

reads the critics; but presently perceiving that he alone makes or mars himself, and that they have no instruction for him, he mostly leaves off reading them, though he is always glad of their kindness or grieved by their harshness when he chances upon it. This, we believe, is the general experience, modified, of course, by exceptions.

## VI.

Then, are we critics of no use in the world? We should not like to think that, though we are not quite ready to define our use. If we were to confess that we had none, we must not say, Let us not be like these English critics; but, Let us not be at all.

More than one sober thinker is inclining at present to suspect that æsthetically or specifically we *are* of no use, and that we are only useful historically; that we may register laws, but not enact them. We are not quite prepared to admit that æsthetic criticism is useless, though in view of its futility in any given instance it is hard to deny that it is so. It certainly seems as useless against a book that strikes the popular fancy, and prospers on in spite of condemnation by the best critics, as it is against a book which does not generally please, and which no critical favor can make acceptable. This is so common a

phenomenon that we wonder it has never hitherto suggested to criticism that its point of view was altogether mistaken, and that it was really necessary to judge books not as dead things, but as living things—things which have an influence and a power irrespective of beauty and wisdom, and merely as expressions of actuality in thought and feeling. Perhaps criticism has a cumulative and final effect; perhaps it does some good we do not know of. It apparently does not affect the author directly, but it may reach him through the reader. It may in some cases enlarge or diminish his audience for a while, until he has thoroughly measured and tested his own powers. We doubt if it can do more than that; but if it can do that, we will admit that it may be the toad of adversity, ugly and venomous, from whose unpleasant brow he is to snatch the precious jewel of lasting fame.

We employ this figure in all humility, and we conjure our fraternity to ask themselves, without rancor or offence, whether we are right or not. In this quest let us get together all the modesty and candor and impartiality we can; for if we should happen to discover a good reason for continuing to exist, these qualities will be of more use to us than any others in examining the work of people who really produce something.

## Monthly Record of Current Events.

### POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 19th of April.—The Inter-State Commerce Commissioners appointed by President Cleveland, March 22, are as follows: Thomas M. Cooley, of Michigan, for six years; William R. Morrison, of Illinois, five years; Augustus Schoonmaker, of New York, four years; Aldace F. Walker, of Vermont, three years; Walter L. Bragg, of Alabama, two years.

President Cleveland appointed new Ministers as follows: March 24, Oscar S. Straus, of New York, to Austria; April 16, General Alexander R. Lawton, of Georgia, to Austro-Hungary.

Mr. Charles S. Fairchild was appointed Secretary of the Treasury March 31.

The act of the last Congress granting land in severalty to Indians was first put into effect on March 31, when President Cleveland ordered the allotment of land under this law to the Indians on the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon.

A proposed amendment to the Constitution of Michigan prohibiting the sale of liquor in that State was defeated in a popular election, April 4, by a majority of about 5000.

The Rhode Island State election, April 6, was carried by the Democrats. John W. Davis was chosen Governor by nearly 1000 majority.

The Crosby High License Bill, fixing the fee for the sale of spirituous liquors to be drunk on the premises in New York and Brooklyn at \$1000, and malt liquors \$100, was vetoed by Governor Hill April 12.

The public debt of the United States was reduced during the month of March \$12,808,467 71.

The transatlantic yacht race between the *Coronet* and the *Dautless*, for \$10,000 a side, was won by the former. The start was made from New York March 12. The *Coronet* reached Roche's Point, Queenstown, March 27, and the *Dautless* March 28. The winning boat's time was 14 days, 19 hours, 3 minutes, 14 seconds, and the loser's 16 days, 1 hour, 43 minutes, 13 seconds.

The Irish Crimes Bill was promulgated by Mr. Balfour in the British House of Commons March 28. It abolishes trial by jury in Ireland, giving to magistrates power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment for offences such as boycotting, conspiracy, rioting, and the like, or inciting to the same. In grave cases, of murder or arson, it provides for a change of venue to England. The law will have no time limit, and will be applicable only in districts proclaimed by the Viceroy. On April 1 closure was applied by a vote of 361 to 253, and the bill passed its first reading. On April 18 it passed a second reading.

—In the House of Lords the government presented a land bill, which passed its first reading, providing for the purchase of Irish holdings, that is, for the abolition of the system of dual ownership created by the act of 1881. The leaseholders whose leases expired prior to 1881, numbering 160,000, are to be admitted to the benefits of the act of 1881 in the same manner as those whose leases expired in that year.

A new Italian cabinet was announced, as follows: Signor Depretis, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Signor Crispi, Minister of the Interior; Signor Viale, Minister of War; Signor Zanardelli, Minister of Justice; and Signor Saracco, Minister of Public Works.

Another effort was made to kill the Czar, on March 29, by an officer of the army, who shot at him while he was taking exercise in the park of the palace at Gatschina.

#### DISASTERS.

March 23.—Seventy miners killed by an explosion in the Bulli Colliery, Sydney, New South Wales.—Twelve miners burned to death in a boarding-house at Bessemer, Michigan.

March 24.—News at San Francisco of the burning to death by the villagers of 260 tramps in a temple at Hisia Shib, China.

April 1.—Destruction by fire of the Hotel del Monte, Monterey, California.

April 5.—Eighteen miners killed by an explosion at Venita, Indian Territory.

April 9.—Explosion in a nitro-glycerine fac-

tory at Freiberg, Saxony. Thirteen persons killed.

April 10 (and following days).—Prairie fires from two and a half to seven miles wide, in Graham and Norton counties, Kansas. Fifteen persons and many houses and several thousand head of cattle burned.

April 12.—Fire in St. Augustine, Florida. The old slave market, cathedral, court-house, and St. Augustine and Edwards hotels burned.

April 13.—Packet steamer *Victoria* wrecked on the rocks near Dieppe. Twelve passengers drowned.

#### OBITUARY.

March 27.—In Princeton, New Jersey, Paul Tulane, philanthropist, aged eighty-seven years.

March 29.—In Newark, New Jersey, Rev. Ray Palmer, D.D., hymn-writer, aged seventy-eight years.

March 31.—In Albany, New York, John G. Saxe, poet, aged seventy-one years.

April 4.—In New York, Miss Catherine L. Wolfe, philanthropist, aged sixty-one years.

April 10.—At Evansville, Indiana, John T. Raymond, comedian, aged fifty-one years.

April 12.—In Wilmington, Delaware, Right Rev. Alfred Lee, D.D., S.T.D., LL.D., first bishop of Delaware, and senior bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in his eightieth year.

April 15.—In Paris, France, Very Rev. Monsignor William Quinn, Vicar-General of New York, aged sixty-six years.

## Editor's Drawer.

THE American man, the Drawer imagines, only develops himself and spreads himself and grows "for all he is worth" in the Great West. He is more free and limber there, and unfolds those generous peculiarities and largenesses of humanity which never blossomed before. The "environment" has much to do with it. The great spaces over which he roams contribute to the enlargement of his mental horizon. There have been races before who roamed the illimitable desert, but they travelled on foot or on camel-back, and were limited in their range. There was nothing continental about them, as there is about our railway desert travellers, who swing along through thousands of miles of sand and sage-bush with a growing contempt for time and space. But expansive and great as these people have become under the new conditions, the Drawer has a fancy that the development of the race has only just begun, and that the future will show us in perfection a kind of man new to the world. Out somewhere on the Santa Fe route, where the desert of one day was like the desert of the day before, and the Pullman car rolls and swings over the wide waste beneath the blue sky day after

day, under its black flag of smoke, in the early gray of morning, when the men were waiting their turns at the ablation bowls, a slip of a boy, perhaps aged seven, stood balancing himself on his little legs, clad in knickerbockers, biding his time, with all the nonchalance of an old campaigner. "How did you sleep, cap?" asked a well-meaning elderly gentleman. "Well, thank you," was the dignified response; "*as I always do on a sleeping-car.*" Always does? Great horrors! Hardly out of his swaddling-clothes, and yet he always sleeps well in a sleeper! Was he born on the wheels? was he cradled in a Pullman? He has always been in motion, probably; he was started at thirty miles an hour, no doubt, this marvellous boy of our new era. He was not born in a house at rest, but the locomotive snatched him along with a shriek and a roar before his eyes were fairly open, and he was rocked in a "section," and his first sensation of life was that of moving rapidly over vast arid spaces, through cattle ranges, and along cañons. The effort of quick and easy locomotion on character may have been noted before, but it seems that here is the production of a new sort of man, the direct product of our railway era.

and their mind was that it was not only not a play, but that whatever it was it was bad.

Our friend swallowed the bitter dose and made his wry faces in private, though he had been obliged to take it, as he fancied, in public, with a million people looking on. Not

long afterward an acquaintance met him and congratulated him. "Play was a splendid success—wasn't it?"

"Were you there?" asked our friend.

"No; but I saw that all the critics praised it."

## Monthly Record of Current Events.

### POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 16th of May. —Charles J. Faulkner was chosen United States Senator from West Virginia on May 5.

The Kentucky State Democratic Convention, May 4, nominated General S. B. Buckner for Governor by acclamation. The Republicans, May 11, nominated William O. Bradley.

The United States debt was reduced \$13,053,098 during the month of April.

Queen Kapiolani of the Hawaiian Kingdom arrived with her suite at San Francisco April 20, on her way to London, to be present at Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebration in June. The royal party visited Washington, and were received by President Cleveland.

Resolutions against the Coercion Bill were passed in the Canadian House of Commons April 26, by a vote of 135 to 47.

Mr. Goschen, Chancellor of the British Exchequer, introduced the budget in the British House of Commons April 21. Last year the revenues of the government amounted to about £90,000,000, and the expenses to nearly the same sum. There was a saving of £263,000 in the army estimates, and of £347,000 in the estimates for the civil service. The revenue from taxes on alcoholic liquors decreased £190,000, that from the beer tax increased £45,000, that from the wine taxes fell off £93,000, and that from the tax on tea largely increased.

In the House of Commons, on April 28, a Liberal motion that the House decline to proceed with any measure directed against tenants' combinations for relief until a full measure for their relief from excessive rents is presented in Parliament was rejected by a vote of 341 to 240.—An amendment proposed by Mr. Healey, and supported by Mr. Gladstone, that the word "offence" in the Coercion Bill be changed to "crime," was defeated April 29, by 157 to 120.

A French commissary named Schnaebeles, stationed at Pagny-sur-Moselle, was arrested by the German police April 21, and imprisoned at Metz. He was charged with being a spy. The French denied the charge, and asserted that the man was decoyed by his captors. Intense excitement followed, and threats of war were freely made. The prisoner was liberated April 30.

The Prussian government's Ecclesiastical

Bill passed the Lower House on the third reading April 27, by a vote of 243 to 100.

### DISASTERS.

April 21.—News from Victoria, British Columbia, of wreck of schooner *Active* off the coast of Oregon, thirty miles north of Cape Flattery, and loss of thirty-three lives.—Terrible tornado in parts of Missouri and Arkansas. Fifteen persons killed.

April 22.—Hurricane on the northeast coast of Australia. Fleet of forty pearl-fishing boats lost, with 550 persons on board.

April 24.—News in London of a disastrous fire at Arnautkeire, Asia Minor. Five hundred houses burned and many lives lost.

April 28.—News of sinking of steamer *Benton*, of Singapore, off island of Formosa. One hundred and fifty persons drowned.—Also of sinking of schooner *Flying Scud*, in Shelikoff Strait. Seventeen men lost.

May 1-7.—Hot sirocco in Hungary. Fires followed, destroying \$2,500,000 worth of property. Several lives lost.

May 2.—Wreck of Glasgow steamer *John Knox* near Channel Harbor. Twenty-nine sailors drowned.

May 3.—Explosion in Shaft No. 1 of Victoria Coal Mine, at Nanaimo, British Columbia. More than a hundred and twenty-five lives lost.—Earthquakes in Mexico. Several towns ruined and a hundred and fifty lives lost.

May 4.—Twelve men killed by the premature explosion of a blast in the Coosa Tunnel, on the Georgia Central Railroad.

May 8.—Ten Italian emigrants drowned from the steam-ship *La Champagne*, near the French coast.

### OBITUARY.

April 19.—In New York, Alexander Mitchell, banker and President of the St. Paul Railway, aged sixty-seven years.

April 20.—At Annapolis, Maryland, Lieutenant John W. Danenhower, U.S.N., aged thirty-eight years.

May 4.—In Chicago, Illinois, W. C. De Pauw, founder of De Pauw University, at Greencastle, Indiana, aged sixty-five years.—In New York, George Cabot Ward, banker, aged sixty-three years.

May 5.—In Stamford, Connecticut, Hon. Oliver Hoyt, merchant, of New York city, aged sixty-four years.

May 6.—In London, James Grant, novelist, aged sixty-five years.

nal affection for the Carlyles. They have their charm, and the situation on which the correspondence casts its light at Craigenputtock, whither Carlyle had gone that he need not be forced "to tell lies," need not be obliged to write for bread, has its dignity as well as its pathos. The humility with which Carlyle receives Goethe's letters, and the eagerness with which both he and his wife meet the great German's recognition of them in their poor proud life, as yet unconsolated by fame, are very touching. For how much neglect the maundering sage's goodness must have revenged them, of how

much hope deferred must it have seemed the fruition, insipid and vacuous as it is to the reader! How hard those two keen wits must have striven to keep up the zeal of their gratitude to the end! The situation is one that no one would have thought of inventing, yet how interesting, how moving, how humorously suggestive, how natural and probable, it is when life has once framed it for us! Professor Norton, who arranges our point of view, has used unflinching skill and taste in his task. Every word of his own, and every word that he quotes from others, is luminous.

## Monthly Record of Current Events.

### POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 20th of June. —Two United States Senators were elected: Samuel Pasco, from Florida, May 19; William E. Chandler, from New Hampshire, June 14.

James W Hyatt, of Connecticut, was appointed Treasurer of the United States, May 11, to succeed Conrad N. Jordan, resigned.

The public debt of the United States was decreased \$8,888,998 during the month of May.

The French (Goblet) Ministry resigned May 17, following the rejection of its financial policy by the Chamber of Deputies. A new cabinet was announced May 30, as follows: M. Rouvier, Premier and Minister of Finance and of Posts and Telegraphs; M. Fallières, Minister of the Interior; M. Flourens, Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Spuller, Minister of Public Instruction; M. Mazeau, Minister of Justice; General Ferron, Minister of War; M. Barbey, Minister of Marine; M. Dautresme, Minister of Public Works; M. Barbe, Minister of Agriculture.

Urgency on the French Army Bill was voted in the Chamber of Deputies June 11, by 359 to 206.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt's amendment to the Coercion Bill, exempting from secret inquiry all proceedings relating to public meetings or agrarian movements, including combinations to obtain reductions of rents, was rejected by the House of Commons, May 17, by a vote of 242 to 180. Thereafter the first clause of the bill was adopted by a vote of 171 to 79.

The convention between England and Turkey provides that the British shall evacuate Egypt three years hence. If after that time internal troubles arise in Egypt, British and Turkish troops shall reoccupy the country jointly or separately, as the two governments may agree. No other power shall be allowed to intervene in Egyptian affairs.

The Sultan of Turkey has ceded the island of Cyprus to England.

A ukase has been issued forbidding foreigners to acquire estates on the western frontier

of Russia, which is aimed chiefly against the Germans. There are many German factories, workshops, warehouses, and farms there, and most of those who live by them are members of the German Army Reserve.

The Dutch Parliament, June 14, passed a bill providing for a temporary extension of the franchise pending a complete revision of the Constitution. The bill raises the number of electors from 130,000 to 300,000, and gives the right to vote to lodgers and others who pay a personal or land tax of ten florins. All proposals looking to a further extension of the franchise were rejected.

### DISASTERS.

May 25.—The Opéra Comique, Paris, burned. Estimated loss of lives over one hundred.

May 28.—Explosion in Udston Colliery, near Glasgow, Scotland. Seventy-five men killed. —Loss of the steamer *Sir John Lawrence* in a typhoon off the Indian coast. Seven hundred and fifty passengers drowned.—Eight persons killed in a collision between trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad, near the Horseshoe Bend.

June 5.—Panic during a circus performance at Neschen, Germany. A number of persons burned, some trampled to death, and three hundred injured.

June 8.—Fifty miners killed by a fire-damp explosion in a coal-pit at Gelsenkirchen, in Westphalia.

June 10.—News of earthquakes in Turkestan. Town of Vernome almost entirely destroyed, and over one hundred persons killed.

June 17.—Lake steamer *Champlain* burned, at the mouth of Grand Traverse Bay. Twenty-two lives lost.

### OBITUARY.

May 14.—In Washington, D.C., Chief Justice William B. Woods, of the Supreme Court of the United States, aged sixty-three years.

May 18.—In Warrenton, Virginia, ex-Governor William Smith, aged ninety years.

May 19.—In New York, William H. Macy, President of the Seamen's Savings-bank, aged eighty-two years.

May 29.—In Washington, D. C., Major Ben Perley Poore, journalist, aged sixty-seven years.

June 4.—In Malone, New York, William A. Wheeler, ex-Vice-President of the United States, aged sixty-eight years.

June 6.—In Wallingford, Delaware, Chief Justice Ulysses Mercur, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, aged sixty-nine years.—In Hampton, Connecticut, ex-Governor Chauncey F. Cleveland, aged eighty-eight years.

June 11.—In Philadelphia, William Bacon Stevens, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, aged seventy-two years.

June 16.—At South Somerset, near Fall River, Massachusetts, Rev. R. D. Hitchcock, D.D., LL.D., President of Union Theological Seminary, New York, aged seventy years.

June 17.—In Williamstown, Massachusetts, Rev. Mark Hopkins, M.D., D.D., LL.D., ex-President of Williams College, aged eighty-five years.

## Editor's Drawer.

MANY people regard the keeping of a diary as a meritorious occupation. The young are urged to take up this cross; it is supposed to benefit girls especially. Whether women should do it is to some minds not an open question, although there is on record the case of the Frenchman who tried to shoot himself when he heard that his wife was keeping a diary. This intention of suicide may have arisen from the fear that his wife was keeping a record of his own peccadilloes rather than of her own thoughts and emotions. Or it may have been from the fear that she was putting down those little conjugal remarks which the husband always dislikes to have thrown up to him, and which a woman can usually quote accurately, it may be for years, it may be forever, without the help of a diary. So we can appreciate without approving the terror of the Frenchman at living on and on in the same house with a growing diary. For it is not simply that this little book of judgment is there in black and white, but that the maker of it is increasing her power of minute observation and analytic expression. In discussing the question whether a woman should keep a diary it is understood that it is not a mere memorandum of events and engagements, such as both men and women of business and affairs necessarily keep, but the daily record which sets down feelings, emotions, and impressions, and criticises people and records opinions. But this is a question that applies to men as well as to women.

It has been assumed that the diary serves two good purposes: it is a disciplinary exercise for the keeper of it, and perhaps a moral guide; and it has great historical value. As to the first, it may be helpful to order, method, discipline, and it may be an indulgence of spleen, whims, and unwholesome criticism and conceit. The habit of saying right out what you think of everybody is not a good one, and the record of such opinions and impressions, while it is not so mischievous to the public as talking may be, is harmful to the recorder. And when we come to the historical value of the diary, we confess to a growing suspicion of it. It is such a deadly weapon when it comes to light after the passage of years. It

has an authority which the spoken words of its keeper never had. It is *ex parte*, and it cannot be cross-examined. The supposition is that being contemporaneous with the events spoken of, it must be true, and that it is an honest record. Now, as a matter of fact, we doubt if people are any more honest as to themselves or others in a diary than out of it; and rumors, reported facts, and impressions set down daily in the heat and haste of the prejudicial hour are about as likely to be wrong as right. Two diaries of the same events rarely agree. And in turning over an old diary we never know what to allow for the personal equation. The diary is greatly relied on by the writers of history, but the Drawer doubts if there is any such liar in the world, even when the keeper of it is honest. It is certain to be partisan, and more liable to be misinformed than a newspaper, which exercises some care in view of immediate publicity. The writer happens to know of two diaries which record, on the testimony of eye-witnesses, the circumstances of the last hours of Garfield, and they differ utterly in essential particulars. One of these may turn up fifty years from now, and be accepted as true. An infinite amount of gossip goes into diaries about men and women that would not stand the test of a moment's contemporary publication. But by-and-by it may all be used to smirch or brighten unjustly some one's character. Suppose a man in the Army of the Potomac had recorded daily all his opinions of men and of events. Reading it over now, with more light and a juster knowledge of character and of measures, is it not probable that he would find it a tissue of misconceptions? Few things are actually what they seem to-day; they are colored both by misapprehensions and by moods. If a man writes a letter or makes report of an occurrence for immediate publication, subject to universal criticism, there is some restraint on him. In his private letter, or diary especially, he is apt to set down what comes into his head at the moment, often without much effort at verification.

The Drawer has been led to this disquisition into the fundamental nature of this pri-

# Monthly Record of Current Events.

## POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 20th of July. —The public debt of the United States was decreased in June \$16,852,725 17, and for the fiscal year \$109,707,046 38.

The Mormon Convention at Salt Lake City to draft a Constitution for the proposed State of Utah adjourned July 7. The Constitution that they drew up provides for the entire separation of Church and State, and for non-sectarian education, and forbids polygamy, providing penalties therefor.

Jacob Sharp, tried for bribing New York Aldermen, was convicted June 29, and sentenced, July 14, to four years' imprisonment at hard labor and a fine of \$5000.

The Jubilee in honor of the fifty years' reign of Queen Victoria was celebrated in London, June 21, with royal splendor. A thanksgiving service was held in Westminster Abbey. The procession thither from Buckingham Palace was witnessed by a million people, who loudly cheered the Queen. The pageant was one of the most brilliant and imposing ever seen in England.

The Jubilee Yacht Race around Great Britain was won by the *Genesta*, which sailed the distance in 12 days, 16 hours, and 55 minutes, reaching the end June 27.

The Crimes Bill passed the British House of Commons July 8, by a vote of 349 to 262. Among the amendments rejected was one by Mr. Morley limiting the duration of the act to three years. The vote was 180 to 119. The royal assent was given to the bill July 19.

The Irish Land Bill passed its report stage in the House of Lords July 1, and its first reading in the Commons July 4.

The House of Lords, July 7, by a majority of 11, abolished primogeniture in cases of intestacy.

Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha was elected Prince of Bulgaria by the Sorbranje July 7. A new Bulgarian cabinet was announced July 11, with M. Stoiloff as President of the Council and *ad interim* Minister of Finance.

The French Chamber of Deputies, June 27, rejected a motion that Senators should be chosen by universal suffrage.

The Hungarian elections resulted in the return of 224 Liberals, 38 Moderate Oppositionists, 59 Independents, 9 Anti-Semites, and 15 members of no particular party.

King Otto of Bavaria has been officially declared insane.

The dissatisfaction with King Kalakaua's government of the Hawaiian kingdom culminated on June 30. A mass-meeting of citizens of Honolulu, in which residents of American birth took the most prominent part, having organized a military company and practically seized the government, demanded of the King

the dismissal of his cabinet and the appointment of another, to consist of persons whom the meeting named, the restitution of \$71,000 bribe-money which the King had taken, and a pledge "not in future to interfere, either directly or indirectly, with the election of representatives, and not to interfere with or attempt to unduly influence legislation or legislators."

The Belgian Chamber of Deputies has adopted a bill declaring two-fifths of a workman's pay inalienable, and one-fifth free from liability to be taken even in legal process. Clerks' salaries are made free from liability to seizure unless they exceed \$240 per annum.

## DISASTERS.

June 18.—Nearly two hundred pilgrims drowned by the capsizing of a boat crossing the Danube near Pak.

June 24.—Fire in the Best and Belcher Mine, Virginia City, Nevada. Fifteen lives lost.

July 5.—Twenty-seven soldiers killed and many wounded by an explosion of dynamite at Pesth.

July 6.—Land-slide at Zug, Switzerland. Many houses precipitated into the lake, and one hundred persons, including the President of the Canton, killed.

July 9.—Alcazar Theatre, Hurley, Wisconsin, burned. Seventeen lives lost.

July 10.—Sloop *Mystery* capsized in a squall in Jamaica Bay, New York. Twenty-four persons drowned.

July 15.—Excursion train in collision with an oil train at St. Thomas, Ontario. Twelve lives lost.

## OBITUARY.

June 20.—In Boston, Massachusetts, Daniel Pratt, the "Great American Traveller," aged seventy-eight years.

June 25.—In Jefferson County, Kentucky, General James Speed, ex-United States Attorney-General, aged seventy-five years.

June 29.—In Philadelphia, William H. H. Ross, ex-Governor of Delaware, aged seventy-four years.

July 2.—In Waterville, Vermont, Luke P. Poland, ex-United States Senator from Vermont, aged seventy-one years.

July 4.—In Augusta, Maine, ex-Governor Anson P. Morrill, aged eighty-four years.

July 8.—At Portland, Oregon, Ben Holliday, pioneer of the Pony Express in the United States, aged sixty-eight years.

July 14.—Near Essen, Germany, Alfred Krupp, artillery founder, aged seventy-five years.

July 18.—At Fount Hill, Virginia, R. M. T. Hunter, ex-Secretary of State of the Southern Confederacy, aged seventy-eight years.

July 19.—At Cohasset, Massachusetts, Uriel Crocker, the oldest New England publisher and bookseller, aged ninety-one years.

## VII.

Probably the great difficulty of doing justice to the position of another, when there is the best will in the world to be just, would account for a vast deal of misrepresentation, and may be the obscure origin of a prevalent journalistic principle against making corrections of statement. The able editor instinctively feels that he will only be making bad worse by attempting to make it better, and he denies himself the satisfaction of the effort. But we have not this spirit of unselfish resignation, and we desire to recall to the reader the passage in the Study for August, intended to define the views of Rev. M. J. Savage concerning a point which he rightly feels to be important. Our summary of his sermon on Tolstoï was that he held Christ to be "a supremely good soul, but an inferior intellect," and Tolstoï "a still lower intellect in attempting to rehabili-

tate Him as a practical reformer." But in a passage of his discourse to which Mr. Savage calls our attention, he says that "it is no impeachment of his intellectual ability" to represent Christ as unpractical and mistaken in regard to the future, as "legislating for a passing phase of society instead of for the growing order of a developing civilization," which he did not foresee. Mr. Savage criticises Christ's "social and economical ideas precisely as he would those of Plato's Republic"; and he conceives that "this does not even raise the question of Christ's intellectual rank, any more than questioning some position of Kant or Bacon would be passing on their intellect. An inferior intellect to-day sees much that the greatest could not see one or two thousand years ago." So far as this is a question of words, we prefer that Mr. Savage's words should remain with the reader, and not ours.

## Monthly Record of Current Events.

### POLITICAL.

**O**UR Record is closed on the 18th of August. —The Ohio Republican State Convention, July 28, renominated J. B. Foraker for Governor, and recommended Senator John Sherman for the Presidency.

The Maryland Democratic State Convention, July 27, nominated Elihu E. Jackson for Governor, and the Prohibitionists, August 2, Sumnerfield Baldwin.

The Kentucky State election, August 1, resulted in a Democratic plurality of 17,000 for General S. B. Buckner as Governor.

The Prohibitionists lost the Texas election on the proposed constitutional amendment, August 4, by about 90,000 majority.

The passage of the Coercion Bill was followed by the immediate proclaiming of every county in Ireland.

The bill to allow the construction of a tunnel under the English Channel was rejected by the British House of Commons August 3, by a vote of 153 to 107.

The Land Bill passed a third reading in the House of Commons August 5.

Prince Ferdinand was installed as ruler of Bulgaria August 14. After the ceremony the ministers resigned and the Sobranje was dissolved.

### DISASTERS.

July 4.—Twenty-seven men killed by a premature explosion of dynamite at Jasz-Berény, Hungary.

July 21.—Eleven Italian track laborers killed on the Erie Railroad above Hohokus.

July 22.—News of the loss of the ship *Firth* in a cyclone in Java waters.

July 23.—Steamer *Mahratta* foundered off Hoogly Point, India. A large number of pilgrims drowned.

July 25.—Later reports of the wreck of the steamer *Sir John Lawrence* in the Bay of Bengal place the number of lives lost at eight hundred.

August 10.—Excursion train on the Toledo, Peoria, and Western Railroad fell through a burning bridge three miles east of Chatsworth, Illinois. Seventy-six passengers killed and two hundred and seventy-nine wounded.

### OBITUARY.

July 19.—In Trenton, New Jersey, Dorothea L. Dix, philanthropist, aged eighty-two years.

July 20.—In Brookline, Massachusetts, Jennie Collins, philanthropist, aged fifty-nine years.—In Hyde Park, Massachusetts, Sylvanus Cobb, Jun., author, aged sixty-four years.

July 25.—In Salt Lake City, Utah, John Taylor, President of the Mormon Church, aged seventy-nine years.

July 29.—In Stradella, Italy, Agostino Depretis, President of the Council and Minister of the Interior, aged seventy-six years.

August 1.—In Moscow, Russia, Michael Nikephorovitch Katkoff, publicist and journalist, aged sixty-seven years.

August 8.—In Richmond, Missouri, General A. W. Doniphan, aged seventy-nine years.

August 9.—In Boston, Massachusetts, Commodore Henry Hastings, aged sixty-nine years.

August 11.—In New York, Colonel Charles S. Spencer, aged sixty-three years.

August 12.—In Paris, France, Jean Victor Duruy, historian, aged seventy-six years.

August 16.—News in London of the death of Meier Goldschmidt, Danish poet and novelist, aged sixty-eight years.

August 17.—In New York city, Rev. Daniel Curry, D.D., LL.D., in his seventy-eighth year.

"On a Fly-Leaf of a Book of Old Plays," by Mr. Walter Learned, is a pretty picture, done with touch. "Her First Train," by Mr. A. E. Watrous, is also prettily picturesque, and also touchful; and "Her Bonnet," by Miss Mary E. Wilkins (she of the *Humble Romance, and Other Stories*, we suppose), is very arch and neat and demurely humorous:

"When meeting-bells began to toll,  
And pious folk began to pass,  
She deftly tied her bonnet on,  
The little, sober, meeting lass,  
All in her neat, white-curtained room, before her  
looking-glass. . . .

"So square she tied the satin strings,  
And set the bows beneath her chin!  
Then smiled to see how sweet she looked;  
Then thought her vanity a sin,  
And she must put such thoughts away before  
the sermon should begin. . . .

"Yet sitting there with peaceful face,  
The reflex of her simple soul,  
She looked to be a very saint—  
And maybe was one, on the whole—  
Only that her pretty bonnet kept away the  
aureole."

In fact, if it were not for fear of being thought a flatterer of the sex, we should say that not only for the finer humor, but for the broader fun, the ladies have the best of it in this collection of society verse. There is certainly

nothing more amusing in it than Miss Helen Gray Coan's "Ballad of Cassandra Brown," or "The Stork's Jeremiad," by Miss Bessie Chandler. In the former we have an awful picture of the effects of Elocution, which we have all felt more or less in some young lady who has studied it; and in the latter the heart-rending appeal of the protomartyr of decoration:

"They've worked me standing, running, sleeping,  
flying;  
Sometimes I'm gazing at a crewel sun;  
They've worked me every way, I think, but dying;  
And oh! I wish they'd do that and be done!

"I could forgive them all this bitter wronging  
If they would grant one favor, which I beg,  
Would gratify but once my soul's deep longing,  
Just to put down my cramped and unused leg."

"A silence fell; I gazed; he had subsided;  
I listened vainly; all was dumb and still  
Upon the tidy where the stork resided,  
With upheld leg and red and open bill."

Mr. Pierson's volume is not, as he owns, fully representative, and he might make a larger one, which (as is too rarely the case with books of this or any kind) would be better; but, upon the whole, this is by no means bad, and we are disposed, even in our quality of critic, to be grateful for it. We hope this is not beneath the dignity of a critic, which we should always like to be mindful of.

## Monthly Record of Current Events.

### POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 20th of September.—The following nominations were made by State Conventions: New York Labor, August 19th, Secretary of State, Henry George; Iowa Republicans, August 24th, Governor, William Larrabee (renominated); Maryland Republicans, August 24th, Governor, Walter B. Brooks; Iowa Democrats, September 1st, Governor, Major T. J. Anderson; Massachusetts Prohibitionists, September 7th, Governor, W. H. Earle; New York Republicans, September 14th, Secretary of State, Colonel Frederick D. Grant.

The centennial of the framing of the United States Constitution was celebrated in Philadelphia September 15th, 16th, and 17th with great enthusiasm. President Grover Cleveland participated in the ceremonies.

The official count of the Texas election shows 129,273 votes for prohibition and 221,627 against.

Lieutenant-Governor R. W. Waterman succeeded to the office of Governor of California, made vacant by the death of Governor Bartlett.

The United States public debt was reduced \$4,809,475 41 during the month of August.

The new Bulgarian cabinet was announced, September 2d, under M. Stambuloff as Prime-Minister and Minister of the Interior, with M.

Stransky, Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Nat-cheviev, Minister of Finance, and M. Montkuroff, Minister of War.

Lord Salisbury announced in the House of Lords, August 19th, that the government had proclaimed the Irish National League. On August 25th Mr. Gladstone in the Commons moved an address to the Queen petitioning for the withdrawal of the proclamation. The motion was rejected, August 26th, by 272 to 194.

The Peruvian cabinet resigned, and a new one was appointed, with Mariano Alvarez as President and Minister of Finance.

The census of Italy taken last December shows a population of 29,943,607, an increase of 243,822 in one year.

### DISASTERS.

August 17th.—Four fatal accidents to Alpine tourists reported from Zurich, making eighteen deaths in the Alps within a month.

August 22d.—Seventeen persons drowned during a regatta on the Thames, below London Bridge.

September 4th.—Ship *Falls of Bruar*, of Glasgow, foundered off Yarmouth, England. Twenty-four sailors drowned.

September 5th.—Theatre Royal, Exeter, England, burned during a performance. One hundred and forty lives lost.



*September 16th.*—Collision on the Midland Railway, near Doncaster, England. Twenty-eight persons killed and seventy injured.

#### OBITUARY.

*August 19th.*—In Wood's Holl, Massachusetts, Professor S. F. Baird, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, in his sixty-fifth year.—In Cambridge, Massachusetts, Alvan Clark, famous telescope-maker, aged eighty-three years.—In London, England, John Palgrave Simpson, author, aged eighty years.

*August 22d.*—In Paris, France, ex-Judge Aaron J. Vanderpoel, of New York city, aged sixty-two years.

*August 26th.*—In Sewanee, Tennessee, Right Rev. R. W. B. Elliott, D.D., Missionary Bishop of Western Texas, aged forty-seven years.

*September 1st.*—In Cambridge, Massachusetts,

Charles M. Hovey, pomologist, aged seventy-seven years.

*September 2d.*—In New York city, Rev. Bishop William L. Harris, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, aged seventy years.

*September 7th.*—In Flat Rock, North Carolina, ex-Governor William Aiken, of South Carolina, aged eighty-one years.

*September 11th.*—In London, Sir Charles Young, Bart., dramatic author.

*September 12th.*—In Oakland, Washington Bartlett, Governor of California, aged sixty-three years.

*September 13th.*—In New York city, Dr. Alonzo Clark, in his eighty-first year.

*September 14th.*—At Frankfort, Kentucky, ex-Governor Luke P. Blackburn, aged seventy-one years.—In Berlin, General August Carl Leopold von Werder, aged seventy-nine years.

## Editor's Drawer.

IN autumn the thoughts lightly turn to Age. If the Drawer has seemed to be interested, sometimes to the neglect of other topics, in the American young woman, it was not because she is interested in herself, but because she is on the way to be one of the most agreeable objects in this lovely world. She may struggle against it; she may resist by all the legitimate arts of the coquette and the chemist; she may be convinced that youth and beauty are inseparable allies; but she would have more patience if she reflected that the sunset is often finer than the sunrise, commonly finer than noon, especially after a stormy day. The secret of a beautiful old age is as well worth seeking as that of a charming young maidenhood. For it is one of the compensations for the rest of us, in the decay of this mortal life, that women, whose mission it is to allure in youth and to tinge the beginning of the world with romance, also makes the end of the world more serenely satisfactory and beautiful than the outset. And this has been done without any amendment to the Constitution of the United States; in fact, it is possible that the Sixteenth Amendment would rather hinder than help this gracious process. We are not speaking now of what is called growing old gracefully and regretfully, as something to be endured, but as a season to be desired for itself, at least by those whose privilege it is to be ennobled and cheered by it. And we are not speaking of wicked old women. There is a unique fascination—all the novelists recognize it—in a wicked old woman; not very wicked, but a woman of abundant experience, who is perfectly frank and a little cynical, and delights in probing human nature and flashing her wit on its weaknesses, and who knows as much about life as a club man is credited with knowing. She may not be a good comrade for the

young, but she is immensely more fascinating than a semi-wicked old man. Why, we do not know; that is one of the unfathomable mysteries of womanhood. No; we have in mind quite another sort of woman, of which America has so many that they are a very noticeable element in all cultivated society. And the world has nothing more lovely than they. For there is a loveliness or fascination sometimes in women between the ages of sixty and eighty that is unlike any other—a charm that woos us to regard autumn as beautiful as spring.

Perhaps these women were great beauties in their day, but scarcely so serenely beautiful as now when age has refined all that was most attractive. Perhaps they were plain; but it does not matter, for the subtle influence of spiritualized intelligence has the power of transforming plainness into the beauty of old age. Physical beauty is doubtless a great advantage, and it is never lost if mind shines through it (there is nothing so unlovely as a frivolous old woman fighting to keep the skin-deep beauty of her youth); the eyes, if the life has not been one of physical suffering, usually retain their power of moving appeal; the lines of the face, if changed, may be refined by a certain spirituality; the gray hair gives dignity and softness and the charm of contrast; the low sweet voice vibrates to the same note of femininity, and the graceful and gracious are graceful and gracious still. Even into the face and bearing of the plain woman whose mind has grown, whose thoughts have been pure, whose heart has been expanded by good deeds or by constant affection, comes a beauty winning and satisfactory in the highest degree.

It is not that the charm of the women of whom we speak is mainly this physical beauty; that is only incidental, as it were. The delight in their society has a variety of sources.