expectation was entertained that, at some future day, it would be ceded by her. Such are, in part, the official manifestations as made by the United States on this occasion and now existing on file in the State Department at Washington. In fact, the administration of the government was then controlled by slave power, and the independence of the island, upon the base of abolition, was not regarded in keeping with its interest, and the preservation of the colony to Spain was preferred. Some years later, from 1848 to 1850 and 1854, the government of the United States, controlled by the slave interest, took some steps in favor of the annexation of the island. The Southern States saw with alarm the growing influence and increasing development of Northern principles, and out of this grew this movement for annexation. The Cubans, though they have always been inclined to substitute free labor for slave, accepted the propositions made to them favoring their insurrection, and on the 4th of July, 1850, the most select part of Camaguey took the field; but as their chief, Joaquin Aguero, was a recognized abolitionist, who had scandalously freed all his slaves, the movement was not efficaciously favored by the South, as promised, and it failed, resulting in the execution of many victims. In 1854 another annexation scheme was presented in the slave interest. General Quitman, of Mississippi, was to command a formidable expedition. The conspiracy was discovered, and Pinto and several others were executed by the Spaniards. The interest of the dominant party lay in the acquisition of the Gem of the West Indies, to be divided into three States, to add to the influence of the South; and if this scheme did not succeed it was because France and England intervened in the matter, proposing to the United States

THE TRI-PARTITE ALLIANCE

to guarantee to Spain the possession of Cuba. It is true this nation then declared that it considered the question an American one and that it would never engage itself to any line of conduct in the future regarding the island. But, nevertheless, it was compelled to postpone its annexation projects, which were at the same time opposed by the republican party. Such has been the interest of the United States in relation to the Cuban question.

Second—What is now the interest of this nation? When the American civil war brought about as a trophy of victory to the North the abolition of slavery the government changed entirely its fundamental basis. It had no further reason for desiring the preservation of the island in the power of Spain or to accomplish annexation with slave labor. Spain, instead of being a nation without a navy, as it was in 1826, had become a maritime Power. Cuba, instead of being, with her slaves, a pleasant picture to the United States, became a monument of their own past ignominy that they could not tolerate at their own doors—and this, even though the island remained faithful to the Crown of Spain. The Cubans, as has been so often repeated, in 1868 took to the field to gain their independence. They took possession of a large portion of the island, and from the very beginning declared free all of its inhabitants. The new Republic was in accordance with the regenerated Republic of the northern Continent. At this moment this nation was compelled to look to its interest in the question, and it appears the government thought it had found it in the propositions made by Mr. Sickles to the Cabinet of Madrid. If it is true that those propositions were for the Cubans to purchase the island from Spain, with the guarantee of the United States, it is to be supposed that they would be advantageous to the three contracting parties. But Spain did not accept them, though she employed the diplomatic arts referred to, and such a solution should have been abandoned. Was it the interest of the United States after that to preserve the *statu quo*, that the horrors of the war should be continued, the natives not being allowed to arm themselves? This was in some respects the interest of Spain, but certainly not that of the United States.

It appears that the United States—abandoning the Cuban question to itself and without reference to justice—thought it was their interest to retain their connection with the slave power of Cuba as long as possible. The recognition of Cuban belligerency would produce a declaration by Spain of the blockade of the island, and, as a consequence, the right of the Spaniards to search American vessels according to the treaty of 1795; this, of course, was a bad prospect for the commerce sustained with the slaves power. Maybe it was considered that the continued arrival of sugar and tobacco from Cuba, paying its high duties, amounting to several millions of dollars, was preferable to any other solution for the present.

It is true that such commerce grew out of slave labor, and that the United States have made it appear that they desire the abolition of such labor in Cuba and everywhere; but the question of slavery could be treated diplomatically, and extended through an indefinite period, the United States meanwhile deriving all the advantage from such traffic and from the duties on such articles. Though the Cubans, notwithstanding the course of the United States, persisted in imitating the founders of the great nation who fought for independence, nothing could be done which would change the relation of the country to such slave power. * * *

The undersigned will not say that this policy has been adopted by this government; but, not knowing its profound views, it would seem to have regarded the best interest of the United States enhanced by it. Be this as it may, the events of the past five years, the horrors of every description witnessed by the civilized world and the oft-repeated insults to Americans and the American flag which have brought this nation to the eve of declaring war against Spain, tend to show that it was not a policy in the interest of the United States.

It were useless to attempt to show that the independence of the island and a close

ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES

would increase enormously the wealth and prosperity of this nation. It is true that the income derived from the duties paid on the sugar and tobacco imported into this country from there would cease entirely; but it is also true—as is reported to have been said by the intelligent head of the finance department of the government—that the internal revenue accruing from these articles, especially the tobacco, would more than compensate for this loss.

It is very easy to comprehend, moreover, that, with the abolition of the custom houses in Cuba or—if, unhappily, this measure should be considered too progressive—the suspension of the export duties on these commodities and the reduction on the import duties there imposed upon the supplies and machinery required by the planters would result in an immense saving to both these planters and the merchants in the United States. This would more than recompense the former for the losses consequent on passing from slave to free labor, while the latter would find their remuneration in the increased profits on their wares, thus relieved of the onerous duties now imposed upon them. At the same time, Cuba would become a market for a large number of exports from this country which are now shut out from the island by the high duties imposed, in order that they may not compete with the productions of the Peninsula. And, in addition, many branches of American industry, which, through the retrograde policy of the Spaniards, are now also shut out from the Antilles, would then find there an extensive patronage. Even sugar would be exported from this country to Cuba, coming from there as a raw material, and sent back after the process of refining, so extensively carried on here. That country is peculiarly an agricultural one, and all the industrial arts of this Republic would, in the changed condition which has been referred to, find in her a liberal and continuous patron. It is not difficult to prove that the United States were immensely benefited by the acquisition of California, and it is safe to say that Cuba, allied to the Republic, would show equal, if not far greater results. These undeniable facts being borne in mind, it seems that the interest of the United States, at the breaking out of revolution was to favor, at least morally, the Cubans in their efforts to become independent. Moreover it is not a contemptible matter to accept rather than decline the sympathy and good will of a neighbor proffering them. Those great nations who have been destined by Providence to extend their superior civilization over the lesser States around must appeal to the elements of sympathy and attraction in the performance of their great duty, and not rely only upon the power of arms. It seems that it would have been more easy for the United States to extend its moral support to the Cubans, as the great American people entertained sentiments favorable to them. The American government has maintained, in an official note, that certain acts involved the logical conclusion of a recognition by Spain of a state of war in Cuba. Spain has performed such acts, and so it must be concluded such war exists. The recognition of this war by Spain should be followed by the recognition of it by the United States and a declaration of its neutrality therein. This would be sufficient, and this only will free America of the ignominious presence of the never-wearying murderers who have established themselves in that wealthy and beautiful island. This would increase the glory and wealth of this great nation.

The Cubans await the decision of the American government at this critical moment. If it is in favor of justice, humanity and freedom, they will bow in gratitude to Providence, acting in conformity to the sacrifices already made. If in favor of the maintenance of the present condition of affairs they shall continue to the end in the struggle in which they have so long, and at the cost of so much blood and treasure, been engaged.

Supposing that the impending conflict be averted, the pro-slavery party—that is to say, the native Spaniards established in Cuba—consenting at last to the restitution of the Virginius, the surrender of the surviving passengers and crew, the indemnification demanded and the salute to the American flag, what would be the result of the continuation of the present policy of the United States of not recognizing the state of war existing in the island?

This question must be considered in the light of the facts so clearly stated by Your Excellency in your Message. In that document it is recognized that in Cuba, besides the forces of the government of Spain, there exists what is called the insurrection of Yara and the pro-slavery party, the latter being "an element," says Your Excellency, "opposed to granting any relief from misrule and abuse, with no aspirations after freedom, commanding no sympathy in generous breasts, aiming to rivet still stronger the shackles of slavery and oppression." Such an element, which "has seized many of the emblems of power in Cuba, is still a power in Madrid and recognized by the government."

Accepting those premises, based as they are upon facts, it is seen that the government of Madrid is in reality an accomplice of the abominations committed by such power in Cuba. And can a government which is an accomplice of those abominations command the sympathies of the generous breasts of the American people represented by Your Excellency? According to the words of Your Excellency the interest of humanity, civilization and of progress demands that the "evil influence of the slavery party" referred to "may be averted." As this party constitutes an armed organization, which not only controls the Spanish government in Cuba but in Madrid as well, is it possible to avert it, and speedily—as is hoped by Your Excellency—without the force of arms? It is not; and, consequently, the only possible way of accomplishing the desired result is to give the native population of the island, composed of the more enlightened, wealthy and progressive people—a people which, wanting foreign aid, has shown itself stronger than any other people which has struggled for independence—at least recognition of belligerency, which they have been asking for through five years, that they may sweep from the face of the island those men and the government which are soiling it with their crimes. Will the volumes of the Secretary of State and his dignified and amicable notes to the government of Madrid upon liberal principles and the abolition of slavery extinguish the power of this element in the island? Certainly not. And there remains no other course than the one demanded by the great American people.

The undersigned, in the name of the government which he has the honor to represent, anticipates the expression of his gratitude to the government of the United States.

For it is impossible to suppose that the high-minded statesmen of the Great Republic have determined upon a *status quo*, which will leave the Cubans unable to obtain their independence though want of the requisite arms and materials—the Spaniards at the same time unable to suppress their efforts—until both parties become so weakened that the island will fall an easy prey to the government they represent. This would be far more ferocious and cruel than the conduct of the Spanish Volunteers of Havana, which is so much deprecated by the civilized world. No Machiavelian policy ever adopted in the history of mankind could be compared with this. No; it would be unjust so to insult the high and Christian members of the American government. Your Excellency's obedient servant, M. QUESADA.

NEW YORK, Dec. 4, 1873.

THE POLARIS.

The Heroes of the Ice Floe—Their Appeal to Congress for Payment for Shattered Health—Senator Sumner's Aid Invoked—What the German Government Did for Their Arctic Explorers.

A meeting of five of the crew of the Arctic exploring ship Polaris was held yesterday morning at Mr. Smith's sailor boarding house, No. 59 West street, to take steps toward petitioning Congress to give extra compensation for loss of health to the men who had miraculously escaped on the ice floe after undergoing terrible privations. The meeting was called to order at noon by Captain John Morrison, of South street, who was elected President, this gentleman having shipped the crew by orders of the Secretary of the Navy and the late Captain C. F. Hall.

After taking the chair Captain MORRISON made the following address:—

I pledge myself to do all I can to help you, in furthering your claims upon Congress, for extra compensation; for I feel that you have honestly earned it by your good conduct and bravery. It is an old saying, and a true saying, that republics are ungrateful; but I trust that the United States government will take it into consideration your shattered healths and the fearful hardships you have undergone in behalf of the scientific knowledge of this country. When I engaged you to go to the Polar regions you agreed to go for $25 a month, and signed shipping articles to remain by the ship, or to go on sledging parties, and to remain absent for five years from this country, if necessary. Captain Hall explained to me and I repeated it to you that the wages stipulated were a mere matter of form, and that if you rendered important services to the government you would be handsomely recompensed. I believe that Congress will not dispute the justice of your claims; for you have done good work, and carried our starry flag to 82 degrees north latitude. You all shipped on the understanding that you were to be rewarded if successful. ("That's so," from several voices.)

THE MEN OF THE NORTH GERMAN POLAR EXPEDITION,

who went out to the Arctic regions, were paid off with a gratuity of 1,000 thalers in gold to each man, and I hope this country will do at least as handsomely by you; for that expedition was unsuccessful, and none of the men remained—as you all present did—for 196 days on the ice floe, with death staring you in the face hour by hour. Several of your number have been permanently injured in your health, by sufferings endured on the ice. In compliance with your request, I shall put myself in communication with Senator Sumner, Senator Hoar and other Congressmen who advocated the grant of public funds for the Polaris expedition. Mr. Henry Grinnell, the great enthusiast for the discovery of the North Pole, and friend of Lady Franklin; Mr. Brevoort, the eminent engineer, both of which gentlemen were intimate friends of our respected friend, the late Captain Hall, will also, I feel sure, do what they can for you. In conclusion, I have only to say that a petition to Congress shall be drawn up, with the kind aid of Mr. Grinnell, to set forth your claims upon the country. I had a long talk with Captain Buddington a few days back, who spoke of the services rendered by you all in the highest terms.

REPLY OF MR. G. W. CRUGER.

CAPTAIN MORRISON AND COMRADES—On behalf of my mates let me say a few words. What you say about extra pay being promised to us, if we were successful, is quite true. In August, 1871, in latitude 82, after divine service one Sunday, Captain Hall told us that he felt sure Congress would act generously towards us, and said that he thought we might rely on a gift of several thousand dollars. He said this to us several times, as can be attested by all the officers and crew; and he also remarked that if we were forced to return then and there to the United States we need not be ashamed of what had been accomplished. You never thought when you engaged us on the 5th of June, 1870, for five years' active service that $25 a month would recompense us for trying to navigate the Polaris to the Pole, did you, Captain Morrison?

Captain MORRISON—No, I trusted then, and do now, that you will receive a gratuity.

Mr. CRUGER—If the German government paid their exploring crew, which only got to 76 latitude, $1,000 gratuity, I think Uncle Sam might at least do the same to us. All of us present suffered cruelly in the 196 days we were on the ice floe; nearly all of us here are racked to the present day by rheumatism, which we caught while drifting in Polar waters, not knowing how many minutes we had to live, and drinking blood from seals and eating raw seal flesh. Every moment we apprehended we might be separated from our party, by the ice breaking, and when I think of the darkness and terrors through which we passed, it seems a wonder to me that we are now in the land of the living. A quarter of a pound of food a day does not put much soul into a man, I can tell you, and so can my mates. We all look upon Esquimaux Joe as our saviour, after God, and hope that if Congress thinks fit to give us anything the biggest sum should go to "Old Joe." We once wrote a letter to Captain Hall thanking him for his kindness to us all, to which he replied, and the letter can be produced:—"I need not assure you that your commander takes the liveliest interest in you all, just as a father does for his children, and I thank you for your good will towards me. You have left your homes and friends to discover the mysterious parts of the earth, and my fervent prayer is that we may be successful in achieving fresh laurels for our country."

Mr. Cruger terminated his remarks by saying that there were several other little matters which had to be explained—viz., why the Secretary of the Navy had not given discharges to all the Polaris' men, and also why Captain Greer, of the Tigress, declined taking three of the Polaris' crew whom Secretary Robeson had desired should return to the Polar regions to search for their lost comrades, and why other sailors were taken in their stead. Six had presented themselves by order of the Navy Department and only three had been accepted.

The meeting then adjourned for a fortnight.

THE TEXAS ELECTIONS.

GALVESTON, Dec. 7, 1873.

The *News* gives the following figures from specials:—The returns from 13 counties additional to-day make the total number heard from 57, of which 43 give Coke a majority of 20,798 and the remaining 14 counties give Davis a majority of 3,463. This leaves Coke's net majority, so far as heard from, 17,335.

DELAY IN CANAL TRANSPORTATION.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 7, 1873.

Some of the most prominent canal men of this city, just returned from the eastern division of the canal, where they have a large number of boats and cargoes of grain in transit, are bitter in their denunciation of Commissioner Barkley, of that division, and the State authorities, for failing to render proper aid and facilities in getting their property to tidewater. They say had proper assistance been given every boat could have reached its destination.

EXPLOSION OF A STEAMER'S BOILER.

Three Men Killed and Five Seriously Wounded—The Wreck of the Vessel on Fire.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 7, 1873.

A *Picayune* special from Marshall to-day says:—The boiler of the steamer Royal George exploded last night at Albany, between Jefferson and Shreveport. The mate and three deck hands were instantly killed and five others were seriously wounded. Captain Scoville had his jaw fractured, and the pilot, Mr. McLarey, was slightly wounded. The cargo will be saved.

A later report says the wreck is on fire and relief was sent from Shreveport.

LITERATURE.

LATEST ENGLISH BOOKS.

Review of the Productions—London Literary Gossip—What the Great Minds Are Thinking Of—The Cuba Question Among the Publishers.

LONDON, Nov. 15, 1873.

Mr. John Stuart Mill's autobiography is the most important among recently published works; but it cannot be said to be in any sense satisfactory. It is very ill-edited—indeed, it has supplied the *Pall Mall Gazette* with material for the exercise of those functions of reproof and instruction which it is never unwilling to administer, by its shortcomings in this respect. It contains many blunders in sense as well as in form, and the interspersed phrases in the German tongue are "misused damnably." It is of unattractive exterior, horribly suggestive of law reports, printed in paragraphs; in short, a book to choke off any public less hungry than ours to read what the most impressive of the great thinkers of the time has said about himself, and the mental and physical processes and influences to which he was subjected. The upshot of it all, when curiosity has been satisfied, is, that John Stuart Mill was a very unhappy man; fortunate in not knowing how unhappy he was, because he never had any standard of sound and wholesome human happiness by which to measure his own stunted experiences and eccentric theories. The picture of his childhood is at once painful and ludicrous, and the portrait of his father, an impersonation of cold, inhuman nihilism, is revolting to minds which refuse to believe that man was made for philosophy alone. The story of the mental processes which have produced so wide and deep an effect upon the age is most interesting, but also painful, because always bearing traces of the unnatural repression of the thinker's childhood and youth, and falling into the opposite extreme of wild exaggeration of the one only strong feeling to which he was allowed a full and perfectly unquestioned sway. This feeling was his extraordinary admiration of his wife's genius—admiration to which he gives expression in terms of almost incredible hyperbole. Now, Mrs. John Stuart Mill was doubtless a clever woman; there is proof of that in the way she managed her first husband, as narrated by her second, and in the fact that Mill says he seriously believed her to be the intellectual superior of all creation, including himself and Thomas Carlyle! A confession of faith which only a very clever woman could extract from a husband and a philosopher.

But there is no concensus of testimony in corroboration of this wonderful dictum, and people are inclined to believe that, beyond the above-mentioned feats and the writing of a not remarkable pamphlet on "Woman's Rights," the phœnix was a case of fetich. The chapter of Mill's autobiography which is devoted to his short parliamentary career is unexpectedly meagre, and by its clear evenness of tone creates the impression that he took but slight interest in practical politics and really possessed the philosophical attribute of impartiality. It is, in a word, a twilight book all through.

THE GEOGRAPHERS AT WORK.

The public pulse is being felt again by the geographers in the interests of Arctic exploration. Sir Robert McClure's death has revived the old controversy concerning the discovery of the Northwest Passage, and the McClureites and the Franklinites are making statements and counter-statements on behalf of their respective clients, while the publication of two interesting Arctic books, and the recent incident of the visit of the rescued crew of the Polaris, aids in arousing public attention to the demands of sailors and *savans* that England should no longer stand aloof from Arctic enterprise. Last year an attempt was made to induce the government to despatch an expedition by the Smith Sound route, but Messrs. Lowe and Göschen would not hear of it. Was not the Challenger raking up the secrets of the deep at a very great expense? and was the British ratepayer likely to respond to the further demands of experimental service, even when backed up by patriotism? So the deputation, a very numerous and influential one, withdrew disgusted. The incidents of the voyage of the Polaris, the respect and admiration which American enterprise and the individual daring and devotion which are exhibited in the expedition of Captain Hall, whose death is deeply lamented here, have all cumulated to stir up a fresh interest, to arouse a spirit of emulation, and to set the Arctic people looking out for spring with eagerness additionally keen by reason of the motive that they hope the government will be induced to sanction an expedition next year. In this sense both the new Arctic books are written; one by Captain Wells, who urges to Spitzbergen, the other by Mr. Clements Markham, Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, who is enthusiastic over the Smith's Sound route. Captain Wells' book, entitled, "The Gateway to the Polynia, or Siberian Open Sea," contains a charming account of a voyage to Spitzbergen, with full details of the animal life in that wonderful part of the world, while Mr. Markham's is practically a history of Arctic exploration from its earliest times, including very interesting but for the most part melancholy records of the brave discoverers, followed by the wonders told of the Polaris, and by a well argued plea from that history, of which the second part is looked for here with much interest, in favor of our once more entering the lists of national competition for the prize at the top of the Pole.

PHRENOLOGICAL SCIENCE.

Another kind of explanation in another part of the world has produced a work which is giving the anthropologists and ethnologists a great deal to talk of, to say nothing of the believers in the quasi science of phrenology. It is called "A Phrenologist Among the Todas," and is the result of a close and prolonged study of a primitive tribe in South India. It is a most curious book, and conveys a notion of organization and order much higher than we are accustomed to associate with any primitive tribes, and at the same time of a life, within a short distance of British settlement, as widely apart from that of any of the natives of India, who are included among our subjects, as that which was lived in the buried cities of Mexico in the days when they had a history.

TRANSLATION.

A book of a very different kind of interest is Mr. Van Laun's translation of Taine's "History of English Literature." This is one of the very few translations which one reads with perfect satisfaction, in which the essence is thoroughly preserved and permeates the form. It is not likely to be a popular book, because of the inevitably technical arrangements to which even M. Taine, who was in many respects so original a thinker, subjects his work. It takes some resolution to break through the breastworks which are thus set around the citadel of thought, but, for any one who studies French analytical literature, it is worth the trouble.

MYSTERY.

There has been a good deal of talk preliminary about a history of Holland House, written by a young lady who was rather a celebrity in society here, chiefly because she was rather a mystery. This young lady was called Marie Fox, but if anything was understood about her it was that she had no right to that name. All sorts of rumors were circulated concerning her parentage; she lived with Lady Holland in the beautiful old historic mansion to which so many memories belong, and with Lady Holland she went very much indeed into society. The Queen had been told the secret of her birth, for she went to Court, and the young lady herself had been told two versions, each differing from the other and both presumably untrue. Last year she married a Prince Lichtenstein, and it was announced, with all the solemnity befitting so important a fact, that the Austrian ambassador was perfectly satisfied with the statements which had been made to him respecting the fitness of the young lady for the immense honor of such an alliance. Irreverent outsiders laughed a good deal, but "all London" went to the wedding, especially as that dull, rich, unpopular young peer, the Marquis of Bute, was said to have behaved badly. He had been what persons of his class call "attached" to Miss Fox, but was not so easily satisfied as the Austrian Excellency, so that the young lady did not become Marchioness of Bute, and it was taken as likely to vex him, that the mysterious fair one should wed a prince and forget him. So amiable is "society" and so absurd; because, after all, and some time before, the Marquis had married a very pretty girl, a Howard of the true blue, about whose birth there was neither mistake nor mystery. The Princess, it was whispered, was of a literary turn, and by and by came announcements of her book. Here is the book itself, brave in blue and silver and devices of ornamental typography, heralded by blasts from all kinds of trumpets, especially a laudatory fantasia in the *Quarterly Review* from Mr. Abraham Hayward, who is much at all times, but most when he can be archæological, historical and gossipy all at once; and, like most books of the kind, it is an indifferent specimen of cram.

The style is bald, the anecdotes are ancient—in fact, all the people of the past who frequented Holland House had so many little people to catch them at it and record the fact that the chronicles of the London (and lively) copy of the Hotel de Rambouillet are rather fatiguingly full. However, the volume is a pretty one, the illustrations are charming, and the Princess' book may be said to be one "which no lady's boudoir should be without."

THE CUBA QUESTION.

There has been a "misunderstanding" between the respective publishers of two books concerning Cuba. Mr. Walter Goodman wrote one, which was picturesque and Bohemian. Mr. Antonio Gallenga wrote another, chiefly consisting of a reprint of his letters to the *Times*, which was political and practical; and each gentleman called his book "The Pearl of the Antilles." Then arose a tempest in a teacup, and the rival publishers claimed priority of advertisement and registration and the printer's devil only knows what. Mr. Goodman's book is clever and amusing, and makes one wish to go there; Mr. Gallenga's is rather dreary, rather pompous, it rather implies that nobody has ever been to Cuba before who had a head with anything like the adequate supply of brains in it, and it makes one prefer stopping at home.

RETIRED.

The well known firm of Strahan & Co. has ceased to exist, and the business is now carried on by Mr. Isbister, a former partner, under his own name. The difficulties of putting the business to rights have been considerable. The old firm had a knack of discovering prodigies and offering them wildly fancy prices in advance. Somehow or other the prodigies did not develop, the books did not get written and the prices did not get recouped, so the whole thing was remodelled and many of the literary experiments were shunted over to Cornhill, where they have been undertaken by Messrs. H. S. King & Co., not, it would appear, with distinguished success. Mr. Isbister has recently published some very pleasant and interesting one-volume works, including a poem by the author of "St. Abe and His Six Wives," which was, as you are doubtless aware, very generally attributed to James Russell Lowell. This poem, called "White Rose and Red," is equal to the first in originality, force and "go," and the author is Mr. Robert Buchanan. He has bided his time, done his work, held his tongue, resisted the temptation of a sudden and great success, and made his critics eat their words. Since Keats no young writer has been more coarsely and cruelly handled than the poet of "Undertones;" and here he is acknowledged by the very writers who pelted him with mingled abuse and satire to have a large property in all those qualities of which they most strenuously refused to admit his possession.

"THE EGYPTIAN SKETCH BOOK,"

by Mr. Charles Leland, is one of those attractive single volume books. It is difficult to characterize it in a summary like this, and yet, of all books, it can be tasted in a sip, or rather in a long succession of sips, for you can't read it through. It makes you laugh too much for that, more than an Englishman has any business to laugh in a London November, and you would be very sorry when you had finished it. It is as "uncategarinable" a book as "Hans Breitmann's Ballads" (Mr. Leland is great at manufacturing adjectives; he is welcome to the above) and as delightful. Mixed up with such fun as all can still happily understand—though we cannot produce it in this country—there are rare little bits of true criticism, sound sense and reliable erudition.

The inevitable dragoman has never been made so amusing as Mr. Leland renders him, and it would be well if all Nile tourists were compelled to register a vow that they would never do the dragoman business in books any more. They can't improve upon Mr. Leland, and they might remember, for their warning, that they are quite certain to be compared with him.

Miss M. Betham Edwards has been to the Nile and to the Pyramids and to other places, concerning which she tells us pleasant things in a pretty holiday volume. But her style—which would be pleasant if she could keep well-worn Latin and Greek quotations out of the text—grows more and more pedantic. One feels that she never looks at any of the objects which she no doubt genuinely admires without settling in her mind all the time how she is going to turn the phrases in which they are to be described, and so her enthusiasm acquires a capital letter—of flavor which spoils it.

COMING PRODUCTIONS.

The lists of forthcoming books are very full, but the books will not be ready until the middle and end of this month. Bentley forestalls the Christmas illustrated books by a superb English version of "Humbert's Japan Illustré," translated by Mrs. Cashel Hoey, and an English version of "Plon's Thorwaldsen," by the same translator. A new novel by Miss Broughton, called "Nancy," is just out. It is a rather flimsy production, chiefly composed of the sayings and doings of as disorderly and unmannerly a young family as ever was not taught better and the proceedings of a very ill-tempered young person, whom a gray-eyed and gray-bearded hero marries for no apparently sounder reason than because he could not have made a more unsuitable choice. There is very little plot, and the inevitable lover tries to win the affections of the married lady by bullying and rudeness, which would utterly unfit him for men's society, but are, of course, his grand qualifications for winning hearts according to our lady novelists. "Nancy" has its attractions, however; very pleasant, sparkling bits; an ill-tempered father, rather implied than described all through, and a delightful urchin known as the Brat. Occasional touches of coarseness, which Miss Broughton seems unable to avoid, therefore most probably to discern, disfigure the book.

"LUCIUS D'AVAREN."

Miss Braddon's last novel, "Lucius d'Avaren," is a much better story than any which she has written for some time. There is nothing else remarkable in fiction just now, and all the magazines for this month are preternaturally dull. The *Cornhill* is publishing a very extraordinary and powerful story called "Young Brown," concerning which staid people are much exercised in their minds. It is masterly in construction, and most damaging to the class—that of the worthless, idle and unprincipled—among the aristocracy, of whose lives it is a merciless exposure. In many instances the clew which leads the reader through the labyrinth of vice is not difficult to find; but, in addition to the stories of certain scandalous transactions in great families, by which base blood has been foisted upon noble houses for two or three generations, the writer has a terribly compendious and accurate knowledge of "high life" and of the standards which it sets up.

LITERARY CHIT-CHAT.

"A HISTORY OF BOOKSELLERS" is announced in London by Hotten's successors, in which are promised accounts of the leading English publishing houses and their founders, with notes on their principal books. The announcement is accompanied with the pertinent motto from Carlyle, "In these days ten ordinary histories of kings and courtiers were well exchanged against the tenth part of one good history of booksellers."

The *Christian Union* says that college students have been preached to for 20 years on the importance of training their bodies; but it begins to look as if somebody ought to preach to college students on the importance of training their minds. It says the students' journals of the various colleges contain few or no ideas except about training athletes, base ballists and boat racers.

SIR HENRY HOLLAND knew all countries and had seen nearly every famous person of the last half century. He remembered six Presidents of the United States, and had been intimate with Talleyrand and Lord Brougham, with Canning and Madame de Staël. His books, though not literary masterpieces, well exhibit the variety of his life and the breadth of his culture.

JOHN RUSKIN declares that Pope is the most perfect representative we have of the true English mind. He says that his poems have expressed "in the strictest language and within the briefest limits every law of art, of criticism, of economy, of policy, and finally of a benevolence, humble, rational and resigned, contented with its allotted share of life, and trusting the problem of its salvation to Him in whose hand lies that of the universe."

APPLETON & CO. have just published "Miriam Monfort," by the author of "The Household of Bouverie." In it a lineal descendant of Simon do Monfort takes for his second wife a Jewess, whose least recommendation is the wealth inherited by their only child, Miriam. Banned from his own class in England, he builds himself a princely home in Philadelphia, where the sudden and mysterious death of his wife leaves him, together with Miriam, the charge of "a step daughter" of his first wife. This girl, by her surpassing beauty and utter want of principle, becomes the bane of Miriam's whole life; and yet Miriam to the end, though fully conscious of her guilt and ingratitude, acts towards her the part of true sister. The fortune inherited from her mother is taken from her by this step sister and her confederates, and she is obliged to fly in disguise to Georgia, in order to escape the persecution of this domestic foe. Her return thence, her shipwreck, her rescue, her imprisonment in her enemy's house in Philadelphia and her marvellous escape to wed the man of her choice, form the matter of thrilling narratives. She follows her husband, an American officer of engineers, to California, where they build up a happy and honored home, blessed with lovely children, where the guilty "stepsister" finds a refuge and all the lavish tenderness which sisterly love can bestow, in return for black treason and ingratitude. The book is intended as a picture of the American society of the period. There is no claptrap in it. The reader will recognize gladly amid the personages who grace the narrative the "imperial presence" of Calhoun. The "difficulty between North and South" is touched on with a delicate and tender hand, which argues a deep love of country.

THE SEASON'S CHARITY.

Fair in Aid of Friendless Children and Young Girls.

A fair is now being held in Republican Hall, Twenty-third street and Broadway, in aid of the building fund of the Association for Befriending Children and Young Girls. It is under the immediate control of Mrs. Walter S. Storr, Mrs. George V. Hecker, Mrs. D. T. Addis Emmett and Miss Gilbert, who are the officers of the institution, and whose names guarantee that the appreciation of this charity by the public shall not arise from want of effort to make it worthy. The institution has been, since its foundation, at Nos. 245 and 247 East Thirteenth street, and hitherto was able to meet the demands made upon it, but the great impending distress of the present winter renders it an imperative necessity to make provision now for the certain demands that will, during the ensuing months, be made upon the association, and already the painful signs of absolute distress are more than assuring of the inability of the existing sources of relief to meet the cries of hunger and cold, which will be growing louder and more eager as the season advances. At any time the wants of children and poor, desolate young girls should reach every charitable heart with the most powerful force, and seldom, it may be said, are the distressing cries allowed to plead without some alleviating response; but the present time is so exceptional and the demands of the poor so general, that children and young girls, who are the most hopelessly at the mercy of the hunger pang and the cold sting, have especial needs now, and therefore especial claims for remberance and generous aid. As to the fair itself, the names of the ladies given above are sufficiently assuring that the tables are loaded with the hundreds of different classes of articles which fancy fairs ever delight to offer to the good-natured people who patronize them. The display at this fair even exceeds the ordinary excellent collections of rare, valuable and pretty things which go to make up the stock in trade of these charitable marts. A visit to the hall will well repay any person who delights in participating in a noble and praiseworthy work. The fair will continue every day from ten o'clock A. M. to eleven P. M., until December 15, and as especial attention has been paid to a supply of holiday goods those who are making such purchases at this time may do well to combine charity with pleasure and spend their money in helping this charitable undertaking.

HOME FOR AGED AND INFIRM HEBREWS.

Annual Report—Election of Officers.

The annual meeting of the members of this institution was held yesterday, at 822 Lexington avenue, and was attended by a very large number of the ladies comprising the society. Among the most prominent present were Mrs. P. J. Joachimsen, President; Mrs. H. B. Herts, Vice President; Mrs. Zion Bernstein, Treasurer; Mrs. J. L. Philips, Mrs. L. Wolff, Mrs. Leopold Bamberger, Mrs. Isaac Jacobs, Mrs. Elias Schlesinger, Mrs. Henry Morrison, Mrs. M. Lipman and Mrs. I. Loth.

The meeting was called to order at half-past eleven o'clock in the forenoon, when Mrs. Joachimsen read her annual report, of which the following is an extract:—

At this our annual meeting I discharge the pleasant duty of welcoming you and imparting the necessary information of our last year's progress. When we were last together our institution was without any means insuring its permanency, and in debt, while the demands for the fulfilment of our avowed object became numerous and pressing. The number of our members was limited to 350; but our roll now is upward of 700 active and charitable hands and hearts. We have been able to provide a home for 32 of our own sex and for at least 10 old men. We have assisted 198 women in confinement, by physician, nurse, money and clothing, and in cases where applicants for the Home preferred to remain with their friends and families, we have provided them with help for that object. Including the payment of our debts, the refurnishing of this house, the purchase of necessary dry goods and salaries, our total expenditures as audited by the monthly committee amounted to $10,815, as appears by the annexed account (No. 1). The balance in our Treasurer's hands on the 1st of December, 1872, was $5,245 and our receipts during the current year from donations $4,406; from dues of members, $4,032, leaving a balance on hand, applicable to current expenses, to the amount of $3,136.

The number of inmates at present is 6 men and 24 women; of outdoor recipients, 9 old persons. The nationalities of the inmates are:—England, 3; Germany, 16; Poland, 4; United States, 4; Holland, 2; France, 1. How those inmates are housed and every way cared for is a matter for your own inspection to-day or any other time you may find it convenient to visit the Home.

The bond and mortgage of the Deresh Ammuno Free Burial Society of $2,500 is still held by this society. The activity of a committee of gentlemen, headed by our true friend, Lazarus Morgenthau, in obtaining the valuable and gratuitous services of Mr. Neuendorff and his artists, at the Academy of Music, on the 31st of January last, which we again most gratefully acknowledge, resulted in net receipts of $5,745.

We have in the savings bank $1,298. There is due and collectable for dues and donations $425, making our assets $9,977. Our total funds are, therefore, $13,134, as appears by accounts Nos. 3 and 4.

Our thanks are due to the President and directors of Mount Sinai Hospital, and to their esteemed Superintendent, Dr. Trensch, for kindness in cases of sickness and death. Many sincere thanks to the donors and patrons of our charity for their generous support in money and supplies in kind. We can say with a degree of great satisfaction that our institution has taken proper rank with the sister charities, but we must redouble our efforts to extend its usefulness. I hope that our Divine Father will aid us so that this home for those whom He allows us to befriend will acquire a world wide reputation. There is an earnest, and I trust it will be a successful, effort to organize an asylum under a recent charter from the Legislature, and I can safely say that we, the Jewish women, will give our zealous aid to its accomplishment. We are under special obligations to all our clergy for their interest with their flocks in our behalf, and to Rev. Messrs. Isaacs, Lyons, Rev. Drs. Huebsch, Gotthiel, Vidaver, and Rev. Messrs. Hahn and Welsh for visits to the Home.

I have to acknowledge the active co-operation of the lady managers, our esteemed and venerable Treasurer and of Dr. Leo, our highly efficient physician and secretary, and that of a general committee of ladies, recently appointed to assist in the good work, and have to make honorable mention of the labors of Mrs. Dr. Holland and all officers connected with the society. Nor can I forget the many favors extended to us by the press of this city.

The meeting next proceeded with the election of officers for the ensuing year.

The present board of officers was unanimously re-elected. The meeting then adjourned.

SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY RAILROAD BOATS ATTACHED.

NEWPORT, R. I., Dec. 7, 1873.

The United States Marshal yesterday placed 11 more attachments on the boats of the Southern New Jersey Railroad Company, which makes the forty-fourth thus far. The libellants yesterday were:—Jacob J. Van Pelt, of New York, vs. Plymouth Rock; John E. Hoffmire, of New York, vs. Empire State and Plymouth Rock; La Gar & Reed, of New York, vs. Plymouth Rock; Daniel Kaunweiler, of New York, vs. Plymouth Rock; F. & W. Chappell & Co., of New London, vs. Jesse Hoyt, Fall River, Plymouth Rock, Long Branch, Metropolis and Empire State.

THE SACRED HEART.

Consecration of the Archiepiscopal Province of New York—The Services To-day—The Special Prayer—"Te Deum Laudamus."

To-day in all the Catholic churches of the Archdiocese of New York there will be celebrated most sacred and solemn ceremonies in the consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus of all the adherents to the faith, together with the churches, schools and all the institutions under ecclesiastical authority in the province. A special prayer has been directed and a grand Te Deum also will be sung.

The following is the prayer of consecration prescribed by the archbishop and bishops of the Province to be read in all the churches:—

O most admirable and adorable Heart of Jesus! O Heart infinitely compassionate and merciful! our refuge in all dangers, our hope in all trials, our comfort and consolation in all sorrows! Behold us prostrate before Thee to implore Thy mercy, to claim Thy protection, and to offer ourselves entirely to Thee. Thou seest the dangers that surround us, the storms by which we are assailed. The powers of darkness have risen against Thy holy Church and against Thy unworthy but devoted servants. They have laid waste Thy inheritance, they have overturned Thy altars, they have persecuted those who love and honor Thy sacred name. They glory in the evil which they have done, and vainly boast that they have triumphed over Thee and Thy holy Church, and they have striven to destroy Thy worship from the face of the earth. But Thou art almighty, and who shall resist Thee? Thou wilt arise in Thy power, and Thy enemies shall perish from before Thy face. Thou wilt command the winds and the waves, and there shall be a great calm. Animated with this confidence in Thy power and in Thy love, O Divine Heart! we present our supplication on this day of our solemn consecration to Thee. Deign to receive our offering, unworthy as it is, and grant our prayer for the Church and for Thy devoted children who now solemnly dedicate themselves to Thy honor. O merciful Jesus! ever ready to admit us into the sacred and secure asylum of Thy Sacred Heart, we, Thy unworthy but loving servants, wishing to give Thee a proof of our devotion, and to receive from Thee the assistance and protection which, in these calamitous times, we need for Thy holy Church, for the Apostolic See, and for ourselves, do, on this day, publicly and solemnly consecrate ourselves entirely to Thee; our lives and our labors, our thoughts, words, actions and sufferings. We pledge ourselves to Thee as Thy devoted servants forever. We consecrate to Thee our churches, our missions, our congregations, and all those for whose spiritual good we labor in Thy service; that Thy spirit may reign over them, Thy love sustain them, Thy grace sanctify them and make them at all times pleasing in Thy sight. Oh, sweet and adorable heart of Jesus! accept this holocaust which we offer; consume it with the flame of Thy divine love, that it may ascend before Thee in the odor of sweetness, and that, united with Thy infinite merits, it may bring down upon us, upon Thy Holy Church, upon our Holy Father the Pope and upon all the members of our congregations, missions, schools, religious houses and institutions of charity, the abundance of Thy blessings, the heavenly shower of Thy graces, the rich treasures which Thou hast promised to those who love and honor Thee. Defend us, O Lord, Thy servants, with the shield of Thy protection; guard us against the malice of the wicked, who hate Thy Church because it is Thine, and who persecute us because we love and adore Thy sacred heart and defend the honor of Thy most holy name. Let us find in Thee our refuge, our consolation, our hope. Be Thou, O sacred heart of Jesus, our support in life, our confidence in death, our perfect and eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

The following is the approved translation of the ancient "Te Deum Laudamus," which will be sung to-day:—

We praise Thee, O God: we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship Thee: the Father everlasting.
To Thee all angels cry aloud: the heavens and all the powers therein.
To Thee cherubim and seraphim continually do cry:
Holy, holy, holy: Lord God of Sabaoth.
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory.
The glorious choir of the Apostles: praise Thee.
The admirable company of the Prophets: praise Thee.
The white robed army of Martyrs: praise Thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world: doth acknowledge Thee.
The Father: of an infinite majesty.
Thy adorable, true: and only Son.
Also the Holy Ghost: the Comforter.
Thou art the King of Glory: O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son: of the Father.
When Thou tookest upon Thee: to deliver man: Thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When Thou hadst overcome the sting of death: Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God: in the glory of the Father.
We believe that Thou shalt come: to be our Judge.
We pray Thee, therefore: help Thy servants whom Thou has redeemed with Thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with Thy saints: in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save Thy people: and bless Thine inheritance.
Govern them: and lift them up forever.
Day by day: we magnify Thee.
And we praise Thy name forever: yea, forever and ever.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day to keep us without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us: have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let Thy mercy be showed upon us: as we have hoped in Thee.
O Lord, in Thee have I hoped: let me not be confounded forever.

THE SHIP SUNRISE OUTRAGE.

Interview with Captain Clarke, the Convicted Master—He Charges Conspiracy.

In an interview with a reporter of the San Francisco *Call*, on the 29th ult., Captain Clarke, convicted of cruelty upon the crew of the ship Sunrise, of this port, charges conspiracy, and produced the following receipts from the crew, showing that they had received bribes. The report says:—

"Now," said Captain Clarke, "I want to prove, beyond a shadow of doubt, that Furt lied directly when he denied that he had accepted money. See, here is the receipt he gave me." And the following was shown to the reporter, with Furt's autograph:—

SAN F. CO., Sept. 30, 1873.

Received from Captain Clarke, of ship Sunrise, $300, in U. S. gold coin, in full satisfaction of all claims, of whatever name or nature, including assaults, torts, wrongs, imprisonments, short allowance, and indeed every claim of every description against said ship Sunrise, her master, officers and owners, to date.

Witness, A. F. SCOTT. THOMAS R. FURT.

A receipt was also produced signed by the whole of the crew, with the exception of Furt, as follows:—

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY, Sept. 30, 1873.

We, the undersigned, late seamen on board of the ship Sunrise on her late passage from New York to this port, hereby acknowledge having received from Captain Clarke, master of said ship, the sum of $50 each, in United States gold coin, over and above our wages, in full accord and satisfaction for all claims of whatever name or nature, including wrongs, assaults, torts, imprisonments, and, indeed, all and every claim we have against said ship Sunrise, her master, owners and officers, to date.

Signed in the presence of A. F. SCOTT.

HOW THE CREW WAS SHIPPED.

"People have said a good deal," continued Captain Clarke, "about the crew having been shanghaied. I just want to show how my crew came aboard, and the difficulty there was to get a crew at all. Here is an official document I have had sent to me from New York":—

OFFICE UNITED STATES SHIPPING COMMISSIONER, Nos. 187 and 189 CHERRY STREET, NEW YORK.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:—Whereas it having been made known to the undersigned, United States Shipping Commissioner for the port of New York, that several vessels are now under seizure at San Francisco for having engaged portions of their crews at this port in violation of the Shipping act of 1872; and whereas it seems just and right that all mitigating circumstances attending such engagements should be made known—

I do hereby declare and make known that during the months of April and May, 1873, there existed in the port of New York a large and powerful organization of men, principally keepers of sailors' boarding houses and shipping masters, whose publicly avowed purpose was to obstruct, hinder and prevent the execution of said Shipping law, so far as it concerned the engaging and rendering on shipboard of seamen at this port.

That vigilance committees and spies were set on foot by it, by which the officers of this commission and seamen engaged at this office were watched and their lives threatened.

That there was great detention and trouble caused by this unlawful combination to the outgoing commerce of the port.

That in many cases large portions of a crew that have been lawfully shipped at this office were, by threats, intimidations or something worse, prevented from appearing on board when needed to go to sea, and substitutes were taken in their places by the captain, under the supposed authority of a proviso in section 14.

That such substitutes were generally supplied by the aforesaid unlawful organization, the members of which, having a large proportion of all the unemployed sailors in port in their houses and in their debt, assumed and exercised arbitrary power over them.

That this was the state of affairs when the ships Sunrise, Baltic, St. Charles and some others left this port for San Francisco.

That more than 100 of the members of the aforesaid organization were indicted by the Grand Jury for conspiracy to obstruct the commerce of this port, and that nearly 100 of them were arrested on these indictments, put in prison and are now out on bail.

That after about two months' open warfare against the Shipping law, during which time no effort seems to have been spared on their part to bring disgrace upon said law and its executors, the said organization ceased its opposition and declared its intention of obedience to the law thereafter, and

That since the said declaration of obedience there has been no trouble in the execution of the said law at this port.

C. C. DUNCAN,
United States Shipping Commissioner for the port of New York.

Coroner Keenan was yesterday called to hold an inquest over the remains of Mr. John J. Webb, a gentleman 65 years of age, who dropped dead on the pavement in front of premises No. 68 Broad street, while *en route* to Brooklyn, where he lived.