the minister remarks that these items have been diminishing for some years. On turning to the General Abstract for the last ten years, on pages 68 and 69, to verify this statement, we find that in the ten years between 1874 and 1883 there was a decrease in the school population of 32,812, but an increase in school attendance of 322. Since 1877, however, the school attendance shows a decrease of 26,491. Thus, while the latter has fluctuated, the school population has steadily decreased. If we compare the two census years, 1871 and 1881, we will find that in the former year the school population was 30 per cent. of the whole population, while in the latter year it had fallen to 25 per cent. Does not this seem as if causes were at work with us in hindering the growth of population, similar to those that prevail with our neighbours in the Eastern States.

In regard to the general standing of the pupils we find that 83 per cent. are in the three lowest classes, 15 per cent. in the fourth class, and only 2 per cent. in the fifth. These numbers do not differ at all from those for 1882. Hence we may conclude that by far the larger proportion of our scholars leave school before they reach the Fourth Book. Of the elementary subjects, Arithmetic was taught to 90 per cent., Writing and Spelling to 88 per cent.; Reading we do not find mentioned in the list, unless it be represented by Spelling. But why should it be omitted as a subject in the Public School course and receive recognition in the list of High School studies? The only answer we can give is that afforded by the detailed statistics on page 42, which show that 100 per cent. of the Public School pupils were in Reading.

The average salary for male teachers in cities, towns, villages and rural districts was \$764, \$605, \$515 and \$388, respectively, and for female teachers, \$362, \$277, \$256 and \$250. The average for the whole Province was \$422 for males, and \$271 for females. It is satisfactory to learn that salaries are quietly but surely advancing all over the Province.

The number of schools was 5,252, in which 6,911 teachers were employed; of these 2,829 were males, and 4,082 females. In 1879 the excess of female teachers was 300, in 1882, 733, while in 1883 it had risen to 1,253. It would be interesting to know the causes of this rapid increase. Only 211 of the teachers employed held First Class Provincial Certificates, more than one-half of the remainder held Certificates of the Third Class, and 853 held Interim, or other Certificates of a temporary kind. The number of these needs careful watching on the part of Mr. Ross, as we infer from the remarks in more than one of the Inspector's reports that the granting of them is liable to abuse.

The report of the Separate Schools shows that they are in a fairly prosperous condition. Their number was 124; the number of pupils attending them was 26,177 and the average attendance 13,705, or 52 per cent. of the number registered. This is 6 per cent. higher than that of the Public Schools. The total expenditure was \$153,611, which makes the cost per pupil in average attendance \$11.20.

The total receipts for High School purposes was \$378,889, of which the Legislative Grant formed 22½ per cent., the Municipal Grant 55 per cent., the amount from fees 8 per cent.; the remainder was derived from varied sources. The total expenditure was \$348,946, of which \$266,317, or 76 per cent. was devoted to teachers' salaries. The number of pupils enrolled was 11,843; the average attendance was 6,454, or 55 per cent. This was nine per cent. higher than the average of the Public Schools for the Province, though it was only equal to that for the towns, and was four per cent. less than that for the cities. It will be interesting to compare the cost of education in the three classes of schools. The cost per pupil in average attendance in High Schools was \$54.07, in Public Schools \$14.42, and in Separate Schools \$11.20. The difference between the two latter is explained by the fact to which the Report directs attention, that quite a number of the Separate School teachers are members of religious orders, and receive merely nominal salaries. It will be seen that the cost of educating a pupil in a High School is nearly four times that in a Public School. As complaints have more than once been made of the unjust discrimination in the apportionment of the Legislative Grant to Public and High Schools, it may be of use to compare the amount given to each. To Public Schools the amount of the Legislative Grant was \$265,468, that to High Schools was \$84,989.75; the average attendance in the former was 215,561, in the latter 6,454. From these figures we learn that the allowance per pupil in the one case was \$1.13, in the other \$13.17, so that the grant per pupil to High Schools was nearly twelve times as much as that to Public Schools. No one will deny that the Public Schools have the first claim upon the Legislature, and if the present allowance to the High Schools is just, that to the Public Schools should be considerably increased. But why should not the grant to the former be made to depend not only upon the Municipal Grant but upon a minimum fee? Of the 104 High Schools in the Province, sixty-seven are free, and only thirty-seven charge fees varying from 50c. to \$26 per annum. If each school charged a fee of, say, \$1 per month, its income would be materially increased, and it would become less of a burden to its own locality and to the Province. The Government sets a good example in this respect by charging a fee of \$2 and \$1.50 per month, respectively, in the Provincial Model Schools in Toronto and Ottawa. If such a plan as this were adopted we should have fewer needy High Schools.

We find it impossible to give any satisfactory information regarding the Normal Schools, owing to discrepancy in the figures. For instance, the number reported on page 85 as attending the Toronto Normal School in 1883 and 1884 is 219, while the number attending the school to whom Second Class Certificates were granted is stated on page 133 to be 277. With regard to the Ottawa School a similar discrepancy occurs. Neither can we give any definite information of the expense of these institutions, or the cost per student, owing to the fact that the items are included with those of the Model Schools attached to them.

Amongst the many improvements Mr. Ross has introduced into his Report perhaps none is so valuable as the series of Comparative Statements which appear for the first time. These show the condition of elementary education in Ontario as compared with a number of the States of the American Union, and with Great Britain and Ireland. Our ten cities, too, are thus compared with ten of the leading cities amongst our neighbours. We gather from these that Ontario has a larger percentage of school population enrolled than any of the States named except Massachusetts, that the cost of education with us is considerably less per pupil than the average with them, but that our average attendance is very much lower than that of any of the States in question. This fact elicits an explanation in the Report of the unique way in which our Department strikes the average. In the United States and in Britain the average number is obtained by dividing the *actual* number of teaching days into the total attendance, while our average is found by dividing the *legal* number of teaching days into the total attendance. For example, the legal number of teaching days for 1883 in cities was 212. If any city had its schools open a smaller number of days than this, say 200, the average attendance would be found by dividing the total number of days attended by 212, not by 200. The result of such a process is misleading, and we trust Mr. Ross will see his way to introduce the British and United States System into his Report for next year. The comparison between the cities shows the following striking results: The percentage of school population enrolled in the United States and Ontario cities respectively was 51 and 90, the percentage of average attendance to pupils enrolled was 68 and 56, and the cost per pupil in average attendance was \$25 in the States and \$13 in Ontario. These statistics show that our cities educate a much larger proportion of school population at about one-half the cost. The statements show that in Britain the cost of education is

less than with us, and, except in Ireland, the average attendance much higher. It will be seen from this analysis of the first part of the Report before us that the condition of elementary and secondary education in Ontario is of a hopeful character, and if Mr. Ross will devote his energies to the remedy of such defects as we have directed attention to, and aim with singleness of purpose to advance the educational interests of the country he will be able in his next Report to show even better results than he does in the present one.

The remaining part of the Report is devoted to recording the proceedings of the Educational Department, to reports from Inspectors, particularly on the education of Indian children, which in its present low condition is hardly worthy of the name, and on the County Model Schools, which are in a flourishing condition. Mr. Mulock gives a synopsis of work done by the University during 1883 and 1884; and Dr. Wilson gives an interesting report of University College and the School of Practical Science. We have also a report on Upper Canada College by the Principal. The last fifty-four pages are devoted to Mechanics' Institutes and the Art Schools. In regard to the former, we learn that there has been a decided movement of the dry bones among them. If this is to result in renewed and vigorous life, it must be by their being under the inspection and guidance of a thoroughly educated man, who is in sympathy not alone with "Art Education," but with all the intellectual movements of the day. In the table of Receipts and Expenditure, we find that \$1,327.66 was paid for Scientific, and \$2,163.69 for General Lectures to Mechanics' Institutes throughout the country; but though this money came from the Government, no information is vouchsafed as to who the lecturers were, or what subjects they took up. The Ontario School of Art was founded and nurtured with a good deal of self-denial and fostering care by the Ontario Society of Artists. This body, we regret to learn, resigned its connection with the School last summer. With the Ontario School of Art are affiliated the art classes conducted by Mechanics' Institutes, and several other institutions throughout the Province. On page 239 appears a report of the Treasurer of the School without any signature to it. One of the items in his report does not tally with statements on the previous page. There we are informed that 112 students joined the evening classes in the first session of 1884. As the fees were \$3 per term, paying strictly in advance, the receipts from this source should be \$336; but a deduction to 15 teachers and 22 Normal School students of \$1.50 each brings the amount to \$280.50 against \$213.25 in the Report. How is this difference of \$67.25 to be accounted for? CENSOR.

#### HERE AND THERE.

TORONTO is now a city of which her sons may well be proud, and whose future is most promising if it may be gauged by the progress already made. But it should be remembered that corporate growth, like that of humanity, if too rapid is liable to exhaust the strength and to produce a debility requiring the utmost watchfulness. The most optimistic local patriot will hardly deny that the present indebtedness and insanitary condition of Toronto, whilst the natural outcome of marvellous development, are matters of grave concern. In their haste to make a great city, former municipal Fathers have pledged the civic credit to an enormous extent, and have been content to leave the general health to Providence. The educated classes who have all along seen the folly of this course, and the trading community who have been blinded to it by their haste to get rich, must share the burthen of the blame—the latter, for their indifference to municipal affairs, the former for holding themselves aloof from public service. The recent elections afford some slight hope that the rate-payers are awakening to a sense of the situation, and that a better class of men may be induced to undertake the conduct of public business. The unfortunate depression in trade may turn out to be a not unmitigated evil, since it will tend to make the careful citizen look to his out-goings. Taxes are paid readily when work is plentiful and wages are high, even though jobbery be rampant and incompetence supreme. The ratepayer has now time—too much time in many cases—to think of the possible consequences of a tainted and inadequate water supply, a defective sewage system, and a befouled water-front. He will be apt to look for the underlying motives which induce ward representatives to vote away large sums of money for buildings not actually yet wanted, whilst improvements affecting the city's dearest interests are allowed to go by the board. Mayor Manning is fighting an up-hill battle in opposing the attempt to give preference to the building of a new Court House over sanitary reform and water improvements, but he has the best wishes of honest citizens in his endeavour, and the glory will be greater if victory is won against long and interested odds.

FOR the special information of the gentlemen who venture persistently to make comparison between the condition of the workingman in Canada and in England, and who are evidently in a state of Egyptian darkness on all matters relating to the Mother Country, it may perhaps be considerate to state that, having an eye to the actual value of money (i.e., its purchasing power), wages in almost all trades are quite as high in England as in Canada, and that the proportion of distress to the population in both countries is about the same. Press writers who base their remarks upon the tainted trade reports which come to this country, and whose experience of English or American politics and character is confined to studies of the mixed classes which emigrate to Canadian towns, have much to learn and are continually apt to blunder. The shoemaker should not go beyond his last.

A RECENT deliberate and malevolent distortion of an item of war news cabled to New York has called forth another demand for direct communication between Canada and England—this time from a Montreal contemporary. If such a scheme were successfully undertaken, a much-needed amelioration of journalistic ethics would be amongst the indirect probabilities. It would scarcely be safe then to write "London letters" and "special despatches" on King-street, Toronto, or to impose upon a confiding public impossible "interviews" cabled by "own correspondents" from Timbuctoo.

HE lets "I dare not wait upon I would" is the general opinion of Mr. Mowat's position on the proposal to erect New Parliamentary Buildings.

A GOOD deal has been said about Henry Irving's eccentric walk on the stage. "But the way in which Messrs. Twain and Cable reel and toddle off the stage," says the *Chicago Saturday Evening Herald*, "with a dot-and-go-one, hop-skip-and-jump kind of performance, beats all the records of walks eccentric, concentric, or ridiculous, our eyes ever beheld. They ought to buy a couple of go-carts, and hire a nurse to teach them how to walk."

MR. FORSTER's article in the *Nineteenth Century* on the subject of Imperial Federation is disappointing. What is wanted as a preliminary to discussion on the subject of Federation surely is the statement of a scheme whereby it can be shown that Federation is practicable. But Mr. Forster does not formulate any proposals or meet the difficulty in any satisfactory way; all he suggests is that the Colonial Office should call a conference, to be held in London, at which accredited representatives of the various colonies should be invited to attend. It would be for them to say how the difficulties in the way of constituting a general governing body should be overcome. About one thing Mr. Forster is very decided. He thinks that the colonies should have a voice in directing the foreign policy of the country, and he believes that if they had the result would be in the direction of peace.

APROPPOS of the death in Egypt of the *London Standard's* "special," the Metropolitan correspondent of the *Liverpool Mercury* has the following:—Poor Cameron is the chief of the newspaper correspondents killed in Stewart's desert march. He has for some time been our best describer of battle and military achievements, and his loss to journalism is irreparable. His energy was put forth without one touch of bluster or bounce. The *Standard* "discovered" him almost by accident after its correspondent had quarrelled with Sir Frederick Roberts. He startled everybody by his performances, and was made at once a regular member of the *Standard* staff. His description of the bombardment of Alexandria was incomparably the best produced. He did excellently well at Tel-el-Kebir. In a private letter from Suakim during the time of conflict there I read—and the communication came from a very high quarter indeed—"Of the correspondents, Cameron is first favourite. Everybody likes him; and his work is honest and sincere. Some of the men seem to think nothing of romancing a little, but Cameron tells the true story, and makes it much more interesting than the fictions of others." He had a quick eye, a ready pen, a graphic style, and a conscientious regard for accuracy. Cameron at one time edited the *Bombay Gazette*. A correspondent once sought to pierce his anonymity. "What connection has your writer with the army?" he asked. "He represents the *Hiderabad* contingent," was Cameron's reply.

THE wail of an English correspondent touching the irritating tendency of servants to leave doors open will strike a sympathetic chord in many a heart on this side the Atlantic. This is the sort of weather that finds out all the cracks, crevices, and joints in one's armour; when cold draughts, no one knows where from, come sneaking into the room, making themselves a home in the nape of your neck. Then why, oh why, is it, that servants fix upon this time of the year for leaving the door open and chilling one to the bone fifty times a day! How much better it would be, if instead of teaching geometry our Board Schools instructed the girls who are to become our domestics to shut the door when they quit the room! No branch of the education of a servant is more important than this, or conduces more to the comfort of her employers. To have to rise from the arm-chair every time the girl has occasion to visit the room, in order to shut the door after her, is not good for the temper, or likely to induce blessings to be called down upon her. But servants can, with a little trouble, and the weeding out of the careless, be trained to better habits, and made to leave the door as they found it, when their errand is accomplished. A servant who obeys this rule is worth much more than the thoughtless girl who seems to be in league with the demon draught, that fecund parent of neuralgia and influenza.

THE dastardly attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament by the dynamitar successors of Guy Fawkes recalls to mind an exceedingly good specimen of an Irish bull made by the beadle of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, when Dean Swift insisted on his giving him a sample of his poetical talents. It was the eve of the fifth of November, and the verses were to be *à propos* to the anniversary of Gunpowder Plot, whereupon the poetic beadle was inspired to produce the following couplets:—

To-night's the day, I speak it with great sorrow,  
That we were all to have been blown up to-morrow;  
Therefore, take care of fires and candle-light,  
'Tis a cold, frosty morning, and so, good-night.

Needless to add, the Dean was delighted.

CONTINENTAL *habitués* are talking enthusiastically about the numerous cures that have been effected lately at Dr. Vidart's hydropathic establishment at Divonne, a little village on the French frontier, but an hour and a-half's drive from Geneva. The establishment, it appears, was founded nearly forty years ago by Dr. Paul Vidart, a well-known French physician, and is now carried on by his son with increasing success. The speciality at Divonne is the "Cold Water Cure," and the list of the patients who have been entirely restored to health after a course of treatment, is already a very long one. In addition to the advantages derived directly from Dr. Vidart's treatment, the patient is surrounded by the most delightful scenery. Sheltered by the Jura mountains, Divonne possesses a climate which is exceptionally mild and beneficial, and of the utmost assistance in the restoration of health. Baths there are in every variety; for such as are able and willing, gymnastics, fencing, billiards, and swimming, too, are available. The ball-room, theatre, library, and concert-rooms are very popular, and altogether, life in the Divonne establishment is tranquil and pleasant.

IF Mr. F. W. Myers is to be trusted, the phenomena of Spiritualism are explained. They are not produced by spirits from another world at all, but by the power of mind over mind. In certain psychic conditions, what one person unconsciously thinks—what is stored up in his mind but he cannot reach by the exercise of his memory—may be projected, also unconsciously, into the mind of another person. Mr. Myers has been investigating the planchette, which writes what the writer himself knows nothing of. From Mr. Newnham, rector of Maher, Devonport, he has received a story of long investigations, the particulars of which are published in the *Contemporary Review*. Mr. Newnham sat with his wife, and found that she read in his mind the things that he knew or the things which he once knew and had forgotten. As the planchette, or writing instrument, makes anagrams which require a very great deal of arrangement to be understood, this is a more wonderful tale than the other. What I have forgotten, I can unconsciously tell you, who will unconsciously receive it and give it back to me by aid of the planchette written in riddles, which both you and I have to take a great deal of trouble to read. Such is the theory of the author of "St. Paul." "It wants a great deal of believing," as the song says.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for the Editor must be addressed: EDITOR OF THE WEEK, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto. Contributors who desire their MS. returned, if not accepted, must enclose stamp for that purpose.

### MR. HAGUE ON CONFEDERATION.

To the Editor of *The Week*:

SIR,—There cannot possibly be a higher authority on Banking questions than Mr. George Hague; and what he says as to the closeness of the financial relations prevailing between the different Provinces of the Dominion may therefore be taken as correct. But I think no one can possibly go among the people of the Maritime Provinces without being struck with the total absence of any warm feeling towards Canada, of which they speak almost as if it were a foreign country. The tone of the Press is, as might be expected, in accordance with that of the people. As to Quebec, Mr. Hague cannot fail to see that it is an exclusive nationality by itself, and has no parallel among the States of the American Union. Is its conduct in blackmailing us as it does on every occasion a sign that it regards its own interests as identical with those of the Confederation? SCRUTATOR.

### SNOW BLOCKADES IN THE NORTH-WEST.

To the Editor of *The Week*:

SIR,—In your notice of the February number of the *Century* you bring Mr. George Beers to task for inaccuracy, instancing his graphic description of a snow blockade between Brandon and Winnipeg. In justice to Mr. Beers I think it only right that your criticism should be noticed, and any erroneous impression it might create as to the truthfulness of what Mr. Beers states be set right. As a resident of Brandon for nearly four years I can testify to the fact that what Mr. Beers says in connection with the snow blockade in which he was a prisoner is in the main correct. The only inaccuracy he can be charged with is in mistaking the time at which the blockade occurred. It was not *two* but *four* years ago. In the winter of 1881-82 we experienced several blockades on the Canadian Pacific Railway between Brandon and Winnipeg, but I am glad to say none since. If I remember rightly the blockade referred to by Mr. Beers took place between Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg, on the old line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is well known that that piece of the railway was badly constructed, the ties being simply laid upon the prairie without any grading, and in consequence the snow drifted right upon the track. Since the Syndicate straightened the line from Portage to Winnipeg no difficulties from snow have been experienced.

In justice to our much-maligned climate and the management of the Canadian Pacific Railway, I may say that since the winter of 1881-82 we have experienced no difficulties or delays on account of snow blockades. So far this winter our mails have arrived as punctually as in summer, and the same may be said of last winter. Wherever there is a likelihood of snow drifting on to the track fences have been erected constructed out of blocks of snow laid one upon the other to a height of four or five feet, creating an effectual barrier against drifts. It is the "packing qualities" of our snow, referred to by Mr. Beers, that enables the Company to utilize it for these fences.

Before closing I would add that I well remember the great praise that was at the time bestowed upon Mr. Beers and his "companion in snow-shoes" for their noble and indefatigable efforts to provide food for their fellow-passengers on the occasion referred to.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

Brandon, Man., Feb. 7th, 1885.

ST. GEORGES.



THE LATE ALEX. MURRAY, F.G.S., C.M.G., ETC.

To the Editor of *The Week* :

SIR,—I have not observed in the Canadian journals any notice of the decease of an old-time public servant of Canada, long and favourably known in connection with the Geological Survey of these Provinces, and an associate of the late Sir Humphrey Logan, formerly Director of that branch of the public service of Canada. I am advised of the death of this gentleman by receipt of the *London Athenæum* of the 24th ult.; and as he has left many acquaintances in this Province who must still remember him, the following particulars may not be uninteresting to them :—

Mr. Murray was educated at the Royal Naval College, Portsmouth, for naval work, and served for some years in the navy, being a midshipman at the Battle of Navarino. During his service he devoted all his leisure time to the study of Geology, and eventually worked most enthusiastically under De la Beche on the Ordnance Geological Survey. He arrived in Canada in 1837, and remained here until 1841, during which period he served as a volunteer in the Rebellion, returning to London in 1841. There he was first introduced to Mr. Logan, and in the following spring accompanied that gentleman in many of his geological excursions over the South Wales coal-fields. The country at that time was so imperfectly known that Mr. Logan writes: "Murray and I are in some places obliged to add topography to our geology." Murray was a very enthusiastic worker. Mr. Logan said of him: "Murray works like a galley-slave from the time he gets out of bed until he returns to it." In 1848 he was zealously engaged in prosecuting his investigations on the northern shores of Lake Huron, and effected a topographical and geological survey of the Thessalon River for twenty-five miles from its mouth, as well as of a number of lakes and minor streams.

After working for some years with Mr. (afterwards Sir Humphrey) Logan, Mr. Murray was selected to carry out a geological survey of the Island of Newfoundland, which work he commenced and continued in the most satisfactory manner up to within a year or two of his death. In 1871 Sir Humphrey paid a special visit to Newfoundland to compare notes with the sharer of his earliest toils in Canada, and spent several weeks in studying, with Mr. Murray, the geology of the island, and examining the extensive and interesting collection which his colleague had accumulated. Mr. Murray crowned his labours in the oldest colony by a treatise on the Geology of Newfoundland (compiled from his annual Reports of Progress), which embraces a full description of the geological formation and of the mineralogy of that interesting Province. His work in Newfoundland was a very valuable one, the result of his explorations and surveys determining the existence in the island of very extensive areas of metalliferous rock, the general formation and structure of which is closely identified with, and of the same age as, that of Canada. He also brought first to notice the large tracts of valuable agricultural territory and the extensive timber regions for which the island has since been noted, stretching through the interior of the country from the head waters of the Gambo and Gander Rivers to the Exploits. A few years ago he met with an accident in one of his explorations which incapacitated him for continued active field work; but he still continued the direction of the work until about two years ago, when he retired to Scotland with his wife and family. Since his departure the magnificent collection made by him has been scattered to the four winds of heaven by an ignorant administration, and will be, if it ever is, replaced with difficulty. Mr. Murray was a man of very marked character and a very interesting companion, and in his death science has lost one of her most ardent devotees and ablest expositors.

TERRANOVA.

Toronto.

## EXTRACTS FROM "GEORGE ELIOT'S LIFE."

## THE HEBREWS.

D'ISRAELI is unquestionably an able man, and I always enjoy his tirades against liberal principles as opposed to popular principles—the name by which he distinguishes his own. As to his theory of races, it has not a leg to stand on, and can only be buoyed up by such windy eloquence as—You chubby-faced, squabby-nosed Europeans owe your commerce, your arts, your religion, to the Hebrews—nay, the Hebrews lead your armies: in proof of which he can tell us that Massena, a second-rate general of Napoleon's, was a Jew, whose real name was Manasseh. Extermination up to a certain point seems to be the law for the inferior races—for the rest fusion, both for physical and moral ends. It appears to me that the law by which privileged classes degenerate, from continual inter-marriage, must act on a larger scale in deteriorating whole races. The nations have been always kept apart until they have sufficiently developed their idiosyncrasies, and then some great revolutionary force has been called into the action by which the genius of a particular nation becomes a portion of the common mind of humanity. Looking at the matter aesthetically, our idea of beauty is never formed upon the characteristics of a single race. I confess the types of the pure races, however handsome, always impress me disagreeably; there is an undefined feeling that I am not looking at *man*, but at a specimen of an order under Cuvier's class *Bimana*. The negroes certainly puzzle me. All the other specimens seem plainly destined to extermination, not excepting even the Hebrew Caucasian. But the negroes are too important, physiologically and geographically, for one to think of their extermination; while the repulsion between them and the other races seems too strong for fusion to take place to any great extent. On one point I heartily agree with D'Israeli as to the superiority of the Oriental races—their clothes are beautiful and their manners are agreeable.

## GOETHE'S HOUSE.

Goethe's house is very important-looking, but, to English eyes, far from being the palatial residence which some German writers think it. The entrance hall is certainly rather imposing, with its statues in niches, and broad staircase. The latter was made after his own design, and was an "after-shine" of Italian tastes. The pictures are wretched, the casts not much better—indeed, I remember nothing which seemed intrinsically worth looking at. The MS. of his "Römische Elegien," written by himself in the Italian character, is to be seen here; and one likes to look at it better than at most of the other things. G. had obtained permission from Frau v. Goethe to see the studio and Schlafzimmer, which are not open to the public, and here our feelings were deeply moved. We entered first a

small room containing drawers and shelves devoted to his mineralogical collections. From these we passed into the study. It is rather a dark room, for there are only two small windows—German windows. A plain deal table stands in the middle, and near the chair, against the table, is a high basket, where, I was afterwards told, Goethe used to put his pocket-handkerchief. A long sort of writing-table and bookcase united stands against one wall. Here hangs the pin-cushion, just as he left it, with visiting-cards suspended on threads, and other trifles which greatness and death have made sacred. Against the opposite wall, where you enter the bed-room, there is a high writing-desk, on which stands a little statue of Napoleon in creamy glass. The bed-room is very small. By the side of the bed stands a stuffed arm-chair, where he used to sit and read while he drank his coffee in the morning. It was not until very late in his life that he adopted the luxury of an arm-chair. From the other side of the study one enters the library, which is fitted up in a very makeshift fashion, with rough deal shelves, and bits of paper, with Philosophy, History, etc., written on them, to mark the classification of the books. Among such memorials one breathes deeply, and the tears rush to one's eyes. There is one likeness of Goethe that is really startling and thrilling from the idea it gives one of perfect resemblance. It is painted on a cup, and is a tiny miniature, but the execution is so perfect that, on applying a magnifying glass, every minute stroke has as natural an appearance as the texture of a flower or the parts of an insect under the microscope.

Equally interesting is the Gartenhaus, which we used to see every day in our walks. Within, it is a not uncomfortable, homely sort of cottage; no furniture is left in it, and the family want to sell it. It stands on a pleasant slope fronting the west, and there is a charming bit of orchard attached to it. Close to the garden hedge runs the road which leads to Ober Weimar, and on the other side of this road a meadow stretches to the trees which border the Ilm. A bridge nearly opposite the Gartenhaus takes one to the Borkenhaus, Carl August's little retreat, from which he used to telegraph to Goethe.

## LISZT.

Liszt's conversation is charming. I never met with a person whose manner of telling a story was so piquant. The last evening but one that he called on us, wishing to express his pleasure in G.'s article about him, he very ingeniously conveyed that expression in a story about Spontini and Berlioz. Spontini visited Paris while Liszt was living there, and haunted the opera—a stiff, self-important personage, with high shirt-collars, the least attractive individual imaginable; Liszt turned up his own collars and swelled out his person, so as to give us a vivid idea of the man. Every one would have been glad to get out of Spontini's way—indeed, elsewhere "on feignit de le coire mort," but at Paris, as he was a member of the Institute, it was necessary to recognize his existence. Liszt met him at Erard's more than once. On one of these occasions Liszt observed to him that Berlioz was a great admirer of his (Spontini's), whereupon Spontini burst into a terrible invective against Berlioz as a man who, with the like of him, was ruining art, etc. Shortly after the "Vestale" was performed, and forthwith appeared an enthusiastic article by Berlioz on Spontini's music. The next time Liszt met him of the high collars he said, "You see I was not wrong in what I said about Berlioz's admiration of you." Spontini swelled in his collars, and replied, "Monsieur, Berlioz a du talent comme critique!"

Liszt's replies were always felicitous and characteristic. Talking of Mme. D'Agoutt, he told us that when her novel "Nelida" appeared, in which Liszt himself is pilloried as a delinquent, he asked her, "Mais pourquoi avez-vous tellement maltraité ce pauvre Lehmann?" The first time we were asked to breakfast at his house, the Altenburg, we were shown into the garden, where, in a saloon formed by overarching trees, the *déjeuner* was set out. We found Hoffman von Fallersleben, the lyric poet, Dr. Schade—a *Gelehrter*, and Cornelius. Presently came a Herr—or Doctor—Raff, a musician, who has recently published a volume called "Wagnerfrage." Soon after we were joined by Liszt and the Princess Marie, an elegant, gentle-looking girl of seventeen, and last by the Princess Wittingstein, with her nephew, Prince Eugène, and a young French artist, a pupil of Scheffer. When the cigars came, Hoffman was requested to read some of his poetry, and he gave us a bacchanalian poem with great spirit. I sat next to Liszt, and my great delight was to watch him and observe the sweetness of his expression. Genius, benevolence, and tenderness beam from his whole countenance, and his manners are in perfect harmony with it. Then came the thing I had longed for—his playing. I sat near him, so that I could see both his hands and face. For the first time in my life I beheld real inspiration—for the first time I heard the true tones of the piano. He played one of his own compositions—one of a series of religious fantasies. There was nothing strange or excessive about his manner. His manipulation of the instrument was quiet and easy, and his face was simply grand—the lips compressed and the head thrown a little backward. When the music expressed quiet rapture or devotion a smile flitted over his features; when it was triumphant the nostrils dilated. There was nothing petty or egotistic to mar the picture. Why did not Scheffer paint him thus, instead of representing him as one of the three Magi? But it just occurs to me that Scheffer's idea was a sublime one. There are the two aged men who have spent their lives in trying to unravel the destinies of the world, and who are looking for the Deliverer—for the light from on high. Their young fellow-seeker, having the fresh inspiration of early life, is the first to discern the herald star, and his ecstasy reveals it to his companions. In this young Magus, Scheffer has given a portrait of Liszt; but even here, where he might be expected to idealize unrestrainedly, he falls short of the original. It is curious that Liszt's face is the type that one sees in all Scheffer's pictures; at least, in all I have seen.

## MORCEAUX.

I am in a miserable state of languor and low spirits, in which everything is a trouble to me. I must tell you a bit of Louis Blanc's English, which Mr. Spencer was reciting the other night. The *petit homme* called on some one, and said, "I come to tell you how you are. I was at you the other day, but you were not."

Dickens in the chair—a position he fills remarkably well, preserving a courteous neutrality of eyebrows, and speaking with clearness and decision. His appearance is certainly disappointing—no benevolence in the face, and, I think, little in the head; the anterior lobe not by any means remarkable. In fact, he is not distinguished-looking in any way—neither handsome nor ugly, neither fat nor thin, neither tall nor short.

We are all islands—

"Each in his hidden sphere of joy or woe,  
Our hermit spirits dwell and roam apart—"

and this seclusion is sometimes the most intensely felt at the very moment your friend is caressing you or consoling you. But this gradually becomes a source of satisfaction instead of repining. When we are young we think our troubles a mighty business—that the world is spread out expressly as a stage for the particular drama of our lives, and that we have a right to rant and foam at the mouth if we are crossed. I have done enough of that in my time. But we begin at last to understand that these things are important only to our own consciousness, which is but as a globule of dew on a rose-leaf, that at mid-day there will be no trace of.

At one inn Goethe was considerably embarrassed in eating his dinner by the presence of a handsome woman, who sat directly opposite to him, resting on her elbows, and fixing her dark eyes on him with a fearful intensity of interest. This woman was the cook, anxious to know that her dishes were acceptable to the stranger. Under this terrible surveillance he did not dare to omit a single dish, though sorely longing to do so.

One of our pleasantest acquaintances at Weimar was the French ambassador, the Marquis de Ferriere, a very favourable specimen of a Frenchman, but intensely French. One day he observed that the famous words of Napoleon to his Egyptian army, "Forty centuries look down on you from the summits of these pyramids," were characteristic of the French national feeling, as those of Nelson, "England expects the man to make his duty" were of the English. This is a fair specimen of the correctness with which one generally hears English quoted.

I have suffered so much from misunderstanding created by letters, even to old friends, that I never write on private personal matters, unless it be a rigorous duty or necessity to do so. Some little phrase or allusion is misinterpreted, and on this false basis a great fabric of misconception is reared which even explanatory conversations will not remove. Life is too precious to be spent in this weaving and unweaving of false impressions, and it is better to live quietly on under some degree of misrepresentation than to attempt to remove it by the uncertain process of letter-writing.

My irony, so far as I understand myself, is not directed against opinions—against any class of religious views—but against the vices and weaknesses that belong to human nature in every sort of clothing. But it is possible that I may not affect other minds as I intend and wish to affect them, and you are a better judge than I can be of the degree in which I may occasionally be offensive. I should like *not* to be offensive—I should like to touch every heart among my readers with nothing but loving humour, with tenderness, with belief in goodness.

My life has deepened unspeakably during the last year: I feel a greater capacity for moral and intellectual enjoyment, a more acute sense of my deficiencies in the past, a more solemn desire to be faithful in coming duties, than I remember at any former period of my life. And my happiness has deepened too; the blessedness of a perfect love and union grows daily. I have had some severe suffering this year from anxiety about my sister, and what will probably be a final separation from her—there has been no other real trouble.—*Harper's "George Eliot's Life."*

## A FLOCK.

THE English language must appear wonderfully and fearfully made to a foreigner. One of them looking at a picture of a number of vessels, said: "See what a flock of ships." He was told that a flock of ships was called a fleet, and that a fleet of sheep was called a flock. And it was added, for his guidance, in mastering the intricacies of our language, that a flock of girls is called a bevy, that a bevy of wolves is called a drove, and a drove of thieves is called a gang, and a gang of angels is called a host, and a host of porpoises is called a shoal, and a shoal of buffalos is called a herd, and a herd of children is called a troop, and a troop of part-ridges is called a pack, and a pack of swans is called a whiteness, and a whiteness of geese is called a gaggle, and a gaggle of brant is called a gang, and a gang of duck is called a team, and a team of widgeon is called a company (or trip), and a company of teal is called a flock, and a flock of snipe is called a whisp, and a whisp of bitterns and herons is called a sege, and a sege of plovers is called a flock, and a flock of larks is called an exaltation, and an exaltation of beauties is called a galaxy, and a galaxy of ruffians is called a horde, and a horde of rubbish is called a heap, and a heap of oxen is called a drove, and a drove of blackguards is called a mob, and a mob of whales is called a school, and a school of worshippers is called a congregation, and a congregation of soldiers is called a corps, and a corps of sailors is called a crew, and a crew of robbers is called a band, and a band of bees is called a swarm, and a swarm of people is called a crowd.

H. D.

## PARSON OLDBOY'S REVERIE.

IN my quiet country parsonage I sit amongst my books,  
And I hear the pigeons' cooing and the cawing of the rooks,  
As all tenderly the gloaming veils the sunset's parting glow,  
And from sacred crypts of Memory rise the forms of long ago.  
Some still walk this vale of sadness, most have sought that distant bourne  
Whence whose mystic lights and shadows mortal never may return.  
Ah! in fancy I behold them, comrades of each passing joy,  
In the dear old happy school days—days when I was yet a boy.

There was Jones, that knock-kneed youngster, yea, methinks I see him now,  
With his face all pale and ghastly at the mention of a row;  
Yet he, *tempora mutantur*, far beyond those classic halls,  
In the service of his country's Queen has dodged the cannon-balls;  
And so valorously he dodged 'em, too, that fickle Mistress Fame,  
Through Her Majesty—God bless her!—tacked a "V.C." to his name.  
Absent are those erstwhile knee-bags, *vice* Jones' gay sabretache,  
And his face is well-nigh hidden by a fierce dragoon moustache.

Oh! that "wet-bob!" Swipes secundus! don't I hear his frenzied roar  
As he guys those wretched "pair-oars," as he chaffs the college "four!"  
Often, oh how often! after smoking surreptitious pipes  
I have sought the arm of pale and penitential Robert Swipes.  
What a soul he had for apples—"orchards" were his *nightly* prayer,  
And my mind's eye views the owner *mourning* for what wasn't there;  
But old Swipes is now my bishop, portly he in lawn and gown,  
And the quidnuncs say his mitre crowns the dryest Bob in town.

Curly-headed Oppidan! a lover he of boyish sports,  
Often have I, out of pity, written Oppy's longs and shorts.  
But, *O tempora! O mores!* Oppidan, with austere rule,  
Birches human longs and shorts now in a country grammar school.  
Swishing-minor, wretched youngster, was my fag in those blest days;  
How I used to whack and cuff him for his most uncleanly ways!  
And I wish I'd whacked him often, for that snivelling little brute  
Since then has given judgment 'gainst me in a Chancery suit.

Damesboy (he whose family crest is—well, their crest's *je ne sais quoi*—  
But at any rate their motto is without a doubt "*Bonne foi*,")  
Lives a life of ease and pleasure, quite the opposite of slow.  
(Will he ever send that fifty which he borrowed years ago?)  
Kingsclerc, noble, handsome fellow, kindly heart and open hand!  
Died a croupier and exile in the German Fatherland;  
And the Baden townfolk whisper how by his own hand he fell  
After losing fame and fortune at their whilom gambling-hell.

In my quiet country parsonage I sit amongst my books;  
Silent now the dove-cote's murmur, still'd the clamour of the rooks;  
Faded now the last beam's gilding, and the darkness settles fast;  
Back! into your crypts, ye spectres! Vanish phantoms of the past!  
For your train of bygone schoolmates fills me with a tender pain,  
And your—but I hear a tapping, "Come in! Candles! Thank you, Jean,  
Nothing more, except my hassock, and, Jean, when you go down stairs,"  
Stamp these letters for the post, and bid the household come to prayers."

HEREWARD K. COCKIN.

## THE SCRAP BOOK.

MATTHEW ARNOLD ON AMERICA.

WHAT is called, in the jargon of the publicists, the political problem and the social problem, the people of the United States does appear to me to have solved, or Fortune has solved it for them, with undeniable success. Against invasion and conquest from without they are impregnable strong. As to domestic concerns, the first thing to remember is, that the people over there is at bottom the same people as ourselves, a people with a strong sense for conduct. But there is said to be great corruption among their politicians and in the public service, in municipal administration, and in the administration of justice. Sir Lepel Griffin would lead us to think that the administration of justice, in particular, is so thoroughly corrupt that a man with a lawsuit has only to provide his lawyer with the necessary funds for bribing the officials, and he can make sure of winning his suit. The Americans themselves use such strong language in describing the corruption prevalent amongst them that they cannot be surprised if strangers believe them. For myself, I had heard and read so much to the discredit of American political life, how all the best men kept aloof from it, and those who gave themselves to it were unworthy, that I ended by supposing that the thing must actually be so, and the good Americans must be looked for elsewhere than in politics. Then I had the pleasure of dining with Mr. Bancroft in Washington; and however he may, in Sir Henry Maine's opinion, overlaud the pre-established harmony of American democracy, he had at any rate invited to meet me half-a-dozen politicians whom in England we should pronounce to be members of Parliament of the highest class, in bearing, manners, tone of feeling, intelligence, information. I discovered that in truth the practice, so common in America, of calling a politician a "thief," does not mean so very much more than is meant in England when we have heard Lord Beaconsfield called "a liar" and Mr. Gladstone "a madman." It means that the speaker disagrees with the politician in question and dislikes him.

Not that I assent, on the other hand, to the thick-and-thin American patriots, who will tell you that there is no more corruption in the politics and administration of the United States than in those of England. I believe there is more, and that the tone of both is lower there; and this from a cause on which I shall have to touch hereafter. But the corruption is exaggerated; it is not the wide and deep disease it is often represented; it is such that the good elements in the nation may, and I believe will, perfectly work it off; and even now the truth of what I have been saying as to the suitability and successful working of American institutions is not really in the least affected by it. Furthermore, American society is not in danger from revolution. Here, again, I do not mean that the United States are exempt from the operation of every one of the causes—such a cause as the division between rich and poor, for instance—which may lead to revolution. But I mean that comparatively with the old countries of Europe they are free from the danger of revolution; and I believe that the good elements in them will make a way for them to escape out of what they really have of this danger also, to escape in the future as well as now—the future for which some observers announce this danger as so certain and so formidable. Lord Macaulay predicted that the United States must come in time to just the same state of things which we witness in England; that the cities would fill up and the lands become occupied, and then, he said, the division between the rich and poor would establish itself on the same scale as with us, and be just as embarrassing. He forgot that the United States are without what certainly fixes and accentuates the division between rich and poor—the distinction of classes. Not only have they not the distinction between noble and bourgeois, between aristocracy and middle class; they have not even the distinction between bourgeois and peasant or artisan, between middle and lower class. They have nothing to create it and compel their recognition of it. Their domestic service is done for them by Irish, Germans, Swedes, negroes. Outside domestic service, within the range of conditions which an American may in fact be called upon to traverse, he passes easily from one sort of occupation to another, from poverty to riches, and from riches to poverty. No one of his possible occupations appears degrading to him or makes him lose caste; and poverty itself appears to him as inconvenient and disagreeable rather than as humiliating. When the immigrant from Europe strikes root in his new home, he becomes as the American.—*Matthew Arnold in the Nineteenth Century.*

## ONLY A CORRESPONDENT.

A GRAVE in the desert, a word in the papers: is that  
All? Is that all?  
No shrine which a pilgrim may find, no memorial whereat  
Those who loved him may call  
On his name, and thank God their beloved lived, and if dead  
Died for the pledge  
Of England; for love of the needy and sorely bested  
On the desert's deadly edge.

Not for him the medal, praise, and promotion and fame,  
The danger alone;  
And now hot death at a stroke, and never a star to his name  
To go with his memory home.  
Never an honour, a star, a cross, instead of the living man;  
Nothing to say  
How true and swift to his post as ever a soldier can,  
Historian of fight and fray.

He stood 'mid the smoke of the guns, and rode through the blinding sand,  
Never behind;  
Scoffed at more than praised, too ready to understand  
Whatever might be divined,  
Yet blowing the trumpets of fame, not for himself but for you,  
Generals all!  
Seizing out of the clamour, while the dust and the bullets flew,  
Names of the brave that fall;

Names of the great that triumph, records to fire the blood,  
Never forgot;  
Taken out of the heart of the battle, from desert, and kraal, and flood,  
Wherever the fight was hot.  
And for all recompense, when something falls to each trooper's share,  
Twenty lines or so  
In his journal, but never a tribute or word of honour where  
Your rolls of glory go.

A grave in the desert, a word in the papers: is that  
All? It is scant,  
Yet enough to light the torch of a good example at;  
What more does an Englishman want?  
—*Spectator.*

THE papers which published the canard that Mr. Gladstone was indifferent to the news of Gordon's death, and to the "Arabs tossing the Khartoum babes on spear-points," must be dead to all sense of journalistic honour.—*Ottawa Free Press.*

WHATEVER cable fictions or newspaper lies the people of the United States may be willing to swallow, we in Canada should see to it that the news which is circulated as cable news, especially on subjects of great moment, is as trustworthy as can be secured.—*Montreal Herald.*

THE Government pretend to have a surplus in the year that is past. As a matter of fact the surplus has no existence. It is quite true that in making up their accounts they are made up in such a way as to show that the ordinary revenue exceeded the ordinary expenditure by \$754,000. But this is simply a sham.—*St. John's Globe.*

By charging a million and a-half to capital account the Intercolonial Railway is made to show a small surplus for the year, when there was really a great deficit. This one dishonest piece of bookkeeping also accounts for the surplus of \$754,000 in the Dominion accounts for the year when there appears to have been a deficit of very nearly that amount.—*St. John's Daily Telegraph.*

MR. NORQUAY has failed; he may as well confess it at once. If he were a sincere seeker of Manitoba's rights, he and his colleagues would immediately place their resignations in the hands of the people, allowing them to decide by whom the struggle against our oppressors shall be continued. Every true friend of Manitoba in South Winnipeg will show that this is his belief by his vote in the coming election.—*Manitoba Free Press.*

THE influence of the Pacific Railway upon the fortunes of Canada it is impossible to calculate. The interests of the country and of the railway are inextricably mixed. It is impossible that the one should suffer without loss to the other. If the enemies of the railway should succeed—if they should stop the work or overthrow the company—the credit of Canada would reel under the blow, and every material interest from Vancouver to Prince Edward would be disastrously affected. If the road be completed—as it will be completed—during the coming summer, the whole country will feel the benefit.—*Hamilton Spectator.*

## MUSIC.

## TORONTO QUARTETTE CLUB CONCERT.

AMONG the various musical enterprises for which the support of the public has been solicited, there are few more entitled to consideration than the series of chamber concerts undertaken by the Toronto Quartette Club. When it is remembered that the greatest composers of the last century exerted their highest intelligence and expressed their deepest thoughts through the medium of instrumental works, it must be acknowledged that concerts of chamber music form an important factor in the elevation of the standard of public taste. The symphony, the highest form of instrumental music, may be omitted from the consideration of the subject, as compositions of this class are intended to be presented before large audiences, and require for their effective performance large orchestras of skilled executants whose maintenance, being expensive, is only possible in the great cities of the world. We have consequently to look to chamber music as the principal means of developing taste among our citizens. By chamber music is meant here what is understood by the modern acceptance of the words, namely: "sonatas for one or two instruments, trios, quartettes, quintettes, sextuors, etc., and solo performances." Wherever classical chamber music is generally cultivated a high standard of musical intelligence will be found to exist. It will be sufficient to mention Germany and England as cases in point. In the former country the performance of chamber music is a favourite recreation in the home circle; in the latter country there are hundreds of homes in every city of the size or population of Toronto in which the performance of the solo sonata, the duo-sonata, the trio, or the quartette is almost a daily occurrence, and among the educated classes of England music has never been more thoroughly appreciated, or its mission as an art more clearly understood, than at the present time. The remarkable success of a movement similar to that of the Toronto Quartette Club may be cited in the series of "Monday Popular Concerts" inaugurated in St. James' Hall, London, England, in 1859. They were originated by Mr. Arthur Chappell, with the view of offering to the public opportunities of becoming acquainted with the best description of chamber music. As an eminent London critic has pointed out, "the appellation 'popular concerts' was originally in fact an impudent misnomer. The music given was of the most consistently unpopular character. Most speculators would have either altered the name of the entertainment or modified the selection of the compositions performed: Mr. Chappell took a bolder course—he changed the public taste." During the twenty-six years which have elapsed since the undertaking of the scheme no fewer than eight hundred concerts have been given. St. James' Hall will seat over two thousand persons, and it is a rare thing to find many seats unoccupied at one of these concerts. Why chamber music fills so important a part in the cultivation of the art is very easily explained. The symphony, the oratorio, or the mass, cannot be carried to the homes of the people. On the other hand chamber music, as its name implies, was specially designed for the home circle. The practice and study of chamber music develop the taste, strengthen the critical perception, and improve the executive and artistic powers of the performers. One of the first effects of a concert of chamber music upon an amateur is to create in him the ambition to perform at home some one or other of the compositions which he has heard in public. Upon making the attempt he will speedily discover that one of the prime requisites for giving a performance in any degree approaching that which he has heard is beauty of tone. In striving to perfect himself in this important particular he will reach the further conclusion that beauty of tone cannot be preserved without ease and precision of technique. If he succeeds in improving both tone and technique he will if intelligent hear that there is still another element which was present in the performance of the artist, but which is wanting in his—the

power of expression. He will thus be led to pay attention to phrasing and oratorical accentuation, and he will probably end his labours by studying the composition as a whole, with the object of giving an interpretation in conformity with its general design. In the artist the process is of course reversed, that is to say, the design of the work is studied first, while the details are worked out subsequently, the performer having already the technical means of giving effect to his ideas.

The brief recital thus given of the claims of chamber music to be considered one of the most important and effective means of educating the public is in itself a reason why the enterprise of the Toronto Quartette Club should receive warm support and encouragement. It is believed, however, that the scheme if properly carried out should command a financial success. If the general public do not like classical music it is because they do not understand it. They can be taught to understand, and may be led by degrees to appreciate the highest forms of this class of music, but they should not be wearied by heavy programmes which their musical digestion cannot assimilate. A scheme of chamber concerts could be adopted, embracing in every programme two or three excerpts from the lighter compositions of the great masters which, while classical as to treatment, are characterized by tunefulness and simplicity of elaboration. Such movements are found scattered throughout the works of Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Schumann, Weber, Hummel, and Raff in number sufficient to provide material for two or three seasons' concerts without repetition. Excerpts of the character indicated are almost invariably encored by mixed audiences in the great cities of Europe.

The third concert of the Club, which was given last Saturday afternoon in the Convocation Hall of University College, was attended by a very fair representation of our amateurs and musicians, and the fact that the audience was larger than at either of the former concerts would seem to indicate that the undertaking is growing in public estimation. The programme included a Quartette by Rubinstein in F Major, performed for the first time, the Andante and Rondo from Beethoven's Piano Quartette, the Andante from Beethoven's Fifth Quartette of the set known as Op. 18, a Minuet by Boccherini, and a sketch by Raff entitled "The Mill." Much improvement in the ensemble playing of the Club was noticeable in the Rubinstein Quartette, a composition marked by that fluency and broad vein of melody so characteristic of the author. This quartette is one of the earlier works of Rubinstein, and the influence of Mendelssohn is clearly apparent both in the *adagio* and the *finale allegro*. Herr Jacobsen led this number in a thoroughly artistic style, and was ably seconded by Messrs. Bayley, Martens and Kuhn. There is still room for improvement in the collective playing of the Club. To mention one point, there must be greater unanimity in the light and shade effects, for the indications of *ff* or *crescendo* in a score are valueless unless each member of the quartette adds his proper proportion to the volume of tone. One of the great features of the playing of the Beethoven Quintette Club, as also of the Mendelssohn Club in its palmiest days, was the contrast between their different gradations of tone. From the Beethoven Piano Quartette the Club gave two movements, Mr. Bayley leading and Mr. Martens taking the piano part. It is to be regretted that one cannot speak so favourably of the interpretation of this number as of that of the opening piece. The performance was in parts quite perfunctory, or at least gave the impression that it was so, and apparently had not been studied by the players collectively. The Andante is one of the most lovely compositions ever written for piano or strings, and its beauties are so obvious that even an indifferent performance such as it received cannot prevent it from appealing to the sensibilities of the musical. There was a stiff formalism about the playing of the important solos given to the stringed instruments which it is difficult to account for by any other supposition than that it had not been studied. Mr. Martens individually gave a most excellent reading to the piano part, proving himself to have a most cultivated touch, an artistic conception of the score, and plastic grace of phrasing. The three pieces which were grouped for the concluding number of the concert were effectively played. They are of a more simple character than the other compositions, the Beethoven movement being constructed in the form of an air with variations, and the Raff number being in the descriptive style. Miss Harman sang two songs very sweetly, one of which, by Schumann, was re-demanded. The fourth concert will be given on the 14th of March, when it is proposed to perform Mendelssohn's celebrated Octett.—*Clef.*

Two well-known amateur pianists of Ottawa, Messrs. Earnest White and Duncan Scott, gave in that city last week an invitation Recital at which the programme consisted entirely of duets for one and two pianos. The programme was as follows: For two pianos, "Fantasia Lohengrin," Wagner-Bonawitz, Concerto, C Major, Bach, "Allegro Moderato—Adagio ovvero Largo—Fuga, Allegro"; for one piano (a) Valse and Morisca, Op. 28, Oliver King; (b) Four Spanish Dances, Op. 21, Moszkowski; for two pianos, Variations, Op. 35, on a theme by Beethoven, Saint-Saens, Fantasia and Sonata, C Minor, Mozart-Grieg; Mozart's Fantasia and Sonata with an accompaniment for second piano written by Edvard Grieg. It will be seen that the programme was well selected and interesting, whilst the execution was, for the most part, admirable.

CANADIANS are proverbially fond of dancing, and although a good waltzer, provided he be fortunate enough to get that *sine qua non* a good partner, will gracefully meander to almost any music so long as the time is well marked—and though there is a charm about the old classic waltzes, that does not readily pall—still he is always ready to welcome new music, for with him as with others "variety hath charms." Messrs. Suckling, of Toronto, have just published a quintette of dances which are already well and favourably known, and promise to be classed general favourites. The

"Canadian Guards Waltzes," by Mr. Jno. C. Bonner, Bandmaster of the Governor-General's Footguards, is probably the best of these: besides being melodious, they have a rhythm and decision which will commend them to the dancer. The "Nina Waltzes," and the "Dance on For Ever Waltz," the former by J. Herbert Chestnut, the latter by M. Hahn, are also charming productions, the first-named commending itself most to those who listen as well as dance. Mr. J. Davenport Kerrison's name appears on the front of a really pretty "Polka de Salon" which ought to become a general favourite. Messrs. Suckling are to be complimented on the artistic and workmanlike manner in which their publications are turned out.—*R.*

### THE DRAMA.

EXCEPTING in cases when such performances are fashionable by reason of their being given by "star" companies, the amusement-loving public of Toronto will not patronize classical plays. Moreover it is equally true that as a rule a vulgar variety show will fill a house where a well-written ably-mounted drama fails to attract anything but "paper." But that there is an intelligent public in the "Queen City" who will rally round an average performance of a high-toned drama or melodrama has been often demonstrated—in the cases of "The Silver King" and "The Lights of London," for instance—and was once again proved by the large audiences which, despite hard times, assembled to hear and applaud "The Wages of Sin" in the Grand Opera House last week. The play is by Frank Harvey, and is designated on the bill a "moral drama," which term sufficiently describes the production. The cast is excellent, and includes the names of Marie Prescott, Chas. C. Manbury, and Chas. Overton. The plot does not possess enough novelty to require explanation; but it may safely be said that it is of sufficient interest to command attention from first to last without "hanging." Besides the leading characters already mentioned, each of whom played excellently, a word of praise must be awarded to Mrs. Julia Bruntone, who as *Jemima Blobs*, "formerly in the green-grocery line," established herself a favourite in all parts of the house; Miss Susie Russell (*Rose*), Miss Emma Cliefden (*Juliana*), and Mr. Owen Westford (*Ned Drummond*).

### BOOK NOTICES.

GEORGE ELIOT'S LIFE AS RELATED IN HER LETTERS AND JOURNALS. Arranged and Edited by her Husband, J. W. Cross. With Illustrations. In Three Volumes. New York: Harper and Brothers.

This long looked-for work is issued in three volumes, uniform with Messrs. Harper's "Library Edition" of George Eliot's works, with portraits and other illustrations. Mr. Cross is to be congratulated that he has not obtruded his own personality, but has simply permitted the material left by his distinguished wife to tell its own story. Marginal notes facilitate reference to the various correspondence and memoranda, and the connecting links supplied by Mr. Cross are of the barest consistent with an intelligent supervision of the book. More particular reference to it is made in our editorial columns.

MINING CAMPS: A Study in American Frontier Government. By Charles Howard Shinn. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Standard Publishing Company.

The miner and his work have been intimately associated with the opening out of every new country, and yet little has been told of his influences as a pioneer. If for no other reason Mr. Shinn's work would be most welcome; but it is doubly attractive by reason of the cultured manner in which he gives the results of his studies amongst the rugged characters who have had so marked an effect upon the march of Western civilization. Mr. Shinn studied the questions upon which his book is founded whilst a student at John Hopkins University, and appears to have spared no pains to make his work reliable. He writes it to be judged solely as a contribution to political science and American institutional history. The value of "Mining Camps," however, appears to lie chiefly in its being rather disappointing in their haziness. However there is much material for thought in the book.

A YOUNG GIRL'S WOOING. By E. P. Roe. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company.

This attractive story is already well-known in Canada—or, at any rate, Toronto—having run through the columns of the *Telegram*, and it is probable that many readers will be glad to renew their acquaintance with it in book form. Mr. Roe always writes well; in few of his books has he done better than in a "A Young Girl's Wooing." With a flood of fiction poured on to the publishing market every year, it becomes more and more difficult, if not impossible, for writers to attain originality of plot; but Mr. Roe, if he has not done this, has certainly got out of the beaten track, and has created in "Madge," his heroine, an exceedingly interesting, curious, and lovable character. In following her romantic self-education and physical development from an invalid to a hardy, strong woman one is tempted to think that she becomes altogether too good a creature for the somewhat weak Adonis who is wooed by her—"Graydon Muir."

HAND BOOK OF BLUNDERS. By Harlan H. Ballard, A.M. Boston: Lee and Shepard.

The sub-title of this useful little book exactly conveys its mission. It is "Designed to prevent 1,000 Common Blunders in Writing and Speaking." Although the school-master has been abroad for years, few of us but have daily experience of spoken and written mistakes, some of which by custom have become almost incorporated with the language. This little volume is all that such a work ought to be; it is handy, clear, succinct, and well-printed.

EGYPT AND BABYLON. From Sacred and Profane Sources. By George Rawlinson, M.A. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs.

By this work Canon Rawlinson has laid students of ancient history under another obligation. The erudite historian undertakes a comparison of the Scriptures with the evidences he has collected in a long research into the monuments and history of ancient nations, and with results which certainly appear to sustain Revelation. He has first dealt with such passages as allude to Babylon and Assyria, afterwards treating of those apropos of the Egyptians. It goes without saying that the whole matter is discussed in a scholarly manner, and with the utmost reverence.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

MR. JULIAN B. ARNOLD, son of Edwin Arnold the poet, in the February Wide-Awake relates a personal adventure in "A Dahabeah Wreck on the Nile."

BOOK punters in England are looking forward with great interest to the coming sale of the letters of Keats and Charles Lamb, and to the new letters from Byron, his wife, and his sister. The letters of Lady Byron throw considerable light on the poet's matrimonial troubles.

SCRIBNER AND WELFORD announce an exceedingly interesting subscription book—the "Life and Labours of Hablot Knight Browne," the delightful "Phiz," whose humorous illustrations undoubtedly added to the immediate popularity of Dickens' chief novels. It is written by David C. Thompson, the biographer of Thomas Bewick, and contains 130 illustrations.

A VOLUME of the life, work, and teachings of Dean Stanley will be published immediately by Cupples, Upham and Company, of Boston. It is by Grace A. Oliver, and is the first attempt to give to the world a narrative of the life-work of the celebrated Dean. The growing popularity of the author, the greatness of the subject treated, will insure for the book an immediate and hearty welcome in the reading world.

DANIEL E. BANDMANN has prepared, and Cupples, Upham, and Company will publish at once, "An Actor's Tour; or, Seventy Thousand Miles with Shakespere." It is the record of a tour more extended than any other actor has made, replete with amusing anecdotes, stories of distinguished persons, graphic descriptions of places, and full details of an actors life—its successes and rewards—making it a volume of rare attractiveness.

THE incoming of a new and Democratic Administration in the States gives special significance to a paper in the March Harper's by the Hon. John Bigelow on Jefferson's Financial Diary—an autograph MS. volume which has recently found its way into the library of the Hon. Samuel J. Tilden. This volume contains a full account of Jefferson's expenditures from 1791 to 1803—including, therefore, three years of his first Presidential term.

MESSRS. SAMPSON, LOW AND CO., of London, have nearly ready for publication "The Life and Reminiscences of Gustave Doré," compiled from material supplied by his family and friends, and from personal recollection, by Mrs. Roosevelt. The work will contain over fifty illustrations of unpublished pen-and-ink and other sketches by Doré from his childhood to his death, and also many characteristic illustrations selected from his published works.

THE March Century will contain an article on the Soudan, written by General R. E. Colston, formerly of the Confederate Army, and later on the general staff of the Egyptian Army. In the latter service he commanded two expeditions of exploration in the Soudan, travelling on all the principal caravan routes, and spending two years in the towns and among the tribes which are frequently mentioned in connection with El Mehdi's rebellion. The article will be illustrated with more than twenty pictures.

FIVE hundred dollars in prizes have been offered by the Leonard Scott Publishing Company for the best fifteen essays on the following five Shakespearean subjects: "One of Shakespeare's Male Characters;" "One of Shakespeare's Female Characters;" "Shakespeare's Spirits (ghosts, witches, fairies);" "Shakespeare's Politics as shown in the Plays;" "Shakespeare's Characters of the Kings of England as compared with their Historical Characters." All essays must be in hand by June 1st, 1885.

MR. G. W. CABLE is preparing what he calls a book "of remarkable true stories, largely illustrated, of Louisiana life, which have come to me in the last fifteen years; some have been told to me, some of them have come under my own observation. The strange thing about these stories is the purely accidental connection between them. I shall give them to the public without embellishment, just as they have come to me, and I think when you read them you will agree with me that they are a remarkable series. My great difficulty will be to make it appear plain to the reading public that they are really and only true stories."

IN speaking of Leslie Stephen's "Dictionary of National Biography," which may be called the greatest literary enterprise of the day, embracing as it will, according to the present estimate, fifty volumes, the London Academy says: "When the proper time comes for estimating the literature of this latter end of the nineteenth century, it seems probable that the critic of the future will award to the present generation of English men of letters greater credit for knowledge than for power. To dwell upon the negative aspect would be ungracious, especially at a time when our three chief poets have each given us within the few past weeks a volume of their best. But the publication of the first instalment of Mr. Leslie Stephen's great enterprise naturally suggests the reflection that such a work could have been undertaken at no earlier time with equal prospect of success."

IN connection with the approaching inauguration of President Cleveland, two papers produced in the March Harper's will have especial interest. One of the treasures of the library of Mr. Tilden is a good-sized book, bound in calf, filled up in the handwriting of Thomas Jefferson. It is the financial diary of the great man, kept by him from January 1, 1791, while he was Secretary of State, up to 1803, covering thus the first two years of his Presidency. Among its entries is a careful summary of all his expenses from March 1, 1801, to March 1, 1802, showing an expenditure of \$32,634.84, the various elements of which are given in detail. Jefferson had as great a dislike of presents as Mr. Cleveland, and even insisted upon paying the duty on certain wine procured from the Spanish Minister, who had imported it duty free for his own use. He also paid sixteen cents a pound for a monster cheese, evidently sent to him as a present. The interesting paper drawn from the material of this diary is from the pen of Hon. John Bigelow. The other paper referred to is one on "Manifest Destiny," by Prof. John Fiske.

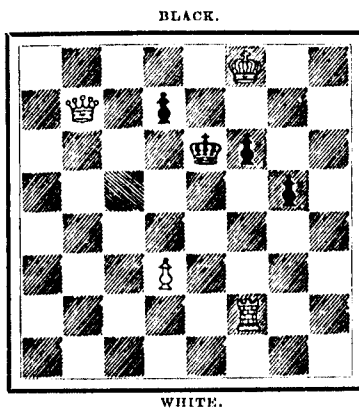
GODEY'S Lady's Book, which is one of the oldest magazines in America, and which the publishers (J. H. Hanlenbeek, Philadelphia) claim to be queen of monthlies, amply maintains its prestige in the January and February numbers. Elaborate coloured plates illustrate the fearfully and wonderfully-made garments which it is now the fashion for ladies to wear, and the mechanism of which is explained in notes by writers evidently conversant with all the intricacies. Patterns for the little nick-nacks which lend so great a charm to the home are there in numbers, whilst for ladies who dabble in art are hints and advice of considerable value. Music, too, has its place; the familiar old ballad "Turnham Toll" is given in the January number, and a waltz gives variety to the succeeding issue. The literature department, besides "Fashion Notes and Descriptions," "Practical Hints upon Dressmaking," "Practical Hints for the Household," "Work Department," "Recipes," and the like, includes serial and complete novels, poetry, art and editorial notes, etc. Two steel-plates accompany the January number—"Too Much Play," and "Thomas Jefferson"—the latter being one of a "Presidential Portrait" series. The "Midwinter Holiday Number" has four steel engravings: "John Adams," "W. W. Corcoran," "Will You be My Valentine?" and "The Louise Home."

CHESS.

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

PROBLEM No. 83.

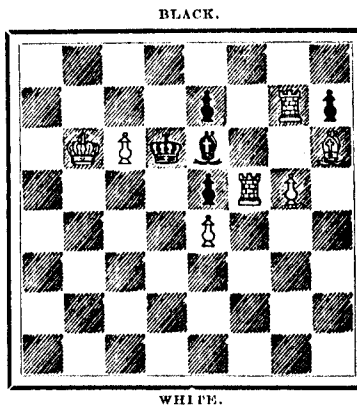
By Otto Meisling, Copenhagen. From the Illustrated London News.



White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 84.

By Otto Meisling, Copenhagen. From the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.



White to play and mate in three moves.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. F. S., St. John, N. B.—Will try and arrange. T. G. C., Whitby.—Your solutions to 77, 78, 79 and 80 are correct. Visitors are always welcome at the Toronto Chess Club rooms, Athenaeum Club, Free Library Building. J. B. A., Quebec.—Your communication very welcome. Solutions correct. T. O. T., Winnipeg, Man.—Your solution to 77 is correct. In 78 after 1. Kt K B 8, 1. K x Kt, 2. P Kt 7 Black can play 2. K Kt 1, and then there is no mate. R. H. H., Winnipeg.—In 76, after 1. B x Kt, Black plays 1. P x B, becoming a Kt. How do you mate? Solutions to 77 and 78 correct. In 79 the full variation is 1. Kt Q 4; if Black plays 1. K takes Kt, then follows 2. Q B 4 ch, 2. K x Q, 3. Kt Q B 3 dis. ch. mate. If 2. K K 4, 3. Q x P mate.

CHESS IN ENGLAND.

The third game in the pending match between Messrs. Thorold and Wayto, played at Bath, December 27th, 1884.

(Irregular Opening.)

Table showing chess moves for Mr. Thorold (White) and Rev. Mr. Wayto (Black) in an irregular opening. The game progresses through 32 moves, ending with Black resigning.

NOTES

- (a) The opening adopted by Zukertort in the London Tournament in four of his games, namely:—against English, Noa Mason and Rosenthal. He was successful in them all.
(b) The defence of English, Mason and Rosenthal.
(c) Novel.
(d) Could White not have prevented the exchange? The B was valuable.
(e) An attacking move, but does it not also open the Black K to attack.
(f) Finely played.
(g) An interesting end game. It was decisive to exchange Rooks. Now, whichever side Black takes, White attacks the Pawn on the undefended side—winning.

CHESS ITEMS.

SIG. A. LORIA has taken the first prize in the local tourney at Milan. In the Commercial Gazette Correspondence Tourney Canada is again in the fore. The prize for the most brilliant K Kt's gambit played in the tourney has been awarded by Messrs. Reichhelm and Soltman to Mr. H. N. Kittson, of Hamilton for his game vs. Mr. Tutnall. His many old opponents in Toronto who have so often felt the keenness of his blade will heartily congratulate him. Another Canadian, Mr. J. E. Narraway, of St. John, N. B., wins the prize for the most brilliant Petroff's Defence. We further notice that three other Canadians contribute in a way to the winning of the prize for the most brilliant Evans, Scotch and K B Gambit by playing the losing side in the prize games. In the Manhattan Annual Handicap Tourney Mr. Delmar takes first prize, and Mr. Hanham the second. The third and fourth will probably go to Simonson and Mackenzie. The contest for the fifth is close, between Bano, Rothschild and Ryan. Mr. Delmar won 15 out of 20, and Mr. Hanham 14. THE present chess champion of Yale College, Mr. Yung Phun Lee, a native of China, won his honours in a recent tournament in which 16 players engaged. Four rounds were played, Mr. Carlton, of Cleveland, was second.

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River St., Buckland, Mass., May 13, 1882.

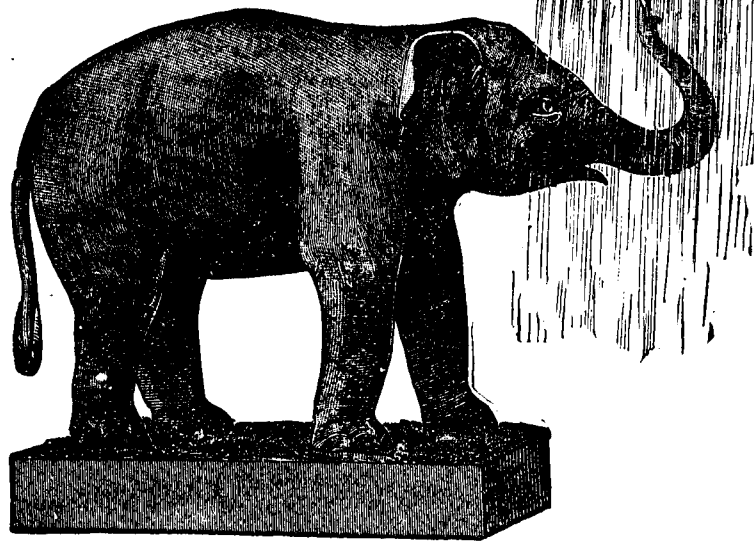
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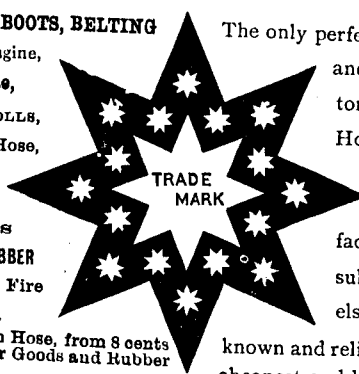
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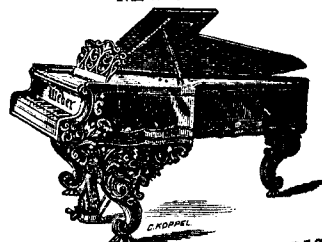
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From the Mail (Can.) Dec. 15.

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