

footsteps of the speculations of this gentleman. We sometimes hear of men of whom it is said that all they touch turns to gold. It is wholesome occasionally to be told of men of whom it may be said that all they touch turns to the ashes of ruin and disappointment.

DODO and 'Marcella' are the two most popular books of the day, and a prominent and grave reviewer in the *Edinburgh* has expressed unbounded astonishment at the fact, in that it shows a decided contradictoriness in public taste. But as has been very well pointed out by an eminent novelist, the explanation is easy. A writer in the *Edinburgh Review* expresses his surprise that 'Dodo' and 'Marcella' should be both so popular; it seems to him the world of novel-readers is a very large one, and is split up into as many divisions, and those as antagonistic to one another, as the religious world. With a large portion, the personal novel, provided it has a certain fashionable flavour, is always popular; its readers—who are not themselves all in the fashion—imagine that it introduces them behind the scenes, and exhibits the mysteries of high life; they are made to feel that they too are of the 'Upper Ten,' and when they are told whom the characters are meant for, they perceive at once their life-like resemblance to the originals; the conversation need not be very sparkling provided they are assured that it is carried on by persons of quality, and if it is rather 'risky' they see no such offence in it as they would be quick enough to perceive were it placed in the mouths of their equals. A large and increasing minority of this class are, however, being taught to welcome indecency for its own sake, and under the guise of philosophic wit it is permeating quite a little library of modern fiction. The clients of works of the 'Marcella' class are also numerous, but are recruited from quite other quarters. Some of them, but not many, are novel-readers, but the vast majority are earnest and serious persons who do not generally approve of the novel, but are nevertheless glad to get hold of one which they can read without a loss of self-respect, or the necessity of hiding it in a drawer (like Archdeacon Grantly) when their privacy is intruded on.

UGLY men are not entirely obsolete in this country. Would it therefore be worth while to send Home representatives to the Ugly Men Competition which comes off at Brussels almost immediately. We learn from the admirable weekly *causerie* of Mr James Payn that the lists of 'ugly men' are being rapidly filled up. This will doubtless be adduced by some people to prove that vanity is not an attribute of the male. The experience of almost every portrait painter, however, is to the contrary. Man is more particular about his representative on canvas looking his best than looking like himself, and is, on the whole, harder to please than woman; but then it is only a few men, as compared with women, who have their portraits taken at all. Unless they are exceptionally good-looking or very silly, they prefer to pique themselves upon some other quality than good looks. The intellectual ones are fond of quoting quipping Wilke's boast that he was only a quarter of an hour behind the handsomest man in England; and delicately intimate that as regards the fair sex they have found the observation correct. I knew a distinguished officer who was what is called in Wiltshire 'sinful ordinary' as to looks, and who was perfectly conscious of it. 'I am quite aware,' he used to say, 'that I am the ugliest man in the British Army, but then' (and here he used to throw his shoulders back) 'I have probably the finest figure.' The Duc de Rochore, the favourite of Louis XIV., was forbidding both in face and person; but there was another nobleman at Court who was still less agreeable looking; this person had killed a man in a duel, and besought De Rochore's interest with the King for pardon. 'Why do you want to save this fellow's life?' asked the monarch. 'Sire,' replied the Duke, 'if he were to suffer, I should be left the ugliest man in France.'

I ONCE knew an old gentleman so terribly disfigured by the smallpox (continues Mr Payn) that children used to gaze at his face with amazement. 'Yes, my dears,' he used to say, with a really sweet smile, 'it is very beautifully carved, is it not?' As when people grow very old they become proud of it, so it is with some persons who are very plain; they exaggerate what is amiss with them. As regards the candidates at Brussels, their chief motive is probably to gain a prize, but notoriety is also, we may be sure, a great attraction. This passion has of late become very widespread, and is responsible—as in the case of the Anarchists—even for the gravest crimes. The young negro minister who, when leading a prayer meeting, commenced it with the aspiration 'Lord, make Thy servant conspicuous,' has had many imitators both in and out of the pulpit, but until of late years it was confined to a few individuals; nor, indeed, were there the same opportunities for its display. A very mild example of it, the habit of carving one's name in prominent places, is somewhere defended by gentle-hearted Leigh Hunt. It is a vulgar and egotistic custom, he admits, but everyone wishes to be known to his fellows, and it is the only means that falls to the lot of the million of becoming so. But nowadays people are not satisfied with carving their names.

ARE we colonials harder-headed than Society in general at Home? If not what is the reason that the advertising tipster has never gained a foothold in a country where there is so pronounced a taste for racing and speculation. In New Zealand the philanthropic individual who will put you on all the winners for a trifling fee is almost utterly unknown. In England thousands of pounds are spent in these tips, and the name of the so-called prophete is legion. In Australia the custom also flourishes and keeps in affluent idleness a very respectable section of very unrespectable society. From his absence in this colony it is natural to suppose that we are less gullible than either our Australian or English cousins, for of course the sporting tipster is a fraud, and all his infallible systems are swindles. In order to test the quality of the prophetic spirit, a well-known British sport selected thirteen of these 'tipsters,' and applied 'to each for the names of the winners of forthcoming races, enclosing, of course, the stipulated fee in every case. Out of one hundred and fourteen names of 'certain winners' furnished to him, only *nineteen* turned out correct, four of the 'prophets' only managing to name one actual winner out of thirty-six 'selections!' In view of the result of the test, this particular form of imposture ought not to flourish quite so mightily in the future as it has done in the past.

WHETHER we agree with her theological views or no, one thing cannot be denied, that Annie Besant is a grand speaker and a great thinker. The GRAPHIC made no pretence over its disappointment with Talmage, so its *bona fide* cannot be doubted when it declares that no such orator as Mrs Besant has visited this colony. Her first lecture, 'The Dangers that Threaten Society,' is inspiring and forceful to a degree seldom attained even by more famous orators, and we cannot but hope thousands of young colonists will hear it. It cannot fail to encourage noble endeavour and to inspire noble thought, to cheer fainting courage and to create desire for better and higher things and ideals in all who hear it.



Falk, photo. Sydney.

MRS ANNIE BESANT.

Mrs Besant speaks in an earnest, thoughtful, often intense manner that immensely impresses her audience and carries it with her. Her word painting is exceedingly graphic, and in many instances powerful in the extreme. At the same time it is never lurid, and she never appears to exaggerate or overdraw. In describing the miseries of East and South London she certainly does not even go as far as she might if she would, as the writer well knows from experience on an East End journal—the *Star*. In scientific explanation Mrs Besant is also extremely happy. But we confess her statement of the materialistic case seemed to us more convincing than the arguments she brought to demolish it. From a religious point of view Mrs Besant should, we imagine, do an immense amount of good. We have heard nothing yet that is not deeply spiritual and religious.

ACCORDING to recent advices, Dr. Gore Gillon has successfully endured his painful operation, and is now preparing to enjoy his visit to England. Hitherto that was not possible.

The seventieth programme in connection with Mr W. H. Webb's musical evenings took place at Berlin House, Kyber Pass Road, last Friday, the occasion being the second pianoforte recital by Miss E. Macfarlan, one of Mr Webb's advanced pupils. Vocal and instrumental items were contributed by the following ladies and gentlemen—Mrs Cooper (soprano), Miss Spooner (piano and organ), Misses Barker, Thomson and O'Neill (piano), Mr Davidson (baritone), Mr John Fuller (tenor), Herr Zimmermann (violin), Mr Beale (cello), and Mr W. H. Webb (piano).

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of PERFORMING WILD ANIMALS are performing every evening at the HARBOUR BOARD RECLAMATION, QUAY STREET.

Positively 4 nights only, and two mid-day performances on Wednesday, October 10th, and Saturday, October 13th. This is the largest Circus and Menagerie now travelling the length and breadth of the Southern Hemisphere.

We have a grand menagerie consisting of Royal Bengal Tigers, Cheetas, Hyenas, Wolves, Leopards, Pumas, Panthers, Monkeys, Bears, and the only Silver Lion ever exhibited in Australasia.

THE DARWINIAN MISSING LINK, THE OURANG OUTANG, and a den of WILD PERFORMING SAVAGE NUBIAN LIONS, when Captain John Graham will enter the den at each performance; also 80 HORSES, 70 ARTISTS and ARTISTES. HERR VON DEER MAHDEN, the greatest Cornet Virtuoso living, will give open-air performances previous to each performance. One ticket admits to all. PRICES: 4s, 3s, 2s, 1s.

J. MORRIS, Principal Agent. F. M. JONES, Press Representative.

MRS ANNIE BESANT.

AUTHORESS OF 'THROUGH STORM TO PEACE,' and the MOST REMARKABLE ENGLISHWOMAN of the Century, will deliver FOUR ENTIRELY DIFFERENT LECTURES, For which course tickets will be issued at CHRISTCHURCH—THEATRE ROYAL, 16th to 19th Oct. DUNEDIN—PRINCESS THEATRE, 22nd to 25th Oct. WELLINGTON—OPERA HOUSE, 31st Oct. to 1st and 2nd Nov. ALL PEOPLE THAT O EARTH DO DWELL, Believers and Unbelievers—Members of all Churches—Adherents of all Creeds should hear the GREATEST GENIUS AND MOST ELOQUENT WOMAN That has visited New Zealand. R. S. SMYTHE.

REVIEW OF REVIEWS for SEPTEMBER. Progress of the Colonies: 'How I Make My Weather Forecast,' by C. L. WICKSTEAD (Queensland); New Zealand Journals; Caricatures; Illustrations. The Busy Man's Magazine. All Booksellers.

PONSONBY 'AT HOME,' 1894.

The sixth and last Dance of the Season will be held on FRIDAY next, October 12, at Ponsonby Hall, commencing at eight o'clock. PLAIN AND FANCY DRESS. Omnibus leaves Choral Hall at 7.20, returning after the dance. Tickets on application to the Committee and Mr A. CLARKE, Hon. Sec. Corner of Vulcan Lane and High-street. October 5th, 1894.

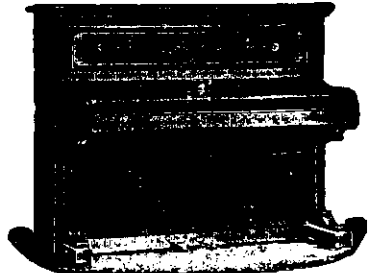


District Lands and Survey Office, Auckland, September 23, 1894.

NOTICE is hereby given that the unencumbered TOWN and RURAL LANDS will be offered for Sale by public auction at the Land Office, Auckland, on FRIDAY, 16th day of November, 1894, at 11 a.m. TOWN OF TAUPŌ.—Block XIV: Lot 5, 1 rood 8 perches, upset price £6. TOWN OF NGARUAWAHIA.—Lot 111, 27 perches, upset price £22 14s; 112, 27 perches, £2 14s. RAGLAN COUNTY.—Parish Karori: Lot 96A, 11 acres, upset price £5 10s. Open land, 12 miles from Haglan. MANUKAU COUNTY.—Parish Kohere: Lot 95A, 3 acres, 3 roods, 30 perches, upset price £12. First-class alluvial soil, nearly all ploughed and fenced, situated at Mangatawhiri Valley. Parish Makarau: Lots 71, 72, 99 acres, upset price £150. Broken forest land, containing kauri, situated close to proposed railway station at Waikanae, Helensville Makarau Railway. WHANGAREI COUNTY.—Parish S. D. Block 11: Lot 35A, 113 acres, upset price £1,097; 35c, 198A, 253B ss. Undulating to broken forest land, situated about 9 miles by road from Whangarei and containing kauri timber as follows:—Section 35a, about 2,703,148ft green kauri and 229,400ft dead timber; Section 35c, about 1,070,088ft green kauri and 298,600ft dead kauri timber. TERMS OF SALE.—One-fifth of the purchase money on the fall of the hammer, and the balance within 30 days thereafter. GERHARD MULLER, Commissioner Crown Lands.

W. G. THOMAS, WHOLESALE and EXPORT PIANOFORTE MANUFACTURER.

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