The Academy.

Le Livre seems to tend more and more to become a mercurial or temporary propagation of ideas in France; and, as there can be no real reason for the non-existence of such a thing, despite the numerous failures to establish it, it is to be hoped that this attempt will continue to be well, perhaps, if M. Uazanne relinquished the praiseworthy, but somewhat impossible, attempt to assemble complete accounts of European as well as of French literature. Occasionally, however, foreign articles, seriously and by experts are decidedly better than mere chatter "Correspondence." However, this condescending to French habits may be intended to make the review part go down more easily. The "causes," articles (as a defensible distinction, they are usually called) of the August number are three—the conclusion of the sketch of the Plantine Museum, another instalment of the "Edda illustrata," and the second and last of M. Paul Lacroix' articles on the fifth book of Rabelais. The discussion has not been quite such a thorough one as might have been hoped for, but it is very important as a fillip to the literature of the subject. As the first part dealt with external witnesses, and especially with the adverse testimony ad estra, so this deals with internal evidence. M. Paul Lacroix, according to his custom, mixed the lightest with the strongest ones; and it is surprising that he should quote Bernier's trumpery story about the enmity between Rabelais and Ronsard, which rests on no evidence whatever, is of no value. The best thing in the article is the handling of the supposed Protestant tendencies of the book which have been used as an argument against Rabelaisian authorship.

The last article for September also contains some interesting matter. The illustration is an etching of the statue of Vellon which appeared in this year's Salon. Of the three principal articles, one is an instalment of M. Drujon's useful study of "Livres de Bijous," the other two are of great interest—one is on the first illustrations to La Fontaine's Fables; the other, a further portion of M. Campagne's charming "Caprices et Fantaisies sur les Vignettes modernes," and the third is on a charming "les oublies et les déjoués," which escaped even the afectionate scrutiny of Charles Asselineau. There must be many doyens of 1820 who will remember his delightful hip Hipolyte Tampace; and it must be confessed that the excellent Hipolyte (who went through singular vicissitudes, being a shoemaker and a garcon de classe before he sank into peaceable obscurity and prosperity as head-clerk at a provincial prefecture) was but a bastard Romance. Gauthier et Girard were indeed his personal friends, and his book has the seal of a piety by Celestin Nanteuil; but, horrible to relate, he dared to admire Casimir Delavigne.

In the Revista Contemporanea of September 15, while putting the question "Who was Pedro Mato?" the original of the great figure with which the Spanish literature of Zamora, Fernandez Duro chat so freely on the subject, the author did not seem to make a mistake, as he showed on both stories an enormous display of maps and plans, old and new, and good and bad. In a splendid hall (No. 2 room) sat at eat a gilt figure, with a sailor's hat and a blue beard, with a prominent nose and golden hair, and the author was on the stage at the Congress. In the 'programme' of the unfortunate Mattoucci. I had a long conversation with the Cavalier and Shimberg, who nearly poisoned himself by emulating the body. Count Almirante di Sicho exhibited his Arabian astrologers, and Raoul Heilbroner, of Munich, did the same; that was interesting was insufficiently represented. M. Reveil displayed his Somalis finds; and the Egyptian room contained Gin's collection, and Mecca and Medina, photographed by Col. Sadite Bayr for the first time. They are all to be sold. The various Alpine clubs, especially the Austrian, came out strong; and it was all said, without any reserve. Yet this was an excellent opportunity of showing climbing and ice-cutting gear.

Englishmen of late years have not always been pleased in seeing the beloved native country to the foot. At least the British flag was out of order—blue, with the length of the crosses perpendicular, instead of horizontal. Poor England could produce no better than a badly furnished single room in a small, stuffy, threadbare, converted into an annexe. Strangers marvelled at the mean display of battered surveying instruments ("we have 1,000, 1,500,1,000, sir!") and at the contrast of the world's latestgeographical machine with a sixpenny toy compass. The maps were of the Indian Survey and the Palestine Exploration Fund, with Admiralty charts, and Mr. Robert T. Curtis's collection of languages in Africa. The latter lost the gold medal, because it was not published nor accompanied by a volume of explanation.

This showy display of poverty was the natural sequel to the board of trade's shift of its prestige; and the Anthropological Society did not seem altogether disappointed, for it delegated Mr. Consul Hutchinson. The personnel was quantitatively chosen. England, with her peculiar "lordlarity," thinks enough to send a poor when armed to the teeth! nor men, but he delighted Mr. A. C. Thompson. The explorer, by-the-by, carried off the honour, as an aide-de-camp of his King, he had brought a special letter of introduction. Col. Nairn and Capt. Bird were the most zealous of jurymen; but they were lost in the decorated crowd of delegates and commissioners of vice-presidents and secretaries, repre- senting the different nationalities. All the local societies of France were represented by their best men. Hence, despite the picturesque attempts of Austria and Germany, the whole congress was a glorification of the Latin Race. As a Latin Race, as a "Région" becomes a threat to monarchy throughout Europe.

On the opening day the Sindaco of Venice, Count Serra, issued a neat and well-worded address to his concittadini, quoting the bygone glories of Marco Polo, Frate Mauro, Sanuto, the Zoni, Cadamosto, the Cabote, Conti, and Adrian Balbi. The first joint of the Congress, on September 8, under the presidency of the amiable Prince Tese— a name well known in England. Queen Margherita (the Pearl) entered Venice on the same day, and was followed on September 12 by the King, fresh from the autumn manoeuvres at Padua. The "Programme of Spectacles" promised inauguration of the Congress and architectonic学会, (also prize essay, took place at the horticultural show (16th), put off by the Rain grand gala-night at the Fenice Theatre (17th); regatta and illuminations (18th); concert and opera. Venice and its suburbs were lit up with fantastic illumination of the Great Canal (21st); and closing of the Congress (22nd), together with sundry excursions, "parties of displeasure," to be carefully avoided. A full week of work, and worse.

First of the opera. La Fenice (all know) is an artistic house, except that drab-coloured
THE ACADEMY.

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the cathedral-domes of St. Mark. But the outlines of column and capital, of crenelles and sky-lines, traced and picked out by the soft, moonlight like the lights of a gilt glass globe; and, lastly, the electric light thrown from the three standarti (Venetian masts) upon the church facade, and showing every detail of form and colour, with more of musicians and minstrels, of crowd and spectacle—sights to remember. Seen from under the Orlogeo, the four bronze horses of San Marco appeared to be walking. As the clouds passed over, the light was, as it were, falling off, there a horizontal break into black gaps, the light growing less and the darkness greater, the effect was that of a city falling gradually to pieces.

The illuminations were repeated with indifferent success. Gas failed on Sunday (18th), and the electric light on the following evening. The latter was especially badly managed, when, by a little switching, the light might have been turned on and off the Cathedral and the Piazza. These efforts de lumière managed to spoil the "fantastic illumination" of the grand Canal (Wednesday, 21st), when a great storm lumed the streets, but otherwise played hide and seek with the admiralial aerial scene. The essential point of lighting up the chief water-street in Venice is that the insides, not the outsides, of the palaces appear in a blaze. At this time of the year, the blossoms of cypress trees, the flashing from balcony and window, the chandeliers and candelabra of the noble halls are seen in perspective with perfect beauty. All these shows were accompanied by "concerts," when a loud and braying band, so inferior to those of Austria, brought into the open all Venice. These people care little for their panions, provided they have their circuses.

After having put off till next day the "inauguration of the herbs" (November 2nd), the dedicatory crowd of the botanical gardens of S. Giobbe. (N.B.—At Venice, not elsewhere, Job and Moses are saints.) The diocese would describe this ceremony somewhat as follows:

"Pressed. Long row in river cab under blazing sun, up fleet or plane to normal railway station. Landed and found small mob of aliens, gardeners, and people in general. The Royalties took their places under a blue umbrella and patiently to the normal Chauvinism in the shape of speeches, followed by the braving of braves and the岑vensians, as they are called, to huge pumpkins, parrots, and gapping gold-dish. General dispersion and de gratias."

The grounds are pretty, though of course small; the show would have been poor in a third-class town farther North. But one does not come to Venice for gardens and conservatories. The city did her humble best, and the charming Queen was gracious and graceful as ever.

Saturday (18th) saw the "Eigete und Cerco de Galia." The Grand Canal was hung with red, and with old tapestry rich in local colouring. The racing (so called by courtesy) was conducted without two-oared gondolas, lawn built, with tall tents, the leisurely pace showed "squaring." After the prizes had been distributed by their Majesties under a tent, opposite the Piazzetta Palace, and all the gondoliers found it impossible to "bakhish," a dense pack of boats was formed; presently the mass drifted like pack-ice to the front; and the county clerks found it impossible to accomodate the equipages to be "bakhish." It suggested the water-shows on the Tuapis Temp. Elisse, but with a nineteenth-century addition—the advertisement-boat. None could mistake the gorgeous display of the Venice-Murano Glassworks Company, and the "Docka" (twelve oars) of the well-known Salvati house. In addition to the eight normal bissone (fancy gondolas), four new were designed for the occasion. These were "Geography," denoted by blue and white, a boy and a globe; "Neapolitan Fishery," hung with gilt nets and painted fish; "Bibliothèque," manned by men in book-costumes; and "Venetian," a young person who had forgotten her stays and upper raiment. All were cinqo cento and tinsel: common gondolas, with raised prows and covered jetties, were all that remain; mostly, however, all were disfigured by some undertaker-like man in black, who issued, through a speaking-trumpet, orders which no one obeyed. Strangers remarked with surprise that there were few empty chairs without heads, language, and excited excitement without a single light.

The Royalties left Venice on Monday (21st), the Congress became Hamlet, lacking Hamlet, and the city cleared rapidly.

And now for the work done by number three. As a rule, scientific, like political, congresses bring matter ready made; and the constant reproduction of a familiar, frequent article, which I should call a savant de congrés. His object in life is to make act of presence everywhere, and, by some means or other, to bag a medal, a decoration, or an order. He is the real M. D'Abbadie (a devoted to the myths). After the opening day (16th), the groups, or sections, met at the Bourse, and the prize-juries were established. The former were distributed among the following branches of geography—mathematics, natural history, statistics, economics, meteorological, and exploratory. The questions proposed for discussion were important. The ducat of section I recommended the determination of a geographical and a unit of national meridian. For years I have been proposing a return to old Ferro; and this was the point advocated; but what nation will accept it? The pendulum also has a delicate form of the instrument applied to the Great Pyramids might determine whether the mass is chambered or solid. The most popular paper of group 2 was that of Adm. Finocchi upon the meteorological work of those of the ancients. A floating specimen (one-twelfth size) and a model in the second row showed a big barge worked by a single man, but the model was disfigured by the dislocating all our old ideas. Section 4 was made interesting by studies of New Guinea, chiefly by Italian explorers; and the distribution of its peoples into three races, Negrito, Polynesian, and Melanesian, was noticed throughout the eight "groups." On the 16th, Gen. Turc read an admirable paper upon his proposed cutting of the Corinth Isthmus; on the 17th, M. d'Abbadie and M. Pinto attempted to lay down laws for African exploration; and on the 21st and 22nd, Lbtt, Massari, the survivor of the Matteucci expedition, cleared the room of the Egyptian delegates and drew down ample applause.

Among other curious arrangements, Prince Camoscio, Duke of Genoa, President-elect, arrived on the morning of the 20th instead of the 21st, just in time to close the Congress. This ceremony took place on September 22 in the Sala dei Pregadi. The Prince-President made a speech, and the list of prisoners was read. Prince Teano, after the usual speeches, received all the gifts of his Royal Highness, the Congress closed; and the sayings and doings of number three passed into the limbo of the bygone.

Rome is remembered for its utter want of order, for its perfect management. It is not a pleasant truth to tell when all the authorities, both of the meeting and of the city, did their level best; but it should be told for future warning. C'est la confusion organisée (organised disorganisation!); cried M. Antoine d'Abbadie. There was no general
CORRESPONDENCE.

**MR. BROWNING'S "KARSHOOK," AND J. S. MILL'S NOTES ON "PAULINE.**

_Castell Farm, Bedgelert._ Sept. 11, 1881.

(1) In Mr. Browning's beautiful poem to his wife, "One Word More. To E. H. B." (London, September 1555), at the end of his fifty Men and Women, he names, as one of his men, "Karshook."

"XIV.

Love, you saw me gather men and women,
Live or dead, near or far, in every sunny day.
Enter each and all, and use their service,
Speak from every mouth—the speech, a poem.
Hardly shall I tell my joys and sorrows,
Hopes and fears that in my heart lies.


KARSHOOK, Clean, Norbert, and the fifty."

We all knew "Norbert," in the fine dramatic poem "In a Balcony," written at Baguette in 1855. "Clean" we also knew. In the memorable Epistle of the Arab Physician who reported (Men and Women, 1. 90-100) the look and words of Lazarus after his resurrection: could "Karshook" be a misprint for "Karshish"? Hardly, when the collected editions of Browning's _Poetical Works_ in 1863 (three volumes) and 1868 (six volumes) still read "Karshook," though the Tauchnitz Selection of 1872, called _The Poetical Works of Robert Browning_, had the change "Karshish.

The solver of our difficulty has been Mr. Richard Herne Shepherd, the well-known bibliographer of Ruskin, Tennyson, &c., who has most kindly sent me, besides many valuable corrections and notes for my Browning Bibliography, the following:

"BEN KARSHOOK'S WISDOM. BY ROBERT BROWNING."

"I

Would a man 'scape the rod?"
Rabbi Ben Karshook saith,
"See that he turn to God
The day before his death."

"Ay, could a man inquire
When it shall come to me? I say,
The Rabbi's eye shoots fire—
Then let him turn to day!"

II

Quoth a young Sadducee:
"Reader of many rolls,
Is it so certain we
Have, as they tell us, soul?
Son, there is no reply
"Certain, a soul have I—
We may have none," he sneer'd.

Thus Karshook, the Hir'am-Hammer,
The Right-hand Temple-column,
Thou dost, in the memorials of their grammar
And struck the simple, solemn.

Bromley, London, September 27, 1854.

Printed in the Keaylock, 1856, edited by Miss Power (London: David Rogers, 1856, p. 16.)

Your readers will join me in thanking Mr. Browning for his communication.

(2) As to the copy of Mr. Browning's _Pauline_ with John Stuart Mill's notes at the end, which was reported to me as being in the Forster Library at South Kensington, a friend whom I also met in connection with the catalogue which was supplied to the museum, Pausil was struck through, and it has never been in the possession of the museum. The Forster Library contain the MS. of _Paracelsus_ of the same date. It also a few MS. verses on a single leaf, with the beginning of the _Iliad_ of Ilios. My book by the title, _My book to my best friend, R. B._

A copy of these MS. verses has since been sent me, and they prove to be parts of printed poems.

_The geographical name Ta Tsien as a denomination of the Roman Empire in the Chinese annals has always been a puzzle for Orientalists and Sinologists. No doubts remain that its real meaning is the great Empire of China, which the heathen world had crept in preferably to any other more related to the denominations known in the West is yet to be discovered, if the following remarks are not considered conclusive._

Ta Tsien (the Roman Empire) by the famous Chinese general Pan Ch'ao, who had reached the western side of Central Asia.

_The difficulty of the identification of the words Ta Tsien has been increased by the fact that the scholars who have attempted the task have not taken care to define the real pronunciation of the name when it was used by the Chinese as a representation of the sounds Ta Tsien._

We know by the She-meing, a vocabulary composed under the Han, in which the pronunciation of the characters is indicated by homonyms, that the sound character *T'a-t'ien* was the same. Besides this statement we have the syllabic spelling in the Tang dictionaries which shows the hard dental consonant as the initial. To complete the chain of evidences we have the most archaic of the Chinese dialects, the Sinico-Anatmic, which has kept the pronunciation *tan* for the same character. The first syllable has not been so deeply modified, and by the same sound of proof we know that it was not or dian, this last being the Sinico-Anatmic sound. We may therefore assume, almost with certainty, that the name which the Chinese endeavoured to express (Tien or Dian) was founded in opposition to all other Altaic peoples, manifesting the distinction between the hard and sonant consonants. Now, we find in the Assyrian inscribed tablets the name Tien, which applies specifically to the Chinese, and it is exactly in contradistinction to the highlands, which bore another name.

Sir H. C. Rawlinson (Rough Notes on Prehistoric Cyprus) has recognized it in the Delta.

May not the *T'ien* of the Chinese records be the same name as this *Tiana* or Dianas?