by lending to it, his own personality. Our best wishes to the Bard of Keene; and if he should show some new powers and make a new success, we will take new pride in the thought that we know such a genius, and are associated with him.

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A Valentine

DEAR MAIDEN: You know 'tis an Arabic saying That there are four things whose return no one's praying Can ever procure; and the "word that is spoken" Comes first on the list; — unmistakable token Of what we poor mortals would give all creation Not to have said on that special occasion, But which, having said, we find to our sorrow Can scarce be explained or smoothed over to-morrow: The less if we have but a vague recollection Of just what remark met so cool a reception. So being myself in this painful position, St. Valentine's feet I invoke to my mission: 'Tis fair that a fellow who slings darts around, For once on a mission of peace should be bound; Besides, being "up" on the feminine heart— Far more so than I am—his medical art Will sooner discern what corner is wounded, And what sort of remedy should be compounded. My hopes I intrust, then, to his intercession; Peccavi! I cry; I own my transgression— Whatever it is— with most abject repentance, Since you must know well, fairest judge, how remote All purpose unkind was: so pray do not quote That old Latin proverb, as "Saltationis Amentia omnia non excusat" is A flexible rule not designed to be hard on Such foolish expressions we constantly pardon In every-day life; how much more when before us Flit beauty and youth, while the orchestra o'er us Pours billows of melody, lending romance To brighten the commonplace afternoon dance. Forgive the offender, forget the offense, Nor deem it a sign of complete lack of sense, Since reason at times bids each mortal farewell, As I now do you.

Yours sincerely, X. L.

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Noticeable Articles.

THE Fortnightly for January opens with the first of a series of anonymous papers entitled, "Present Position of European Politics," by a writer who seems to be exceptionally well-informed. This one is on Germany, and the writer contradicts the generally received opinion that the death of the aged Emperor, which cannot now be far off, will be the occasion of a great change in her policy. Here is a glimpse of two of the female actors in the drama of European politics: "The idea that the Crown Prince has any different policy from his father, and that this other policy will obtain after the old Emperor's death, will suffice, no doubt, to send up stocks in one country and send them down in another upon the news of the Emperor's death, and to form the foundation of endless columns of big type headed leaders, but it has no foundation in fact. The Crown Prince, it must be admitted, intellectually speaking, is largely by his own will the Crown Princess (eldest daughter of Queen Victoria); but that most able lady, when she shares the German throne, must inevitably have for her policy the Bismarck policy, the strength and glory of the German Empire. The Princess Royal is an interesting figure upon the European stage, of whom, in a political sense, it is necessary to speak. She belongs to a family in which there are many able members. Her mother is, considering the pressure of detail in her daily life, one of the most able persons, king or queen, that has ever sat upon a throne. But the Princess Royal is in some respects the ablest member of her family, and in all respects the ablest member of the family except her mother. And the Princess Royal has that which her mother's perpetual hard labor upon limited and special work has necessarily kept from her — much deep reading, and great knowledge of literary and general affairs, which have made her as strong a Liberal in many matters as the Queen is a powerful Conservative. "The Crown Princess is not popular in Germany. The reasons of that unpopularity are on the surface. She has been the patron of reputedly free-thinking clergymen, and popular gossip has accused her of being a complete free-thinker. This makes her unpopular in some quarters. She has often turned German prejudices into ridicule, and this makes her unpopular in others. She is very clever — a quality which in courts makes princes unpopular with fools. She is somewhat learned, which everywhere makes people unpopular with the ignorant." This glimpse of the daughter is interesting, but we never remember to have seen before so high an estimate of the respectable but sharp-tempered old lady who sits on the English throne, and goes through the motions of governing. Her Majesty's published writings would incline one to credit her with hardly more than the abilities of an ordinary school-girl, and we have heard that her favorite philosopher was Mr. Tupper.