

merely removing his one-day growth of beard. Constant says that "The first times that he attempted to put my lessons into practice, it was a sight more disquieting than laughable. In spite of repeated lessons, the Emperor never could manage to hold his razor properly, but grasping it tight by the handle, he used to apply it perpendicularly, instead of slantwise, to his cheek. After one swift stroke he usually hurt himself, and instantly exclaimed "There now, you rogue, you see you've made me cut myself!"

Constant relates some really interesting domestic scenes between the Emperor and Empress Josephine, which are too long to quote, but which throw a pleasant light upon their mutual affection. Nevertheless, even in early days, Napoleon was not constant to his wife, and according to his valet had several liaisons with various complacent ladies of all ranks. On these occasions the faithful valet was left on guard, and assured the Empress, when she came to enquire for her lord and master, that he was engaged with a Minister on affairs of State. Constant seemed to consider that, as Napoleon was always careful to conceal his amours from his wife's knowledge, he had done all that could be required from any husband, imperial or peasant! If Napoleon's fancy was occasionally attracted by a young and pretty woman, his heart never seems to have been engaged, and from all the many histories and records of his life that have been written by both admirers and detractors, there is little doubt that if Josephine had given him an heir he would never have divorced her and married Marie Louise, for he was sincerely attached to his first wife.

These Memoirs shew that even such illustrious men as Napoleon Bonaparte can be fractious and tiresome over their small ailments as any child that has over-eaten itself in a garden with unripe plums. When he was called every morning, after asking the time and the state of the weather, his next question was always to enquire if he did not look poorly? From the above short extracts and account it will be seen that these Memoirs are somewhat frivolous as to details, but they are amusing details, and even trifles about a man who ruled the destinies of the world for so long a space of time are suggestive reading to the intelligent.

A. M. G.

## Bookland.

### WHAT TO READ.

"Memoirs of Cardinal de Retz." Translated from the French. (London: Henry S. Nichols).

"St. Augustine at Ostia," by the Rev. H. C. Beeching, M.A.

"In Scarlet and Grey," Stories of Soldiers and Others; by Florence Henniker. (John Lane).

"The Husband of Poetry: A Drama of the Life of Francis of Assisi," by H. N. Maugham. (Stock).

"Julian's Vision, and Other Poems," by F. W. Kingston.

"The Attack on the Mill," by Emile Zola. (London: Heinemann).

"A Modern Helen," by Mrs. Alice M. Diehl, author of "The Garden of Eden," "Passion's Puppets," &c.

A new monthly magazine is to be issued on September 25th called the *Progressive Review*; it is

described as an organ of international progressive thought in social, economic and political questions.

The *Weekly Sun* says:—"That remarkable novel, 'Without Sin,' is proving one of the successes of the season. It is an audacious book; but its daring is matched by its ability. There is real power in it; and as for the characters who figure in its pages, they are, with scarcely an exception, drawn with singular delicacy and strength.

The authorship of the book is a profound secret. I am able to say, however, that 'Martin Pritchard' is a *nom de plume*; and I should not be greatly surprised if, when the veil of anonymity is drawn aside, there is disclosed to view a popular and accomplished lady."

The author of this very clever book "Without Sin" is the daughter of Lady Monckton.

### IMPROMPTU.—TO ETTA C.

What were life worth without surprise,  
The unexpected joy that springs  
From new unlooked-for sympathies,  
A sudden shower of gracious things?

The face that cheers us in the crowd,  
'Mid careless throngs one outstretched hand—  
These are the signs that make us proud,  
As tribute from an unknown land.

M. BETHAM-EDWARDS.

## Coming Events.

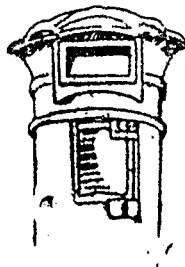
August 1st.—The Salvation Army Exhibition, consisting of a Living Representation of the Salvation Army's Social and Missionary Work in all lands, opens at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

August 3rd.—Bank Holiday. Royal Academy Exhibition closes on this evening.

August 5th.—H.R.H. Princess Louise opens a Bazaar at Crewe in aid of the funds of the Crewe Memorial Hospital.

## Letters to the Editor.

Notes, Queries, &amp;c.



Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

### THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SIR JAMES CRICHTON BROWNE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—This week's issue of the NURSING RECORD contains a paragraph dealing with the Royal British Nurses' Association, in which it is stated that a medical man threatened to move a vote of censure upon the Chairman for his "unseemly personal remarks and partisanship." As I was the medical man in question, and the phrase quoted mis-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)