

OLD FRIENDS.

NOTED ENGLISH AUTHORS IN NEW GARB.

THE PROSE WORKS OF WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY. VANITY FAIR. Edited by Walter Jerrold. With illustrations by Charles E. Brock. In three volumes. Duodecimo, pp. 225, 231, 251. The Macmillan Company.

THE LIFE OF CHARLOTTE BRONTE. By E. C. Gaskell. Thornton Edition. Reprinted from the First Edition and Edited with Introduction and Notes by Temple Scott and E. W. Willett. With Portrait. Octavo, pp. xvi, 525. Charles Scribner's Sons.

It is pleasant to be able to record at the top of this column a new edition of "Vanity Fair." There is something auspicious in having it head the group of reprints of Victorian fiction vouchsafed to the public this winter.

PICTURE BOOKS.

THIN QUARTOS, FILLED WITH FUN AND PACKED WITH PICTURES, PLAIN AND COLORED, FOR THE YOUNGEST READERS.

More than one item represents Dickens at this time upon the counters of the booksellers. In the first place, with the publication in three volumes of "A Child's History of England,"

as frontispiece to the first volume of "Jane Eyre," a picture of her birthplace is prefixed to "Vilette," and a view of Haworth church and parsonage is placed before "Wuthering Heights." Illustrations from the novels form frontispieces to the remaining volumes.

Mr. Gosse, who writes the introduction for the new edition of "Hypatia," in the excellent series of "The Century Classics," makes an apt remark when he says that "the skill of the author is seen in the adroitness with which he avoids the grand danger of this kind of book, the archaeological episode."

The "Library Edition" of Lever's novels, in which we have received "Tony Butler" and "The Fortunes of Glencore," is a substantial production, not very felicitously illustrated, but in other respects worthy of the novelist.

The binding is especially creditable, a good dark cloth being used, with a refined design stamped upon it in gold.

If we are to begin at the beginning in examining the huge pile of flat picture books for children that lies before us, we may well begin

even more captivatng than in the black and white style with which his name has hitherto been associated. A special mark of approbation should be placed against this book. "Memoirs of Simple Simon" (R. H. Russell) is very prettily made, the color printing being extremely delicate.

THE POLE AND CHICAGO.

NOVELS FANTASTIC, HISTORICAL AND REALISTIC.

THYRA. A Romance of the Polar Pit. By Robert Ames Bennet. Illustrated by E. L. Blumenschein. 12mo, pp. 258. Henry Holt & Co.

A LILY OF FRANCE. By Caroline Atwater Mason. 12mo, pp. viii, 68. Philadelphia: The Griffith & Rowland Press.

RALPH MARLOWE. A Novel. By James Ball Naylor. 12mo, pp. 412. Akron: The Saalfield Publishing Company.

ONE-FORTY-TWO. The Reformed Messenger Boy. By Henry M. Hyde. With Illustrations by Ellsworth Young. 12mo, pp. 294. Chicago: Herbert S. Stone & Co.



MISS MUFFET'S SPIDER. From "Mother Goose's Menagerie." (Noyes, Platt & Co.)

amusement, but what we may call comic side lights on American history. "Daddy Gander" (Francis E. Mason Publishing Company) is written by Francis E. Mason and illustrated by Spedon. Both rhymes and pictures are crude and are hardly likely to instruct or please children.

Florence K. Upton and Bertha Upton are never at a loss for new situations in which to represent their renowned hero. This year, in "The Gollwog's Auto-Go-Cart" (Longmans, Green & Co.), they send him off in a vehicle the character of which can easily be guessed.

MR. C. D. GIBSON.

ANOTHER COLLECTION OF HIS DRAWINGS.

A WIDOW AND HER FRIENDS. Drawn by Charles Dana Gibson. Orlong Quarto. No. 1. Paginated. R. H. Russell.

Mr. Gibson's latest book of drawings is the sixth in a series uniform in size, shape and binding. There is less to delight, we fear, in the pictured story of "A Widow and Her Friends" than in "The Education of Mr. Pipp." However, a draughtsman as busy as Mr. Gibson cannot be expected to hit every day upon an idea so good as that embodied in the book just mentioned, and the volume before us is quite worthy of the maker of it.

THE SHARK.

This is the Shark, my Child, I pray Do not Recoil or Turn Away; 'Tis true the Shark is not the Pink Of nice Propriety, but Think! Think of the Horrid Sailor Men He has to Swallow now and then, And all their Knotted Yarns inside And all their Fearful Oaths beside! Put yourself in his place, my Child, Could you keep Swallowing, Undeified, If only we could make the List Of those on whom he should subsist, No Home, I'll venture to Remark, Would be complete without a Shark.

The author of "Guess" (H. M. Caldwell Company), L. J. Bridgman, asks her little readers to set their wits to work, but none of her problems are severe, and moreover, one has only to turn the page to find the solution. On all the pages there are pictures in bright colors. "Merry Jingles" (Zimmerman) is composed of rhymed information, with illustrations drawn by Harry Webster or photographed by Helen Nichols; it is a mildly interesting production. "Clean Peter and the Children of Grubbylea" (Longmans, Green & Co.) is supposed to inculcate cleanliness; but we doubt if children will pay much attention to the sermon—they will be too absorbed in the pictures. "Jingleman Jack" (Akron: The Saalfield Publishing Company) is for children of a practical turn of mind.

light of fairyland. Mr. Byam Shaw has drawn the colored pictures, and very good they are; in fact he does better work here than he has done when his ambition has led him to attempt illustrations of Shakespeare.

"The Surprise Book" (Frederick A. Stokes Company) contains one or two good illustrations by Albertine R. Wheelan; but most of her work is poor, and we have no praise at all for her rhymes by Nell K. McElhone. "Flower Legends for Children" (Longmans, Green & Co.) has some interesting text by Hilda Murray, and a number of illustrations in color by A. S.



THE FIGHT WITH THE MOSASAUR. From "Thyra." (Henry Holt & Co.)

Eland, a few of which are artistic. We may mention also "Bubble Jingles" (Rohde & Haskins), in which Stuart Travis, with verse and picture, amusingly exploits what he calls the jolly side of the automobile; "Junk" (Boston: C. N. Clark Publishing Company), a book of rather labored humor, by Leon Lempert, Jr.; "Reynard the Fox" (Boston: Dana, Estes & Co.), an adaptation of the famous fable by Mr. J. J. Mora, with admirable illustrations; "Ink Filings" (Dodd, Mead & Co.), by Flora Carleton Fagnant, a collection of novel drawings with apposite rhymes, and a handful of good miscellanies, including "Dutton's Holiday Annual for 1902" (E. P. Dutton & Co.); "Father Tuck's Annual" (Raphael Tuck & Sons); "Happy Play Times" (E. P. Dutton & Co.); "Chatterbox for 1901" (Boston: Dana, Estes & Co.); "All Round the Clock" (E. P. Dutton & Co.); and "Bible Stories" (E. P. Dutton & Co.).

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The product of a vivid imagination is "Thyra: A Romance of the Polar Pit," and it is so interesting that one forgets the utter impossibility of the whole thing. Dr. Godfrey, one of the four members of an American Arctic expedition, tells the story in the first person, which heightens the dramatic effect.

There is very little plot in "Ralph Marlowe," and that little is handled in a conventional manner. The hero goes to Babylon, a town in the Ohio oil belt, to be a clerk in the drug store owned by a crusty old doctor who has two pretty daughters.

son called "A Lily of France" might have been called "Saint Silence," after the beautiful Charlotte de Bourbon, the French princess whose many fine qualities are reflected all through the book. The other principal character is William, Prince of Orange, the "Deliverer of the Netherlands," who opened the dike, believing "better a drowned land than a lost land."

There is an abundance of history in "A Lily of France," with evidence of the careful study of original documents and of Dutch life which a visit to Holland enabled Mrs. Mason to make.

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He is getting rich out of oil speculation and finds Ralph Marlowe a valuable assistant. Of course, Ralph promptly falls in love with one of the doctor's pretty daughters, and their affair of the heart runs smoothly until a letter from the drink afflicted sister falls into Dolly's

hands. This letter is so written as to make it appear that Marlowe has deserted his wife and child, and on that misunderstanding the plot hinges. The sister finally appears on the scene and forces Marlowe to shake out the family and forces Marlowe to shake out the family and forces Marlowe to shake out the family.

Much humor that is worth while has come out of Chicago during the last few years, and in the Christmas avalanche of books there is a creditable story by a new Chicago humorist, Henry M. Hyde has discovered an interesting messenger boy, and under the title of "One-Forty-Two" he carries him through a series of experiences.

There is a laugh to be provoked by most of these, and a smile is constantly inspired by the quaint slang and strange philosophy of the boy in uniform. Number One-Forty-Two and his chum have a way of appraising their "calls" in advance and getting sent out on the good ones. They always divide the profits and help each other out of the trouble into which their enterprise plunges them.

By way of an introductory episode, the boy goes out to do detective work for a jealous woman. He prevents a divorce by telling the husband he is shadowing all about it and making him walk straight for that night, so that he can carry back a good report. Other episodes relate to the doings of people in his own station of life, and they are true to life as well as comical.

AN INNOCENT AUTHOR.

From The London Chronicle.

Some new authors arrive with such a hilarious confidence, such a blithe innocence, that it is always interesting to hear about them. One has just sent to a well known London publisher a letter something like this:

"I am told that it is usual, on the eve of the appearance of a book, to entertain all the London reviewers to a dinner. Will you kindly tell me what this would cost, where the dinner should be held, and who, in your opinion, should be invited? Of course the thing ought to be done handsomely."

It is amusing—and true.

A STORY TOLD BY ISRAELI.

From Sir Edward Hertlet's Recollections.

He said: "You know I have the honor of being one of the Elder Brethren of the Trinity House. Well, there is a special uniform belonging to the Brethren. One day I was about to attend a levee at St. James's Palace, and my valet laid out my diplomatic uniform ready for me to put on. Pleading implicit confidence in him I put it on and went to the levee. On appearing before the Prince, his Royal Highness jealously remarked, 'It won't do, you're found out.' In what, sir? I inquired. 'Oh,' said the Prince, 'you've got your wrong trousers on'; and, to my horror, on looking down I found that I had got my diplomatic uniform coat on, with the Trinity House trousers. It seemed to amuse the Prince immensely."



"SIR G. WAPSHOT AND SIR H. FUDDLESTON . . . CUT HIM DEAD." From "Vanity Fair." (The Macmillan Company.)

"Christmas Stories" and "The Mystery of Edwin Drood"—the latter mentioned being accompanied by "Master Humphrey's Clock"—the "Authentic Edition" of the novel, in twenty-one volumes, is brought to a close. We have previously made favorable reference to this edition, which is published at a popular price, but nevertheless is marked by care in the editing and by dignified manufacture.

where the children do, with the alphabet. As usual, there are several publications in which small boys and girls are lured into making an acquaintance with their letters through various ingenious devices. In "An Alphabet of Birds" (Chicago: Jamieson-Higgins Company) Gertrude Keeley puts her descriptions of birds in prose on one page and in rhyme on the other. She follows the same method in "An Alphabet of Wild Flowers" (same publishers), and in both books the illustrations are printed in colors.

These would make fair lesson books. "An Alphabet A B C" (Charles Scribner's Sons), by Harriet D. Neilson, is amusing as to its jingles and quite gorgeous as to its illustrations in bold blue or red or green. We may give a special word of praise to this. The best pages in "The Animals' Picnic" (E. P. Dutton & Co.), in which Mr. and Mrs. Elephant request the pleasure of the company of all good little boys and girls, are those in which the beasts of the forest, wondrously clad, sit for their portraits in colors. The descriptions, in verse, are by Clifton Bingham, and the pictures are by G. H. Townsend. The pictures, prose and rhymes in "Buttercup Farm" (E. P. Dutton & Co.) are of a miscellaneous character, the collection as a whole giving a pleasant panorama of country life.

Mr. Oliver Herford's sublimely funny book "More Animals" (Charles Scribner's Sons) we have spoken in warm praise before, but we are glad to refer to it again so that we may have an excuse for quoting another of his verses:

THE SHARK. This is the Shark, my Child, I pray Do not Recoil or Turn Away; 'Tis true the Shark is not the Pink Of nice Propriety, but Think! Think of the Horrid Sailor Men He has to Swallow now and then, And all their Knotted Yarns inside And all their Fearful Oaths beside! Put yourself in his place, my Child, Could you keep Swallowing, Undeified, If only we could make the List Of those on whom he should subsist, No Home, I'll venture to Remark, Would be complete without a Shark.

Mother Goose, of course, is not forgotten this year. In "Denslow's Mother Goose" (McClure, Phillips & Co.) the beloved jingles are embellished with some prodigiously funny drawings by Mr. W. W. Denslow. On every other page the design is printed on a ground of solid color and the effect is highly edifying. In "Mother Goose's Menagerie" (Boston: Noyes, Platt & Co.) Miss Carolyn Wells leads old figures through new paces, and the rhymes in which she does this are neatly turned. She has a perfect collaborator in Mr. Peter Newell, whose pictures for this book are among the best he has ever done. It is interesting to see, too, that this artist's work, when reproduced in color, is