

LITERARY SCRAPS.

THE volume of poetry which Lord Lytton, "Owen Meredith," left unfinished at his death will be published shortly.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN's speech at the battlefield of Gettysburg was lately used at the Cambridge university in England as an example of the best English prose.

MISS MARY E. WILKINS, the novelist, is said to write a thousand words—no more, no less—every day. Sometimes when the spirit of imagination is especially fiery she does this much within an hour.

CHARLOTTE M. YONGE, though seventy years old, is one of the most popular woman writers in England. She writes regularly, except Sundays, from nine in the morning till one o'clock, and again from six to seven.

HELEN KELLER, the blind girl who has made herself so famous and beloved in Boston and vicinity, is writing a story for St. Nicholas, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the children's building at the Columbian exposition.

WITHIN the past eleven years the world of letters has lost Carlyle, 1881; George Eliot, 1881; Longfellow, 1882; Emerson, 1882; Matthew Arnold, 1888; Browning, 1888; Kinglake, 1891; Lowell, 1891; Walt Whitman, 1892; George W. Curtis, 1892; Whittier, 1892, and Tennyson, 1892.

GEMS OF THOUGHT.

HE, therefore, who assumes as a principle that nothing is to be believed until it is seen and understood, can never believe, for spiritual and celestial things are neither seen with the eyes nor grasped by the imagination.—Balzac.

THE human mind is confined and restricted by skepticism; but when opened by spiritual illumination, it is capable of rising to great altitudes, and of apprehending many things in their true and ultimate significance. — George Frederic Parsons.

It would seem, according to Mme. Sand, that the sole business of life is love; that life itself, that is to say, action in its most varied forms, has no other end or occupation. Before having loved one does not live; when one no longer loves or is loved, one has scarcely the right to live on. This alone—to love, to be loved—gives value to existence.—E. Caro.

AROUND THE CHURCHES.

THE Methodist church needs one thousand new preachers every year to keep its pulpits supplied.

ACCORDING to Canon Farrar there are now four thousand clergymen of the Church of England without employment.

FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS for foreign missions was raised in an hour at the Christian alliance camp meeting at Old Orchard, Me.

GREENFIELD Methodist Episcopal church, Cincinnati conference, has had 667 conversions and 577 accessions during the past five years, in which Rev. E. Burdall has been pastor.

THE total church membership of the country, according to the census, is 20,547,364, and the value of church property aggregates \$646,125,704. The number of separate and distinct church organizations is nearly 150.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

A ROCHESTER physician, who has been experimenting on the subject, avers that the mosquito can readily be exterminated by the use of petroleum.

THOREAU observes that "the more slowly trees grow at first the sounder they are at the core," and he thought it was the same with human beings.

THE statement that the hardness of diamonds is not perceptibly reduced by cutting and polishing is confirmed by W. A. Rogers, of Colby university, who has had much experience in working with diamonds.

A GERMAN doctor of reputation prescribes aluminum as a cure for rheumatism. A finger ring made of this metal, joined with another, generates a gentle current of electricity which is said to make a permanent cure.

PRIN, a chemical expert, has determined by scientific investigation that

the air of London is purest at about thirty or forty feet from the ground; lower than that the dust is encountered, and higher than that the smoke from the chimneys reaches.

ASSUMING that iron is a systematic combination of little magnets, and making possible assumptions as to the size and strength of these magnets, it is found by Prof. Fitzgerald that their natural rate of vibration may be one hundred millions per second.

POINTS FOR SCIENTISTS.

AN instrument will be used in the new psychological laboratory at Yale, capable of measuring time to 1.01 of a second.

"MASRIUM" is the name of the new chemical element which has been discovered in the bed of an ancient Egyptian river.

THE Royal Geographical Society of England has only granted its medal to two women—Lady Franklyn and Mrs. Mary Somerville. It should now prepare another badge of honor for Mrs. Peary. She merits it.

CAPT. HEMLY recommends, for imparting greater intensity and brilliance to blue prints, an immersion in a solution of a ferric salt—perchloride of iron for example—of a strength of five per cent., the prints afterward being well washed.

DR. DANIEL DENISON SLADE is one of the few surviving eye-witnesses of the first capital operation under the influence of ether at the Massachusetts General hospital November 7, 1846, when the discovery of Dr. Morton stood the test which revolutionized surgery.

EUROPEAN PERSONALS.

LORD SALISBURY wants to sell his villa at Puy, near Dieppe, for \$30,000. The Chalet Cecil is most picturesquely situated on the cliff, with a fine view of sea and land.

THE crown princess of Norway and Sweden, one of the most enthusiastic of amateur photographers, took about three thousand pictures while on a recent journey. Otherwise she is a very taking young lady.

MR. GLADSTONE makes no claim to be a mountaineer, but he has been at the top of Snowden, the loftiest peak in North Wales, and from the top of which the most picturesque part of the principality can be seen.

MRS. EMILY CRAWFORD, who took up the work of her husband, G. M. Crawford, as Paris correspondent of the London News when he died, about eight years ago, is still maintaining it. Mrs. Crawford gained great popularity in Paris during the siege and commune.

THINGS OF INTEREST.

SEVERAL sharp reports, which were heard a distance of fifteen miles, immediately preceded the fall of a forty-four pound acrolite on the farm of Lawrence Freeman, Bath county, S. D.

THE old-fashioned brimstone match, which was used with a tinder box, was a little slip of very thin wood, six inches long and a quarter of an inch broad; it tapered at either end, and at either end was dipped in brimstone.

A PEAR tree which was set by Gov. John Endicott in 1630 is still standing near Danversport, Mass. It blossoms freely, although two hundred and sixty-two years old; but the fruit, like most of the pears of that date, is of poor quality.

ALTHOUGH it may not be generally known, the woods of northern British America are still infested by a queer species of bison known as the "wood buffalo." He is much larger than the buffalo of the plains, which formerly abounded in such numbers.

FASHION'S DECREES.

BUTTONS are very large and are made of metal, pearl, jet and crocheted.

FOUR to six-button gloves of medium heavy kid are in demand for street wear.

VERY rich white satin brocades are brought out expressly for wedding dresses.

REAL laces, point, valenciennes and the like are selling better than for many years.

THE newest slippers are made of black moire, and are finished with an elaborate garniture of jet.

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