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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1886.

THE WEEK.

MR. W. O'BRIEN, Mr. JOHN DILLON, M.P., and two other Irish members of Parliament, were arrested by the police yesterday whilst energetically engaged in collecting from the tenants the rents—or rather a portion only of the rents which should lawfully be paid to the landlords of the soil. The Government have evidently resolved to suppress the "plan of campaign," and it is difficult to see how, after securing from the Dublin Court of Queen's Bench a distinct declaration of illegality in the case of Mr. Dillon, the "plan can be permitted to permeate the minds of the peasantry unmolested.

THERE is every reason to believe that the Committee which has been sitting for some time past in London on the subject of the Volunteer (apitation Grant, and which has just concluded its labours, will recommend a considerable increase in the War-office estimates as regards the Auxiliary Forces. The Treasury, of course, have hinted that there will be some difficulty in raising the additional money thus rendered necessary, but the objection on the financial aspect of the matter is not likely to be pressed, and, consequently, our citizen soldiers can anticipate during next year an increased grant for improved efficiency, especially in shooting.

HER Majesty the OUREN has been quick to recognise, by means of a sympathising message, the indescribable grief and desolation wrought by the terrible lifeboat disasters off the Lancashire coast during the great gale of last week. No fewer than twenty-six brave men, who had left their homes, containing loved wives and children, for the noble purpose of rescuing fellow-creatures in distress, have themselves met with death in the raging sea. The hearts of are touched by fatal heroism, we doubt whether anything more affecting can take place than the loss of lifeboat men, who voluntarily face death in its most terrible aspect rather than leave poor mortals to perish within might of land, without a hand to help them. England to-day mourns the sacrifice of such men, and mingles its tears with those of the widows and orphans whose husbands and fathers have become true martyrs in the cause of bomanity.

Whilst it is impossible to retrieve the past, it is worth while to inquire whether the repetition of such calamities as these cannot be prevented in the future. A properly-constructed lifeboat, as everybody knows, is supposed whenever it is capsized to right itself again. But in the case of the St. Anne's and Southport boats there is sufficient evidence to show that they never righted after being upset. Had they done so it is probable that the whole, or nearly all, of the crews would have been able to clamber back into them, and thus safely regain the shore. To call beats, which are thus proved useless when most urgently required, "life-boats," is but mockery, and if the Lifeboat Institution is wise it will at once take steps to overhaul all their present stock, and withdraw from the service all those heats which, when tested, are ascertained to be faulty in construction.

LAKEN millions of armed men is the total number constituting the present military forces of Germany, France, Austria, and Russia! get Germany, which has a reace-footing of 427,000 men, on Tuesday passed the second reading of a Bill which will increase its armies to a strength commensurate with the forces of the Great Powers compared with which it is not doubt numerically weak. France, for instance, has 471,000 peace-effectives, and Russia 614,000 in Europe alone. The increase of the French army since 1880 has been 23,000 infantry, and the French artillery is now stronger by 450 guns than the German, whilst General BOULANGER' plan includes an annual increase of 33,000 recruits. As regards Russia, its military organisation is avowedly based on the eventuality of war with Germany and Austria, whose extreme force is estimated at two millions of men, which would be opposed by fully five millions of allied Russians and Frenchmen.

In spite of earnest opposition from various quarters, it has been officially resolved to proceed with the erection of a Church House, as the Church of England, Jubilee 125e QUEEN'S reign. It chief objections to the scheme have come from those who prefer benefitting the "living ag at"—the poor parsons who are sorely puzz. In these times of antitithe agitation, to pay north, rates, and taxes, and maintain the outward : pectability due to their sacred calling-rather than expending thousands of pounds upon brid and mortar. Now, however, that the two Architchops and many other leading men, both in Church and State, have given their hearty sanction to the proposal, it is to be hoped that further opposition will vanish, and that all will endeavour to make the building worthy of the purposes for which it is intended. and as a fitting memorial of the fiftieth anniversary of the accession of Queen Victoria to the Throne of Great Britain.

It is satisfactory to know that the Police authorities are dealing vigilantly with the promoters, patrons, and 'principals' of the prize fight system which threatens a wholesale revival in this country. It had long been known in sporting circles that SMITH and KNIFTON, the socalled "candidates for the championship " were prepared, at the first favourable opportunity, to bring their claims to an issue. As they had failed on two previous cocasions to "bring off -once in France, and once in Sussex-they endeavoured to put the police off the scent b announcing that the fight had been abandoned sine die, and the stakes divided. Strong in the assurance that they had thus blinded the officers of the law, the pugilists and their friends set out on Saturday morning in a covered van for a spot settle the affair. But they had reckoned without their host. No sooner had the party seated themselves in the van than a posse of police came up, took the vehicles in charge, and lodged the luckless prize-fighters in prison. Consequently the "championship still remains undecided.

In the matter of affording facilities for youthful thrift, as in various other points of our educational system we, as a nation, are very much behind continental countries. In France school banks have been in operation for upwards of fifty years, and they have proved so successful that last year there were nearly 24,000 in existence, with 491,000 depositors, and nearly £12,000,000 france, or over £400,000 in deposits. In Belgium and Italy the same system prevails to a large extent, but when we come nearer home we find remarkable disparity. There are 19,000 elementary schools in England, and their 4,000,000 pupils possess less than 2,000 school banks. Without insisting too rigidly upon the importance of saving money, which is apt to degenerate into a vice, it is most important that children should be taught to acquire the habit of economy, for if learnt thoroughly during youth it will probably never be forgotten. It is quite certain that the practical illustrations of penny banks is of infinitely more value in training the mind of a child than is copy-book proveros and the stories of thrift in the reading books.

THE latest candidate for the vacant throne of Enigaria is Prince Full DINAND of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha-German duchies which are somewhat familiar to Englishmen. The reigning duke of the house to bich Prince FERDINAND belongs is Ennert II., who is childless, and at advice and assistance of the Federation his death he will be succeeded by his nephew. msy be desired, and then the Duke of Elineukulu, the late Prince be given. The great sim of such work in that frightful place!" Consont being a prince of the Dukedom. Wales is to ensure that it shall be well Apparently, the numination of Prince FERDI- organised, and able to make its influence RAND is received with favour in Austrian felt upon circles, but it remains to be seen whether the gre justly came approval is manifested by Russia. He is a adding strength and enthusiasm to the general lieutenant in an Austrian Hussar Regiment, and | service of the Liberal party. Affiliation with wears a decoration which has been conferred | the National Liberal Federation has been agreed upon him by the Czan, but there is some reason to fear that circumstances exist at the present moment, indicating the probable rejection of the | Liberalism because it had faith. It will now be | his bead; and as for the other young chap. I'd no Prince's candidature by the St. Petersburg all the stronger because it will have discipline | idee he was there. P'r'spe the news ain't true! Government. If the Emperors of Austria and and concentration. The Principality sends 31 Preps it's the exaggeration o' them Herald corres-Russia could only agree in his nomination there members to Parliament, and of this number 28 per denis! At any rate, don't blame me." can be no doubt that Prince Fendinand would | are Liberals, so that it has given a good account willingly go to Bulgaria to succeed Prince of itself, under conditions that tested the man-Alexander, and probably he would make as | bood of the country very severely. In the wise and as enlightened a ruler as was his rela- future, we cannot doubt, more especially as tive, the Prince Consonr of England, whose distinctly Welsh subjects are coming up, it will death twenty-five years ago has just been so affectionately commemorated at Windsor,

IF we are to believe all that is written in Conservative journals, the House of Lords intends to distinguish itself next Session by initiating legislation. This state of things, so it is argued, will be brought about by the " deadlock " which is sure to occur in the House of Commonsowing, doubtless, to the obstructive tactics of the Gladstonians-and the Peers, at this supreme moment in their country's history, will step in and save the country by passing the first stages of bills, leaving to the undutitul Commons to approve of their measures. Mr. W. S. GILBERT. in one of his immitable operatic songs, makes the House of Lords boast that it " did nothing in particular and did it very well." The subjects of this percasm have evidently felt the reproach. and time will show whether they desire to re-

An important decision has just been given in the Queen's Bench division by Mr. Justice DEN-A surveyor of taxes assessed two betting at Wolverhampton upon profits £1,000 a year, earned as commission agents. There is no reason whatever why these professional "book-keepers" should be exempt from the payment of income tax, but the individuals in question claimed exemption on sheriff. the ground that their profits were not derived from any employment which came within meaning of the Acts of Parliament on subject. This was a smart and clever way of intimating that betting is illegal, and is not recognised by the law, but the arguments did not impress the JUDGE, who ruled that betting men, like everyone else who earns a certain sum of money, shall contribute to the income of the

TUESDAY was the 25th anniversary of the death of the PRINCE CONSORT, and the eighth anniversary of the decease of his amiable daughter, Princess ALICE of Hesse-a double commemoration of sad bereavement, which was duly observed by the QUEEN and all her children at Windsor. Very many things have happened since ALBERT THE GOOD, as he is called, succumbed a quarter of a century ago, and in casting a retrospective glance over that period it is interesting to note the great changes which have taken place in popular opinion on some important and highly essential matters. Take the celebrated controversy concerning the book called "Fasays and Reviews," which, the PRINCE, upon its appearance, stoutly assailed, and which made so great a sensation at the time that all the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church signed and issued a public condemnation of the theological doctrines therein taught.

What was the result? At the present moment Dr. TEMPLE, one of the principal essayists, is Bishop of London, after having occupied the See of Exeter for about ten years; and doubtless the right rev. prelate often comes in contact with Dr. Thomson, who, it is said, owed his early translation from the Bishopric of GLOUCESTER to the Archiepiscopal See of York, to the zeal and ability with which he assailed the "Reviewers' in his well-known work, " Aids to Faith," a book which, it was rumoured at the time, originated in suggestions made to its author by the Prince Consort. But if the latter's strongly-marked religious views have not been carried out to the extent that he would doubtless have desired, there are other of his characteristics which have nessed full fruition and solid success. We refer to the exhibitions of various kinds—international, national, and local—which, beyond question, are to be traced to the Great Exhibition of 1851, which was fostered by the hand of the Royal Consort of our beloved QUEEN.

LORD TENNYSON'S new volume of poems was elapsed since Locksley Hall-perhaps the most popular of his efforts—was given to the Englishspeaking world, and though some of the sentiments have the old Tennysonian ring and rhythm about them, it must, nevertheless, be confessed that, as a whole, the result is not altogether satisfactory. His lordship always "reads best when he permits his fancy the freest latitude, but in his latest book he has cramped himself by the consideration of political and social questions. The POET LAUREATE, no doubt, has fallen on the following, printed in all the glory a perfect right to hold high Tory views, and to terrific headings and long type:disseminate them by any lawful means open to him; but, certainly, it would be more pleasing to find part isanship conspicuous by its absence in a volume of verse intended for the delectation of the entire British people.

Queen's College, Oxford, which has just been nearly destroyed by fire, is interesting to Yorkshiremen for several reasons. It was founded in 1340 by ROBERT EGLESFIELD, chaplain to FHILIPPA, Queen of EDWARD III., from whom it received its name, and the statutes give conditional preference to north-countrymen, and especially to boys born in Cumberland and Yorkshire, though we believe, this privilege is now practically a dead letter, the election of Fellows and Scholars taking place without regard to localities of birth, and after an open competitive examination. The present Archbishop of York. Dr. WM. THOMSON, was Provost of Queen's from 1855 to 1862, having previously been Fellow. Tutor, Dean, and Bursar of the same college. It is said by one who was present on the occasion that it was always a treat to watch the stately grace with which Dr. Thomson carried the boar's head up to the high table at Queen's on Christmas Day, and to hear the rich melody of his voice as he chanted the lines beginning Caput apri defero, Laudes reddens Domino."

THERE now appears to be very little doubt that the rebellion in Afghanistan has been suppressed, and that we were right in describing the news brought by merchants to Lahore as referring to the original and not the later stage of the rebellion. The Ghilzais have been completely reduced to order by very rigorous measures, and though they are vowing vengeance against the AMEER they are hardly in a position to carry out their threats. Their principal leaders are either slain or in captivity, and the lesson they have received is not likely to be lost in a country where severity and rapidity in punishing disorder make such a powerful impression. The reports as to the extent of the disturbance were greatly exaggerated for a purpose, and that was to undermine the power of the AMERR, and to represent Russia as fomenting an insurrection to get rid of him. The AMEER is too firmly established on the throne of Afghanistan to be overthrown by a tribal insurrection, and he is too sensible of the value of the friendship of Great Britain to throw himself into the arms of Russia. Should any further troubles arise out of the suppression of the Ghilzais, the AMEER will know how to deal with them; and as nothing notable has occurred since the beginning of November, when the action of GHOLAM HYDER proved so efficacious, we may regard the trouble as at an end. By the time that the winter has disappeared, the mountain tribes will probably think better of their threats, and have to face more formidable preparations by the AMEER than they can ever hope

to successfully encounter. THE Welsh Liberals mean business. They have agreed to form a Liberal Federation in North Wales, and it cannot be long before South Wales follows so good an example. The idea is not to supersede but to unite existing associations, and to stimulate the formation of associations in districts where nothing of the kind exists. There has been a fear that the Federation was intended to interfere with the free action of the associations in their own immediate concerns, but nothing of the kind is contemplated. Coossions may arise when the such distinctive matters as considered upon, and was indeed a necessary part of the

HERO IN SPITE OF HIMSELF.

BY ROBERT BUCHANAN. AUTHOR OF " EHADOW OF THE SWORD," " A CHILD OF

BOOK II.-CHAPTER XI.

HATTER," AND " GOD AND THE MAN.

THE PUGITIVE About three o'clock in the morning, when everybody in Speranza was fast asleep, Melvin galloped into the town and knocked at the door of the drinkhouse, or hotel. On being admitted by the landlord (not without a suspicious parley from within, and a threat of fire-arms), he appeared bleeding from a slight fleeh would in the nick, the result, he explained, a randem bullet, andthat he and two Englishmen, b companions, had been attacked by a band of ruffiens up at the mine. The little place was soon aroused, and Melvin found himself the centre of a rough but sympathming crowd. " Reckon it's Ned Searle's gang," said the landford

"what's left on 'em! We'd best go to waken up the Leaving Melvin in the hotel, the landlord and several others hastened off to Dunn Smith's dwelling. As they did so, they distinctly neard the sharp sound of firing from the distant hills. They're having a high time up thar," said the

landlord. "Sounds like a kind o' pitch battle. I calkilate 'he sheriff arn't well pleased when he finds be warn't on in that scene." But after succeeding, not without difficulty, awakening Mrs. Dunn Smith from her slumbers, and bringing her to the door in dressing-gown and curlpapers, with a lighted candle in her hand, they were formed, to their surprise, that Mr. Smith wasn't at

"He went up to the mine with that Britisher." she explained. What's wanted with him?" They explained what had occurred, and auggested that she should step down to the hotel and interview the fugitive. She agreed at once, and nurrying into the room where Melvin was sitting, white as death and blood-stained, greeted him with these words-"Where's the sheriff? Where's my man Dunn Smith? Speak out, whoever ye are!"

"Be was up with us at the mine vesterday afternoon," he answered. " Before sunset he left us to walk home. Do you mean to say that he has not Mrs. Smith's answer was a shrill shrick, and an immediate attack of hysterics. When she had been brought to, partly with the aid of a little mild stimulant administered by the hotel-keeper, she mouned faintly-

Melvin started, naturally astonished.

"I knew what would come of his fooling about! They've killed him at last, I reckon. If they hadn't wife! O, Dunn, Dunn, you'll never hear me pinny no more, or take me gallivanting up to Canaan! You never guy me a harsh word, and now I'm a lone lorn widdy in my prime!"

"Cheer up, missus," said the lad, Ginger, who was standing by. "The sheriff's all safe, I calkilate, on'y be's amoneing himself on duty. They're firing away still up thar. But Mrs. Smith was not to be consoled. Though not usually of a nervous temperament, and well accustomed to scenes of danger, she had been qui unhinged by the sudden alarm coming upon her in

the small hours of the night. Meantime, Melvin was growing more and more He had arranged his story cunningly in order to account for his own reappearance, and the wound on his neck had been made by a scratch shot from his own hand. So far, all was well. But if the enemy escaped to report the night's work, what then? Well, even in that case, perhaps he could defend himself by caying that he had taken the alarm and escaped to save his own life. In any case,

the sooner he was away from Speranza the better. So he rose and announced his intention of riding on to Canaan, and there looking up a doctor. No one seemed astonished at this decision, and no one suspected him of any kind of foul play. He mounted the events of the sixty years that have the horse, which stood in readmess at the door, and rode rapidly away. As he did so, the faint sound of firing still came

BOOK II.—CHAPTER XII.

A SPECIAL TELEGRAM. A few days after the occurrence of the events narrated in my last chapter, Colonel Sloane sat in his private room in the hotel at Long Branch, reading the New York Herald of that morning. Suddenly he started, and uttered an exclamation. His eye had

SPECIAL Herald TELEGRAM. THE SPERANZA MINE AND NED BEARLE'S GANG. MURDER OF TWO ENGLISHMEN.

REPORTED DEATH OF DUNN SMITH, THE SHERIFF. NARROW ESCAPE OF AN ENGINEER THE LONELY SHANTY IN THE GOLDEN GULCH. HARROWING DETAILS.

"Our Canaan correspondent wires us as follows: CANAAN, Oct. 15th.—The Speranza district has just been the scene of a frightful affair, entailing the loss of several valuable lives. Among those who have perished is Colonel Fotheringay, the well-known capitalist and owner of the Speranza claim, and a Mr John Kelso, a travelling photographer. "Your readers will vividly remember the affray

Smith, sheriff of Speranza, so heroically defended himself against Ned Searle, the robber, and a large number of his gang. It appears that Ned and several the survivors took to the hills in the neighbourhood the Spersozs Mine, where they were in hiding when Colonel Fotheringsy, accompanied by Mr. Melvin, the engineer, arrived on a visit of inspection. "The two gentlemen were escorted to the scene of operations by Mr Dunn Smith and Mr Kelse, the photographer. Here Mr Smith appears to have left them, with the view of returning home, but on his way through the woods he was waylaid and shot by

which took place about a week ago, when Mr Dunn

In the meantime, the gang had surrounded the shanty in the dead of the night. Aroused by the yells of the ruffians, Mr. Melvin managed to spring out, leap on his horse, and gallop away, not without receiving an ugly wound. But with the two others, sleeping in the shanty, it fared far worse,

"Carrying only six shooters, while the robbers were armed with rifles, they were practically help-With a refinement of cruelty, the head of the gang requested them to step out and be shot in the open. On their refusal the shanty was fired. The Colonel and his companion, rushing forth fought desperately for some time, but were at last

"There are all the details that have at present reached your correspondent. Much excitement is felt in the district, and a vigilance committee has been organised to hunt down these rufflans, who have long been the-pest of the district. Then their object is said to have been plunder, as Colonel Fotheringay was supposed to carry a large amount of greenbacks, besides personal jewellery valued at many thousand

"Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Melvin, the engineer, and the only survivor, who is said to be prostrated with his terrible experience. In Colonel Fotheringay be mourns a friend and benefactor. He is now on his way to New York." Colonel Sloane sank back in his chair, fairly gasping with amazement; then the blood left his cheeks, and he trembled like a leaf.

"It's Melvin's doing! " he groamed." The murdering villain! Why did I let him go?" Before he could recover from the first shock of the news, the door opened, and his long missing daughter, accompanied by Isabel Raymond, rushed into the room. Buth the girls were pale as death, and wildly agitated. He saw in a moment that they had heard the news.

"Angy!" he cried. "Yes, papa," answered Angela bysterically. have come back-I don't care now-you can kill me. , now you have murdered my Jack!" I murdered him!" cried Sloane aghast. "What does the girl mean? Augy, are you mad?" Here Isarel, who was white as marble, but far more composed than her friend, interposed. "You have seen the newspaper-that horrible telegram. Speak-is it true? For God's sake, speak, and tell us if it is true or false!" "I know nothing about it " answered Sloane, "I'd only just looked at the paper."

"Colonel Sloane, should it be true (which God forbid) remember what I tell you now. You knew of You sent Colonel Fotheringay to his death in "1?" gasped the Colonel, failing back as if shot. " Mies Raymond, take care! "Oh, I am not afraid of you." said Isabel. " I know well what you are, and though for your daughter's sake I have been silent, your villainy has

been long known to me." "As heaven's my eternal jedge, Miss Raymond," returned Blosne pathetically, " I'm as innocent of this affair as you or Angy. I was that fond of movement. Wales has been sturdy in its | Fetberingay that I wouldn't have harmed a bair of Meantime, Angels had thrown herself, wildly schbirg, on a settee, and had hidden her face in her

"Oh, Jack! Jack! so good-so handsome-so! young! It will break my beart!" prove its valour in a more striking manner than ing to look sympathetic and quite oblivious of his and contain the amount cement which the coiner ever, helped to do so by means of its Federation. former animosity to Kelso, "P'raps it ain't your wishes to impress upon the public mind.

Jack after all. He sin't a 'photographer,' is he? and it's not likely he'd be down at Speranza," " He was going there, I know," sobbed the girl. "Colonel Bloome," cried Isabel, "what is to be

done? How can we ascertain the truth of these "Only by waiting," replied Sloane, "Likely there'll be more details to-morrow." At this moment a servant entered with a telegram

for Sloane. He opened it and read as follows:-" Come up here at once." The sender was Kyrle Melvin; the office of issue The Colonel's manner convinced Isabel at once that this telegram had reference to her own trouble.

"Tell me the contents of that telegram! "From Kyrle Melvin," replied Sloane, after moment's hesitation, and he placed it in her hands. Angela sprang up, and the two girls read the telegram

and she cried, without hesitation, fixing her dark eyes

"Ob. Isabel, it is his doing!" cried Angela, "He bated Jack for loving me! Isabel did not know what to think. Her dislike to Melvin was not so intense as that of her friend. and, after all, it seemed improbable that the engineer could be to blame. The report said that he also had been attacked, and had narrowly escaped with life. It was all very horrible and

'Argy, dear," she cried, "there is only one thing to be done. We must take the cars at once to New York, and find this man." "Just what I was going to suggest," said Sloane.

And, with your permission, I'll be your escort." Great as was her dislike to Sloane, Isabel was far too as xious to object to this arrangement, so all three set forth together-the Colonel nervously excited, the girls still crying bitterly. On arriving at New York, they took a hired carriage, and were driven t the offices of the mining company in Wall-street, whence Melvin had sent his wire.

In the cuter office, which was large and finely furnished, several clerks were busy. Mr. Melvin been here?" asked the Colonel. One of the clerks replied in the affirmative. Yes, Mr. Melvin had called in the morning, and had

promised to return in the afternoon. "We'll wait for him," said Stoane, leading the way into a large inner room, used for the meetings of the board. But Isabel drew back, crying to ber "Come with me, Angy! Colonei Sloane, wait for us bere-we shall be back directly.

But where are you going?" "To the nearest telegraph office. message to send. Come, Angy! The girls disappeared, and the Colonel, with groan, sat down and lit a cigar. He was utterly perplexed, and not a little alarmed. Several minutes assed. Then the door quietly opened, and a man entered, looking like a ghost from the grave.

It was the engineer. No sconer did he appear, than Sloane leapt to his feet and seized him with both hands, You villam! you murdering villain! what does Let me go, you fool," answered Melvin; "and

speak lower, or else they'll hear you."

'Is it true, then? Are they dead?" 'It is quite true. We were attacked in the night, and by a mere chance I escaped." Meantime Isabel and Angela hurried along the street towards the telegraph offices, which were a few blocks away. They were about to enter the building when a young man, plainly but neatly attired, came

up and addressed them, touching his hat respectfully "Beg pardon, ladies, but can I speak to you?" "Who are you?" cried Isabel. "What do you

If you please, I'm Luke Stafford, his lord-Mr Kelso's servant. I followed you up all the way from They looked at him in surprise, for up till that moment they had had no notion of his existence. He continued to address them earnestly for some minutes. As he spoke, they started in wonder, and looked at

An hour passed, and Colonel Sloans and Melvin still waited in the board-room of the company. The engineer had told his story in detail, embellishing with as many inventions as he thought necessary Then Sloane had informed him that the two girls were at hand, eager for news of the murdered men. Another half-hour, and the Colonel grew uneasy He hastened into the outer office—they had not arrived; then to the telegraph office-no one there could give him any explanation. He returned looking

'Can't make it out!" he cod. "They only went send a wire! There's something ugly at the ttom of it, I calkilate." Hours passed, and still the girls did not return That night the Colonel, who was distracted, heard no word of them; and during the day that followed they were still missing.

BOOK II.—CHAPTER XIII.

A RESURRECTION. The second day after the arrival of Colonel Bloams in New York there was a special and private meeting of the directors of the South Speranza Gold and Silver Mine. Colonel Sloane occupied the chair. looking the merest shadow of his old self, for the events of the last few days had filled him with the sharpest anxiety. No further information concerning the fatal affray at the mine had yet appeared; so the presumption was that the first telegram was substan-

The directors present were ten in number, and all ong and intimately associated in business with the chairman. As they sat round the table they pre sented a collection of singularly ill-favoured faces, the German Jewish preponderating. Well, gentlemen," said the Colonel, "the long

and the short of it is I hold Colonel Fotheringay's securities to an amount for beyond the purchase money; also his transfer of the property in exchange for two-thirds fully paid-up shares and one-third in cash. Here is his receipt, all square and regular. So the unfortunate gentleman's decease won't interfere in any way with our arrangements for iloating the Thereupon the secretary was called in, and sub-

mitted his report to the effect that the public had already taken up nearly all the shares offered in the market, and that the company was, therefore, as the Colonel expressed it, a going concern. "Before we proceed further," suggested a director,

we had better interview Mr Melvin, the engineer. This being generally agreed to, Kyrle Melvin was shown in. He was nearly clad in black, which increased the effect of his ghastly pallor and the halfhealed bullet wound on the neck. In a few soft and well-chosen sentences he gave his account of the 19th, to the Hou, Fitz Roy Somerset Keith Stewart, adventure of Speranza, alluding pathetically en passant to the great affection he had felt for Colonel | Burghley, M.P., born 1849; on Tuesday, December Fotheringay, and laying particular emphasis on their 21st, to Mr. Ernest Pauer, born 1826.

Sloane, "the object of your last visit to the mine in our lamented friend's company." Melvin smiled faintly, and bowed.

Colonel Fotheringay, as you are aware, was the scul of honour. Reports had been spread to the fict that the value of his property was exaggerated in the market. At my suggestion he determined t make a fresh personal inspection in my company On our arrival, in his presence I took a portion of the lode at random, and assayed it roughly. The experiment was to be repeated next day in the presence of his friend, Mr. Kelso, who laid claim to a knowledge of mineralogy. For that purpose we remained at the shanty over-night."

"Was the result, so far, favourable?" asked 'Certainly. It simply confirmed all my previous celculations, and Colonel Fotheringay was quite convinced of the value of the property." "Well, then, gentleman," said Sloane, "nothing more is to be said. I move that Mr. Melvin's report

e passed, and a printed statement issued to the One moment, Mr. Melvin," said another director, "when you last saw Colonel Fotheringsy he was We shall require official confirmation of his death, preliminary to legal arrar gements."

"When I last saw him," said Melvin, in a low tremulens voice, "he was standing in the shanty, revolver in hand, with the other English gentleman. The attacking party were on every side, armed with Winchester rifles. I have explained to you how I narrowly escaped with life. The robbers were ten to two. Within a few minutes of my escape both the unfortunate gentlemen must have fallen. This, as you are aware, is established by the newspaper

"Just so," said Sloane. "It is quite impossible that Colonel Fotheringsy can have escaped with Quite impossible." Bloams looked round the board.

"You see, gentlemen, there's no doubt about i He's a dead man! At that moment the door was thrown open, and a clerk entered with this announcement-"COLOREL FOTHERINGAY."

(To be continued.) Some of the members of the Dublia Corporation. anxious to give what encouragement they can to the special menufactures of Ireland, have resolved to wear municipal robes of Irish poplin. Mr. Phil Robinson has patented a new method of

street advertising. The sandwich boards, between which men perambulate the streets, are to have clockwork attached to them, which may be made to strike a gong as often as required, in this way attracting the attention of passers-by. The latest method of advertising an article of domestic const mption was tried at Charing Cross Railway Station on Monday afternoon. Numerous coins were thrown upon the platform by invisible hands. They are, of course, of little value intrinsically, but

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM THE "COUNTY GENTLEMAN.") Christmas is becoming more and more expensive. The gifts of the season grow costly and yet more costly in each successive year. Christmas cards will type at the lineadraper's over the w'y!" "I don't not be either given or taken in the highest families. | mean tape, man! Type, for printing!" "Oh, toype The vulgar may exchange the compliments of the | yer mean! I beg yer pardon, sir! season written on pieces of pastaboard, but not the superior people. The most popular form of gift, as I mentioned a fortnight ago, is the Queen albert, which may be worn either as a watch-chain or s bangle. Queen alberts are to be as popular as Roya

red prayer-books were last year.

Some of the ornaments set aside specially as Christmas gifts are in excellent taste. Some new things in work-baskets and paper-baskets are as useful as they are ornamental. But it is forbidden to individualise any of the many things that are shown to those on shopping bent. Blue fox is in great demand at the fur shops, and it behaves one to beware of spurious imitations. Everything seems to cost a great deal of money, and he or she who goes ashopping returns amazed to realise that their money gone before they have half completed their

It is satisfactory to know that the more influential ladies are setting their faces resolutely against an extravagant fashion that sprung up in connection with Christmas parties. The Shimmer people find an opportunity to lavish their wealth at these functions. Boys and girls go home each with a present worth a five-pound note or so. Little surprises are pleasant enough in their way, but it were better to make no gifts at all than to teach the juveniles to anticipate the Christmas junketings with sordid eyes. extravagance of some of the cotillons of our time i as shameful as it is vulgar. Let a spirit of rivalry of this kind once be kindled and raination will soon overtake the misjority of our hosts and hostesses Society is not composed entirely of brewers, bankers and big bonanzas from America.

The arrival of Prince Alexander, recently o Bulgaria, appears to have upset the Court arrangements for Christmas. Prince Henry, I dare say, will not be at all sorry to spend Christmas at Windsor Perchance he would prefer to be at Buckingham Palace with his brave brother. The baby Princelet is to be baptised without any pomp or circumstance Oh, the pity on't! But, perchance, there is a real Jubilee baby expected. We shall soon see the first of the Jubilee rejoicings. Apparently the people are very much in earnest in their desire to mark the year in a suitable manner. It is clear that '87 is to be

time of magnificent munificence. We were at the beginning of the term threatened with an action that would in startling incident and story have eclipsed the Campbell case. But it has been decided not to go on with it. One of incidents was, I believe, the sale or the losn of a wife. However, we are not to hear anything of it, and rumcur in saying as much as she does may be merel demonstrating once again that she is a lying jade. term that begins with a Dilking and ends with the Colindries is sensational enough, in all conscience. Like the chief characters in these two entertainments the people of the premised trial were of the highest families. When the story of the loves and the lives of the Campbells has been closed there will be an agitation to close the doors of the Divorce Court,

FROM " THE WORLD," Clever fellows, these publishers! They have made another raid into the realms of journalism, and again carried off a chief. Mewrs, Macmillan captured Mr. John Morley, Mr. Murray bagged Mr. Louis Jennings, and now Messrs, Cassell have lassoed Mr. Wemyss Reid, for several years editor of the Leed Mercury. I congratulate them, but I deplore the less to our craft. I have had many delightful fights with Mr. Reid-how dull these columns would be I did not constantly differ from eminent persons but I always acknowledged his bright cleverness, h indomitable ardour, and his vigorous pen-play.

Somebody has been making a calculation, and the conclusion arrived at, after a most careful manipulation of figures, is, that it will take over thirty-two years to replace the condemned wooden huts at Aldershot by the new permanent buildings, at the present rate of progress. These huts were erected thirty-two years ago; consequently the last of them to be swept away would have to put in sixty-four years' service. It would be interesting to know how much the repairs would amount to which would ecessary to ecable them to hold together for thirtyo years more.

Court arrangements have been all in confusion during the last ten days, and several matters which were supposed to have been definitely fixed have been unsettled. The Queen has postponed her departure from Windsor to the beginning of next month, and the Duchess of Albany and Princess Louise and Lord Lorne are to pass Christmas at the Castle with her Majesty. It is understood that Prince Alexander to remain until after the "festive season," and he and Prince Henry are to have a series of shooting-parties with Prince Christian in the Great Park covers, which

have scarcely been disturbed this season. Mr. Thomas Beard, who has just resigned the by no means agreeable position of Court Newsman, has Leen a journalist during all his long life. He was reporter for the Morning Herald when Dickens first went into the gallery for the Morning Chronicle, and the two men at once contracted an intimacy which remained firm and steadfast until the novelist's death. There is no salary attached to the peet, but the Court Newsman is remunerated by the different newspaper proprietors to whom he sends the information which he alone is authorized to supply. Innumerable petty vexations are inseparable from the proper discharge of the duties, and at his now advanced age Mr. Beard is to be congratulated on being quit of them.

The Constableahip of the Tower of London, which was filled by the late Sir Richard Dacres, is a reward for military service. The pay is only two hundred pounds, and the duties are nominal, what work there is to do being superintended by the Lieutenant, who draws four hundred pounds a year. Lord Chelmsford fills the latter office; and for the Constableship there is a general feeling in favour of Lord Napier of Magdala being selected. The only argument that can be adduced against Lord Napier's appointment that two valued prizes ould then be in the hands Indian officers, Chelses Hospital having been given some time ago to Sir Patrick Grant. Such cousiderstion ought not, however, to carry weight, seeing the now the two services are practically one.

"MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!'-On Wed-Lesday, December 15th, to General Lord Mark Kerr, K.C.B., born 1817; on Thursday, December 16th, Professor Sir Robert P. Stewart, Mus. Doc. (Dublin born 1825 : on Friday, December 17th, to Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, M.P., born 1839 ; Saturday, December 18th, to Mr. Henry L. Webster Lawson, M.P., born 1862; on Sunday, December born 1855; on Monday, December 20th, to Lord

"Tell the gentlemen present, if you p'ease," said Mr. Gladstone is engaged upon a work connected with the Olympian religion. The largest farm in England has been thrown upon its owner's hands. It is in Lincolnshire, and consist of 2,700 acres. The tenant paid £1 per acre. Th

year a reduction of 50 per cent. was made to him but firding, although an experienced and energetic farmer, that even at this reduction be could not make two ends meet, he has thrown up his farm. Five tenants on the estate of Colonel Tottenham M.P., have been reduced by the Land Commissio from £87 8s, to £37. The Colonel is one of the loudest and most blatant defenders in Parliament, where he now sits for an English borough, of the 'rights' of Irish landlords. The fact now stands

that he has been making these five men pay above ;

per cent. over what, on judicial inquiry, is deemed

A clergyman at Bath took strong measures on recent Sunday to stop the practice of constant coughing and sneezing, in which so many people indulge when they are in church. The preacher, finding himself interrupted as soon as he commenced his closed the service and descended from the pulpit. paying their way. The rents are higher than with us, and the landlords insist upon introducing the most

culturists have already settled in Essex, where with low rents, and the right to farm as they best please, | that the reigning Sovereign of Russia would prove ber they are doing fairly well. If I had a farm to let in | Louis XVI.; but he does not seem yet to have England, I should advertise the fact in the Scottish | appeared. The writer was in St. Petersburg at the advanced in Scotland than in England, and the conthrive where an English farmer would starve,

intimated her Majesty's intention to open Parliament of her Ministers, and I hear that the object of Lord | of Salisbury's burried visit to Windsor last week was make an effort to induce her Majesty to attend; but she has absolutely refused to do so, and the opening on the 13th will be merely a formal affair.

College, Dundee, on Monday, it was announced that Mr. Thomas H. Cox, of Cox Brothers, jute spinners had given £12,000 to endow and equip a chair anatomy in the medical school it is proposed

COMIC CLIPPINGS.

FROM "PUNCH." Poor LETTER "A.' - "Do you sell type? " " Type, sir? No, sir. This is an ironmonger's. You'll find

" WHAT IS A SPOOK ? "-The Saturday Review finds some difficulty in natisfactorily answering this question. Much it finds to say in explanation, and the res leaves to Spookical research. "A Spook" may be a sound, a spirit, a sensation, an apparition. information Mr. Punck decides that the one answer t "What is a Spook?" is "That is is quite immaterial." MAXIM FOR WALL-STREET, -All is not (Jay) Gould

LITERALLY TRUE.—The Alpha and Omega English policy in Egypt is not to let France Beta there, or to yield one lots of her claim to dominating influence in the Delta.

DELICATE QUESTION. - Monsieur le Comte : 'And now, Madam, zat you 'ave so kindly instruct me on se interesting 'Istory of se 'Ou-e, dare permit myself to ask how your Propriety extend? FROM " JUDY."

DISESTABLISHMENT .- "Wasn't at church on Sunday? Well, no; you see, the reason was this: was a wet day, you mind, so, as I could not wear my best hat, I thought I'd better go to chapel." MORE SELFISHERS, -Lady Visitor: Have you long taken to figure-painting, Mr. Mottle? - Mottle : some time now; but before that my line was scape.—Lady Visitor. And which do you find sells | some 400 pages, and will deal mainly with the rapid best?-Wifey: Samuel has not sold may yet. He progress which the Dominion has made in the past prefers to preserve his work; but, se I sak him, if he quarter of a century. It will be illustrated by halfgoes on, where are we to hang it ail?

FROM "FUN."] Signalmer, as a body, are close reasoners. matter where they go or may find themselves, they always come back to the point. POLITE (?) PARTIES, -- Miss Horkesfords : We never think of going to the Hardeggings' parties, though they always invite us, - Miss Belcour: I've heard, love, that that's the reason they give for always thinking of inviting you. Mrs. J.-Hrz Jonz. - Now, sir, although you did

that costume resembles? Why, to be sure-Address. THE WEATHER. - Clara: Mary, is it fit to go out -Mary: Well, miss, it was a-freezin' like anythink when I was downstairs, and as I was a-coming up it thundered and lightened; now it's a-ailing and blow-

"go on" so about the "silly uselessness" of your wife s

new freck, can you tell me what mental quality

ing fit to blow the Moniment down. THEY DIDE'T SWAP .- The Squire (hankering after a deal): Yes, this is the mag I want to get rid of. He's hardly up to my weight, y'know; or else his points are as good as a bellus hunter's. - The Captain : From the way be coughs, I should sooner have taken him for a broken bellows hunter. PUTTING IT PLAINLY .- Esthetic Monitor: Now. Jones secundus, you know I've done my best term to sesist you in reading up Ovid's "De Arte Amandi;" and if your charming dad happens to invite me down to his place for Christmas-well-erwell er --- Philistine Jones: - Well-er-well-er -you'll be bound to have your hair cut, and wash your neck thoroughly before you come, that's all.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA "AT HOME" IN HIS PALACE.

The Anitchkov Palace, on the Nevskoi Prospecht, stands in the very heart of St. Petersburg, but has the advantage over the Winter Palace of a walled garden, where the Imperial Family can take outdoor exercise not immediately under the public gaze, Alexander III. was always one of the most taciturn of princes, so before he became Emperor very little was really known of his character and opinions beyond the limits of the Court. When this is the case with an heir-apperent, there are plenty people ready to invent bon-mots and ideas for him. but he certainly gave the impression of being almost without a care, and of having a ready capacity for enjoyment. No one at the theatre laughed more at the comic parts of a play; but it is hard on a man when he cannot applied the ingenuity of three actresses who stood together, one dressed in red, the | it contains a chapter of somewhat severe criticism second in white, and the third in blue, after the German Ambassador had remonstrated at the tricolour being displayed on a St. Petersburg stage, without being at once set down as the staunchest Francophile. The tragic event of March 13th, 1881. undoubtedly sobered him, and he has ever since been sadder and graver man, On that Sunday afternoon he had parted from father after a service at the Riding School, and was sitting down to luncheon half an hour later with wife at the Anitchkoy Palace, when the news reached him that his own accession to the throne was imminent, and they both hastened to the Winter Palace. half-past four they drove away again from the Emperor's death-bed through a deuse and sympathising crowd, the new Empress weeping bitterly. For a long time afterwards her shattered health and spirits required the greatest solicitude, and they consequently lived in a strict retirement, which was readily misconstrued by the friends of the Nihilist movement but since her recovery they have paid five visits to Moscow, and have been warmly received in Crimes, Warsaw, Kazan, and in the country of Don

The Emperor is an athlete in appearance—tall. broad-shouldered, and of considerable weight. was born on March 10, 1845, so is forty-one years o age. Of all the Danish King's sons in-law, he is the most popular in Denmark, where he has resided for weeks at his father-in-law's palace, content with the society of his wife and of her family, and with such simple amusements as the Castle of Rosenborg could afford. As a youth he was much averse to study. and his father did not press it on him, believing a vigorous constitution to be of more importance than erudition; but when the unexpected death of his elder brother made it probable that he would some day bear the sceptre, he took fit himself for his new Educated by what we should call a very High Church and Conservative tutor, he has shown no inclination to make any extensive alterations in the Hussian Administration, Indeed, according to that tutor, who is now the Emperor's representative in the Holy Synod, "Russia has been suffering from over-legislation and over-reform; and what she now requires. he says, " is a period of rest, to enable her to dignet the innovations which were forced upon her during the last reign, and which conduced to sustain feverish inquietude among her people."

The Emperor has recently sanctioned a ukase to limit the number of Grand Dukes in the future who can claim Imperial privileges. This is not necessary, for Russia, whose reigning family was once limited to the Emperor Paul, can now boast of more male heirs than any dynasty in Europe. the same time he has reduced the incomes of all the Imperial Family. He can hardly be looked upon as pro-Anglican, although he was honoured with the Garter before he had reigned a month. But perhaps that could not be expected of him; for it is no secret that he has come to the conclusion that nothing he can do will ever make England really friendly to Russia. The Emperor is engaged in collecting materials for a life of his grandfather, whose tragic deathbed he well recollects; and these revived memories of the Crimean War, and of the very warm conversation which the unfortunate Alexander II. held with Lord Granville, the ambassador extraordinary to Moscow, on the terms of peace, just before the coronation in 1856, have not softened his feelings towards us. He was always fond of history, and some years ago wrote to ask the loan of any letters they might possess of his great-uncle, from the heirs of La Harpe, who was tutor to Alexander I.

The Emperor has also seen a good deal of military service. For several months be commanded the blockading army between Rustchuk and Shumle during the campaign for the liberation of Bulgaria. sermon by a perfect chorus of hacking coughs, shut | tmi was struck on the head with a bullet at the same up his book, observing, "I am sorry to see that so | time that his young cousin, Serge of Leuchtenberg, was many of you are suffering from coughs which you | killed. His father, Prince Alexander of Battenberg. cannot restrain. The subject which I have chosen | the Grand Duke Sergius, and Count Adlerberg. demands close attention, which neither you nor I can in the meanwhile, occupied a four-roomed hut "Biographical Dictionary." give to it owing to your severe colds," and then he outside Plevna. His wrath at the reduction of the conquered territory by the Congress of Berlin, which In Scotland, farmers are not better off than in Eng- Russia had extorted in the Treaty of San Stefano for land; in fact, few of them, unless close to a town, are | Bervia, Bulgarus, and Montenegro, led to an unpleasant scene with his father. But they were all the better friends afterwards, and kissed barassing conditions in their leases. The result is embraced in public twice over, when the late Emperor that many Scotch farmers are betaking themselves, had nearly lost his life from the Nibilist attempts on bag and baggage, to England. Several Scotch agri- | the pier at Odessa, and outside Moscow. For two generations past it has been prophesied

newspapers. The science of agriculture is much more | time of the late Emperor's murder, and the general gloom which pervaded the whole city directly it was requence of this is that a Scotch farmer can live and known, and the sorrow and anxiety on the face of habitants, from the peer to the peasant, are certainly almost everybody one met, did not look as if the kindest people is the world." The same collec-I am enabled to announce that the Queen has monarchy were very speedily to be extinguished tion contains three or four letters and a few pen-andpositively decided not to open Parliament in person. | there. The conspirators were hanged early in the link sketches by Thackersy, which are likely to raise a This is a very inauspicious commencement to the morning in the presence of a large crowd, who only keen contest among the bidders. It is, indeed, rarely Jubilee year, and it will considerably astonish the seemed surprised that they were allowed to make their | that such unique specimens of the work of the author imaginative scribes in the daily papers who recently | exit from this world with so little suffering. All educated Bussians evidently felt an interest in and room with all the elaborate ceremonial which was observed a supportry with the young Sovereign who had ascentill 1861. The Queen had originally proposed to | ded the throne under such painful circumstances, open Parliament with the "semi-state" ceremonial | and it certainly seemed as if Imperialism, if not of last year; but her Majesty has thought fit sutceracy, in Russia had still a long lease of life. suddenly to change her mind, to the great anneyance | That Bussian statesmen might be tempted to get rid | Jecome Napoleon and of the Princess Clotilde of of an expensive Court and an overgrown Royal Family | Savoy. Since the death of his wife, Mille, Blanc, of we might easily believe, were it likely to improve | Monaco, Prince Rolland Bonaparte has led a retired their financial position, which after all is not, perhaps, | and studious life with his sixter and daughter in his quite so desperate as it suits Berlin and Vienna | house in the Cours la Reine, He has lately presented bankers to make out. But the experience of France | the Museum of the Trocadero with a curious ethacmay be quoted to show that a Regublic may be not graphical collection which he has had brought over At a meeting of the Council of the University less costly than a Monarchy, and it is certain that | from New Guinea by explorers sent out at his own Russia, like Austria, would infallibly break up into a capense. The prince is now about thirty years of ago. variety of hostile nationalities, to her complete politi- The Princess Letitia is only twenty, and is in cal effacement, if the dynasty which alone binds her discordant elements together were once overthrown. - up at Moncalteri by her mother in a semi-conventual World.

ART AND LITERATURE.

Lord Justice Fry will preside at a meeting to be held shortly to consider the advisability of estalishing a society to encourage the study and advance the knowledge of the History of English Law. The publication in this country of the St. Nocholess Magasine will, with the next issue (January), pass into the hands of Mr. T. Fisher Unwin, who a couple

WITH PAPER, 2D.

It is understood that Major Pond, before leaving England for America, engaged Mr. Charles Dickens and Mr. Max O'Bell for a lecturing tour in the United States during the season 1887-8. Dr. Schliemann, accompanied by his wife, has left Athens for a royage up the Nile as far as the Second Cataract. He hopes to be able to begin excavations in Crete in the spring, on his return from Egypt.

Zealand with "The Private Secretary," which has found the greatest success ever scored at the Anti-Sir G. Cox has completed the biography of the late Bishop Colengo, which he has written at the request of the family of the deceased divine. It is said to centain much information concerning the Bishop's

Mr. Thornton is again in London, after a tour of

over sixteen thousand miles in Australia and New

An experiment is about to be tried by the proprietors of the British Export Journal in the way of a quarterly edition of their journal, to be printed in Hindustani and circulated among the native whole-

It is appounced that Sir Edward Watkin's book on Canada will be published scon. It is a work of a-dozen etchizgs.

As there is no part for him in the new opers at the Savoy, Mr. Eric Lewis is leaving that theatre, after baving been apagged as Mr. Grossmith's understudy there for the last few years. Mr. Lewis played Ko-Ko on Saturday at fifteen minutes notice, Mr. Grossm th being too ill to appear. The first number of Murray's Magazine will contain a poetical introduction to "Lara" and "Some

Reminiscences of my First Introduction to Madame de Stael," by Lord Byron, neither of which has yet seen the light; and an article on General Grant by Mr. Matthew Argold. The story of the Pope's life, "Leo XIII, and His Times," on which Dr. Bernard O Reilly is at work, will be published by Messrs. Sampson Low and Co.

One important feature of the book will be a series of illustrations of scenes in the Pope's life and sur-Mr. Percy Greg is putting the last touches to his "History of the United States." The work will tell the story of "The New World" from the foundation of Virginia to the reconstruction of the Union (1610)

to 1870). Mesers, Allen and Co. are to be the pub-De Nauville's picture of the "Battle of Tel el Rebir" has been sold to go to America. It is on view at the Fine Art Society's Gallery for a short time prior to its departure. Neither of the pictures of English subjects painted by this great painter is to remain in this country. "Borke's Drift" was purchased some time ago for the National Gallery of New South

Mr. George Baden-Powell, M.P., has in a forward

state of preparation a history of the colonies and dependencies of the British Empire, with special reference to the great growth of the last fifty years. His personal experiences in all our greater colonies and in India enable Mr. Baden-Powell to write with adequate personal knowledge of the places, people, and affairs dealt with. Mr. William Sloace Kennedy, an American, has sent to England for publication a work on Walt Whitman, entitled "Walt Whitman, the Poet of Humanity," in the main a critical commentary and

exposition of "Leaves of Grass," especially the moral

and literary aspects of the book. The work includes

some personal reminiscences of the "good gray post" and his friends, and a bibliography and history of The Allgemeine Zeitung says that the Italian poet and historian of literature, G. Carducci, has just finished a remarkable work on the Popes as poets, 'I Papi Poeti," He intends, however, to keep it back for some months before sending it to press, as upon the poems of Leo XIII., and the author is not

sexious to win a cheap popularity amongst the Italian anti-ciericalists. All statements to the contrary notwithscanding, the Era can authoritatively state that Madame Georgina Burns and Mr. Lestie Crotty will actually leave Mr. Carl Rosa's opera company, although, at his urgent request, they have consented to remain with him four months beyond the term of their engagement—the relations between Mr. Ross and the two above-named

artistes being of a friendly character.

Mr. Maxwell Lyte's "History of the University of Oxford down to the year 1530 will be published by Mesers. Macmillan and Co. next week. The origin and development of the University, and its relations towards the authorities claiming civil or ecclesisatical jurisdiction have been traced. The ancient organismtion of the University is described, and an account of the foundation of the colleges is given. Mr. Macalister, librarian and secretary of the Leads Library, has suffered an irreparable loss by a fire in

his private house on the night of Thursday, November 25. Among the papers then destroyed were not only the revised MS, of his catalogue to the library 80,000 volumes), but also the nearly completed MS. of a book upon which he has been engaged for some eight years—an attempt to construct a philosophy of Lord Tennysons new book was ready on Tuesday last. As we stated several months ago, the

peem likely to be read with the greatest interest is a postscript to "Locksley Hall," in which, after doing battle with the world for sixty years, the hero of the poem reappears as a broken-down man of eighty. with very much medified views about life. Mesers. Macmillan and Co, are the publishers. Mesers, Sampson Low and Co. will issue presently

a third volume of their work, "Fortunes Made in

Business." It will deal with the Horrockses, Miller, and Co., of Preston; the Mintons, of Stoke-upon-Trent; Sir William Armstrong, Mitchell, and Co. A. S. Henry and Co., of Manchester; Donald Curris and Co.; the Crossleys, of Halifax; Platt Brothers, of Oldham; the Richardsons, of Bessbrook; the Kitsons, of Leeds; and the Clarkes, of Paintey, The Century Company's "Dictionary of the Ecglish Language is making progress under the editorship of Professor Whitney, of Yale. It is expected that the work will be ready for publication early in 1888. The dictionary will be issued in two forms -an octavo of two columns to a page in ten or twelve volumes. and a large quarto of three columns to a page, in two or possibly three volumes, the type being the same in

both. The whole field of English literature has been

searched for fresh definitions and illustrations of Mesers. Longman have a long list of volumes in prospect for their series of brief handbooks to our sistoric towns, which they are issuing under the editorship of Professor E. A. Freeman and the Beverend W. Hunt. Among them are :- "Carlinle." by the Reverend Mandell Creighton; "Chester," by Mr. J. P. Earwaker; "Cinque Porte," by Professor Montague Burrows; "Colchester," by the Reverend E. L. Cutta; " Lincoln, by the Reverend E. Venables; Norwich," by Dr. Jessop; "Oxford," by the Reverend C. W. Boase; "St. Andrews," by Mr. Andrew Lang; "Winchester," by the Reverend G. W. Kitchen; and "York," by the Reverend James

The forthcoming volume of the "Dictionary of National Biography," to be published on the 13rd inst., extends from Canute to Chaloner. The Athenceum says the Rev. William Hunt writes on Canute : Mr. Goldwin Smith on Lord Cardwell : Mr. Lestie Stephen on Thomas Carlyle; Professor A. W. Ward on Queen Caroline, wife of George II.; Mr. S. R. Gardiner en Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, and Lucius Cary, Viscount Falkland; Canon Overton on Isaac Cassubon ; Mr. James Gardner on Catherine of Arragon, Catherine Howard, and Catherine Parr; Mr. Joseph Knight on Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastie, and on Sussannah Centlivre; and Mr. Thompson Cooper on Alexander Chalmers, of the

A letter of Sir Walter Scott, giving his views on Ireland, was sold at Sotheby's on Tuesday last, The note is written to Sir W Knighton, and reads:-"I have spent a part of this fine summer in Ireland, and have returned delighted with that warm-hearted and hospitable country. Whatever people may may, its grievances are fast abating-much English capital has been introduced of late years. New cabins, which are more decent than the old ones; and the dress of the younger people does not exhibit such a variety of patchwork as that of the time of Melesian. I went through the greater part of the island, and saw much ground which might rival any part of Segland in wealth, and much scenery which might vie with any part of Scotland in picturesque beauty; and the itof " Vanity Fair End their way to the auction-

There is some talk in society in Paris of a marriage between Prince Roland Bonagarte and his beautiful cousin, the Princess Lucitia, daughter of Prince appearance a real Bonaparte. She has been brought