

THE YEAR WE'VE LEFT BEHIND US.

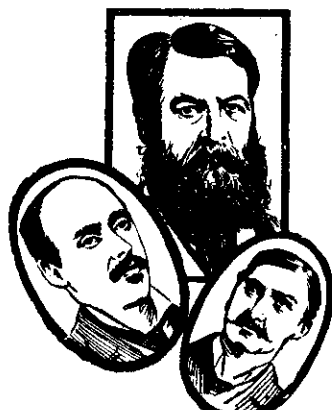
It may seem rather late to review the year of 1892, but pictures and photos of the 'mighty dead' and celebrated people take time in collection and execution, and it was not till the last 'Frisco' mail that we received the final instalment of portraits and materials which enable us to put before our readers a complete and profusely illustrated review of the year we have left behind us.

So far as it has sounded any dominant note, 1892 must be classed as a year of disappointments. Opening for the nation in all the sunshine of the hopes and generous aspirations awakened by the recent betrothal of the Prince of Wales' heir to one of the most popular of English princesses, the year was to see those aspirations blighted and those hopes darkened by the sombre hand of Death. In the arena of public affairs the year commencing found two great parties girding up their strength for the struggle which summer must bring.



THE DUKE OF CLARENCE. PRINCESS VICTORIA OF TECK.

This year has been rather conspicuously fatal to the aristocracy, and three dukes appear in the year's obituary. The Duke of Marlborough was a great landlord and a good one, and a somewhat prominent amateur man of science. He had figured in the Divorce Court, and was not on terms with all his relatives, but on the Blenheim estate he is understood to be deeply lamented. The sudden death of the Duke of Manchester, following, as it did, hard upon



DUKE OF SUTHERLAND. DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH. DUKE OF MANCHESTER.

the marriage of his mother, lent a further halo of melancholy romance to that circumstance. But a romance is somewhat appropriate to a Duchess of Devonshire, which title the lady in question acquires by her union with the quondam Marquis of Hartington, a marriage popular in all circles, for the public adores a love-match. The late Duke of Sutherland represented that county (of which his family are almost the landlords) in Parliament from 1852 to 1861, and is succeeded by his son, the Marquis of Stafford.

Abroad, while the war-cloud has hung less imminent over Europe, and General von Caprivi declares that he will not brandish the sabre, the ingenious self-revelations of his predecessor will not, as showing the power of a single high-placed and unscrupulous politician to 'let loose the dogs of war,' tend to strengthen the hopes of those who wish for peace. The hopes of the faction in France, which sees in every disturbance of public life an opportunity or a hope of

subverting the Republic, have, as usual, risen to a grotesque height over the squalid scandal of the Panama bribes, which



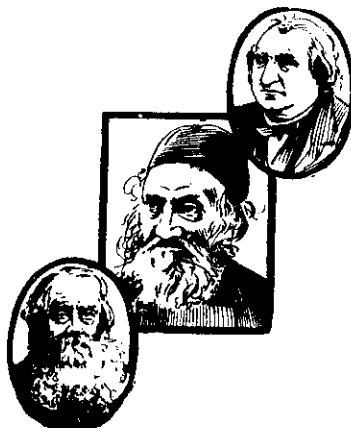
M. DE LESSEPS.

threatens to crush with its obloquy poor Ferdinand de Lesseps, *le grand Français* as he is affectionately called, whose health has given way under the pressure of his many anxieties, and whose son has already been arrested as a party to the malpractices alleged against the promoters of the Canal. Meantime, political feeling in America shows a tendency to taking up the Canal. General Harrison, the retiring President, was handsomely beaten in November by Grover Cleveland, and may be said to have owed his downfall in a great measure to the intense hostility towards England, of which he vainly endeavoured to make party capital. The McKinley Bill was unquestionably directed



MR CLEVELAND.

against the manufactures of that country; but far-seeing politicians of both parties in the United States saw from the first its suicidal tendency. Labour troubles have been much in evidence in the land of the free and the home of the brave.



M. ERNEST RENAN. PROF. OWEN. PROF. FREEMAN.

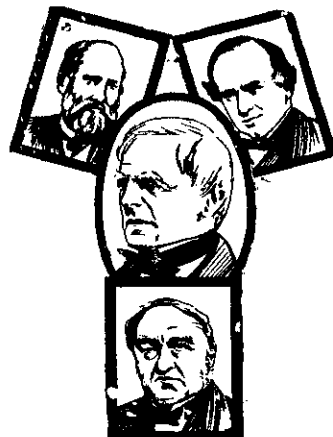
M. Ernest Renan, who wrote the *Life of Jesus*, esteemed chiefly by people who have not read it a very wicked book (it is, as a matter of fact, a very beautiful, and though heretical, a very reverent one) was, with the exception of

Lord Tennyson, the most remarkable man of letters who died during the year under review. He was something as different as possible to the militant sceptic of convention, a conversationalist of the old school, and a very great man.

Professor Freeman is chiefly remembered by most people as the historian of the Norman Conquest. He was, however, a voluminous writer, and was exhaustively learned on many historical questions.

Professor Owen's popular reputation rested mainly on his restorations, on the *ex pede Herculeum* principle, of extinct animals from insignificant remains, but his claims on the gratitude of those who know how to appreciate his industry and learning are of a wider, if less sensational order.

The most important event of the year, as affecting the course of politics and the destinies of the nation, was of course the General Election, which overthrew the administration of Lord Salisbury and placed Mr Gladstone in office, with a majority of forty-two, in the House of Commons. Rumours of disagreement, associated with the name of Lord Rosebery, were contradicted by the appearance of that nobleman as Foreign Secretary, and in matters colonial Lord Kimberley's services were secured, as in Mr Gladstone's second administration. The return of Lord Ripon to the Cabinet did not excite the quasi-religious objections raised on his first assumption of office some years ago. Sir George Trevelyan's complete re-identification with the party from which he had been for some little time estranged in



SIR GEO. CAMPBELL. LORD HAMPDEN. LORD SHERRIROOKE. LORD BRAMWELL.

'86, was marked by his assumption of office. The younger element is well represented in the new Government, the Home Secretary (Mr Asquith, Q. C.), being, at forty, one of the very youngest Cabinet ministers on record. Mr Arnold Morley (Postmaster-General), and Mr A. H. D. Acland in the Cabinet, and, in the outside ministry, Sir Edward Grey (Under-Secretary to the Foreign Office), Mr Sydney Buxton, celebrated as well by his successful attack on the late Government on the 'half-timers' question as by his political handbooks, Lord Sandhurst, Mr George Russell, Mr W. A. McArthur, Mr T. E. Ellis, Mr G. Leveson-Gower, and Mr Herbert Gladstone, can none of them be accused of belonging to what has been contemptuously termed 'the old



LORD TENNYSON. MR WALT WHITMAN. MR A. C. SWINBURNE. MR J. G. WHITTIER.

gang.' Lord Houghton, son of a man better remembered as Monckton-Milnes, poet and society man, than as a politician, was raised unexpectedly to what his personal attractions would alone justify our calling an ornamental post, as Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. But of course the responsibility of Irish business rest with Mr John Morley, the only possible Chief Secretary. Since the religious difficulty debars him from the Woolack, Sir Charles Russell resumes also his old post of Attorney-General, Mr James Bryce's appointment to Cabinet rank was popular, despite Mr