

Literary News and Criticism

Light and Leading for the Reader of Fiction.

ESSAYS ON MODERN NOVELISTS. By William Lyon Phelps. 12mo, pp. 11. The Macmillan Company.

THE SHORT STORY IN ENGLISH. By Henry Scott Canby. Ph. D. 12mo, pp. 241. \$3. Henry Holt & Co.

WOMAN'S WORK IN ENGLISH FICTION. By Clara H. Whitmore. A. M. 12mo, pp. vii, 302. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The world and his wife are inveterate novel readers, and an extraordinary number of the writers of books are incessantly occupied in supplying their wants. Inevitably the labors of the story tellers have been supplemented by those of the critics and historians of fiction and the latter have by this time put a respectable literature to their credit.

It is a book of entertaining talk, and while the author is nothing if not critical, we gather that he has that conception of criticism which leaves plenty of elbow room for the expression of plain likes and dislikes. On no other hypothesis can we explain the curiously unsympathetic nature of his essay on Thomas Hardy, about whom he contrives to write with some flashes of appreciation, but whose essential power he would appear to have missed.

Professor Burton's "Masters of the English Novel" is not like the book just surveyed, a miscellaneous collection of fugitive papers, but a more or less academic scheme, systematically carrying the subject down from Richardson and Fielding to Stevenson.

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illustrations of his motive, they leave that motive only partially displayed. He might better have reduced the length of each one of his essays by about two-thirds and thus have made room for writers like Herman Melville, Aldrich, Holmes, Mrs. Stoddard, Bayard Taylor, Frank Stockton, Susan Warner, and so on.

"The Short Story in English" is a meritorious but not, we fear, a particularly inspiring dissertation. Professor Canby's industry is unimpeachable, and the student who follows him through his stages of research, beginning in the Middle Ages and coming down to our own time, will acquire a fair knowledge of all the important facts.

Tucked into the concluding chapter of Miss Whitmore's book on "Woman's Work in English Fiction" there is a sentence very like Professor Canby's remark on Joseph Conrad in its revelation of critical insensitiveness.

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THE GOLDEN WEST

Stories of Life in the Days of the Pioneers.

CAVANAGH, FOREST RANGER. A ROMANCE OF THE MOUNTAIN WEST. By Harold Garland. Frontispiece. 12mo, pp. 301. Harper & Bros.

THE CITY OF SIX. By Chauncey L. Canfield. With five illustrations by John W. Norton. 12mo, pp. 358. Chicago: A. C. McClure & Co.

THE EMIGRANT TRAIL. By Geraldine Bonner. Colored frontispiece. 12mo, pp. 386. Duffield & Co.

SKID PUFFER: A TALE OF THE KANKAKEE SWAMPS. Illustrated by F. T. Richards and Victor Perard. 12mo, pp. viii, 382. Henry Holt & Co.

History is placing the word *finis* under the chapter in her annals devoted to the Old West, the West that was still a part of our life twenty years ago, the inspiration of a literature of vast numbers and an infinitude of shades of artistic merit, from the dime novel upward.

The late Chauncey L. Canfield was the son of one of the Argonauts, and spent his boyhood among the claims and mines of Arizpaca County. He published his reminiscences of the life of those days in "The Diary of a Forty-Niner," utilized them as material for a number of short stories and finally set about the writing of "The City of Six," which, in the guise of a novel, offers us the sober facts of the gold mining period of California from which Bret Harte and his followers extracted so much of wild romance and adventure.

Of the crimes imputed to Mary while she sojourned in Scotland her guilt or innocence is unlikely ever to be determined, and this question was no business of Elizabeth's, at least as regards her conduct in England, to which these documents are confined.

Spring poems are still coming, even in a materialistic period like this. They are seldom satisfactory nowadays, but some of them are not without music. Witness this, "Primrose Pathway," which appears in "The Pall Mall Gazette":

When hazel catkins swing, When wild birds sing in chorus, When days are lengthening, The road leads straight before us To primrose woods of spring.

There is the dusk of yews, The tufted green of larches, The sweep of boughs that rise In endless woodland arches, Vistas of fairy views.

Across the dead-leaf floor Gold-slipped April passes, Behind her gold gleams, Her footprints primrose masses Burst upward and adore.

sense a goose is a goslin' till it's dead." The latter half of the story leads "Skid" into the Sonora desert, and the tale of adventure and danger is as good as his study of vernacular humor.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Current Talk of Things Present and to Come.

In "Notes on New England Birds," a book just coming from the Riverside Press, Mr. F. H. Allen has collected the delightful bird material to be found in the fourteen volumes of the complete edition of Thoreau's works.

The biography of the late Mark Twain has for some time been in process of preparation by his friend, Mr. Albert Bigelow Paine. With Mme. Gabriolovitch, Mark Twain's daughter, Mr. Paine is now engaged in arranging his material and in gathering whatever correspondence is of a biographical or literary nature.

A series of picturesque biographies under the general title of "Les Femmes Illustres" is to be brought out in Paris. The first volume deals with "Marie Stuart," and is by M. Augustin Filon, who will also write on "Elizabeth d'Angleterre."

The "Bardon Papers: Documents Relating to the Imprisonment and Retirement of Mary Queen of Scots," have just been issued by the Camden Society. These papers, we are told, were originally deposited in an old house in Somersetshire which had been the home of the Leigh family for three hundred years.

It was at this sale that Mr. Sabin paid \$43,250 for the Balthway papers recently described in this column. Though this correspondence relating to Colonial

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BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS. WINSTON CHURCHILL'S "A MODERN CHRONICLE." "By far the strongest and most interesting novel Mr. Churchill has written." "Much more than merely interesting, it is a performance emotionally strong, . . . undoubtedly powerful." "Quite the strongest, truest and best work Churchill has done." "Few novels of the day do not either idealize or malign the American woman of the leisure class; here she is interpreted." "Intensely modern." "Intensely interesting." THESE ARE THE OPINIONS OF COMPETENT CRITICS UPON WINSTON CHURCHILL'S "A MODERN CHRONICLE." Published at \$1.50 by THE MACMILLAN COMPANY For Sale by all Booksellers

SUCCESSFUL SPRING FICTION. SECOND LARGE EDITION. The Heart of Desire. By ELIZABETH DEJEANS. Author of "The Winning Chance." An intensely dramatic and absorbing novel of the instincts of woman-kind—an analysis of a woman, human and appealing—with its scenes laid in Southern California. "A book of unflinching interest."—St. Louis Globe Democrat. Three Colored Illustrations by The Kinneys. ROUTLEDGE RIDES ALONE. By WILL LEVINGTON COMFORT. "Comfort has succeeded where Kipling failed. He has written a consistently dramatic, vigorous, and able novel, with a war-correspondent as the hero, India and Manchuria in war time as the background, and a peering element of Oriental mysticism in which East and West mingle. Moreover, he has woven into the book an appealing and distinguished love romance."—Philadelphia Press. Colored Frontispiece by Martin Justice. Raleigh. A Spirited Romance of Elizabeth's Court. By WM. DEVERUX and STEPHEN LOVELL. With 8 Illustrations showing Scenes from the Play. Bella Donna. Robert Hichens' Greatest Novel. Is the most widely discussed book of the day.

ON SALE EVERYWHERE J. B. LIPPINCOTT CO. PUBLISHERS PHILADELPHIA

Mr. Oppenheim at His Best. The Illustrious Prince. By E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM. The startling methods of the American Ambassador and an English Duke to circumvent an Oriental plot form the basis of this new Oppenheim story. Illustrated by Will Foster. \$1.50. "One vast substantial smile."—New York Times.

An American Baby Abroad. By MRS. CHARLES N. CREWSON. Something new in fiction—the story of how an American baby played Cupid to a Kentucky beauty. With 20 pictures by R. F. Outcalt and Modest Stein. \$1.50.

A New Book by the Famous Swedish Writer The Girl from the Marsh Croft. By SELMA LAGERLOF. An account of the adventures of a Kentucky beauty who falls in love with an American baby's cupid.

The Most Practical Book of Its Kind. PLAY: Games for the Kindergarten, Playground, School Room and College. By EMMETT DUNN ANGELL. Contains over 100 games carefully graded, including water sports suitable for indoors and outdoors; girls' basket ball, etc. With over 50 illustrations from photograph, diagrams, etc. \$1.50 net; postpaid \$1.63. LITTLE, BROWN & CO., Publishers, Boston

BRENTANO'S OON VOYAGE BOOK BOXES. \$2.50 \$7.50 5.00 10.00. BRENTANO'S 5th Ave. & 27th St. New York. RARE BOOKS & PRINTS IN EUROPE. "A L-L-OUT-OF-PRINT-BOOKS" WRITE ME: can get you any book ever published on any subject. The most expert book dealer extant. When in England call and see my 300,000 rare books. BAKER'S GREAT 3000 SHOPS, John Bright St., Birmingham.

A Great Flying Machine Story. Danbury Rodd, Aviator. By FREDERICK PALMER. Rapid, thrilling narratives of navigation in the air. In Rodd, the hero, is presented the ideal driver of the aeroplane—cool, resourceful, intrepid. He is the Knight-Errent of the future—the coming era of aerial navigation—like the knights of the past he seeks adventure and the ideal woman. He finds both. Illustrated. \$1.50. "The tense dramatic quality of the incidents hold the reader in breathless attention."—The Brooklyn Eagle. Charles Scribner's Sons. LITERATURE. AN APPROACH TO WALT WHITMAN. By Clayton Kopp. Frontispiece. 12mo, pp. 230. (The Houghton Mifflin Company.) A study of Whitman and his work. CAUSERS OF LUNACY. By C. A. Salmeron-Beuve. Translated with an introduction and notes, by E. J. Trechmann, M. A. Ph. D. 16mo, pp. xvi, 388. (E. P. Dutton & Co.) This is the first volume in what is hoped, Dr. Trechmann will make a complete translation of the critical writings of Sainte-Beuve. It opens with the essay on Sainte-Beuve's "Constitutions," on October 1, 1839. Four similar volumes which we have also revised carry the record down to March, 1851. The translator gives us an excellent version of the original. He should be encouraged in his labor of love. PHILOSOPHY. THE INFLUENCE OF DARWIN ON PHILOSOPHY. And Other Essays in Contemporary Thought. By John Dewey, professor of philosophy in Columbia University. 12mo, pp. vi, 306. (Henry Holt & Co.) A collection of eleven essays in contemporary thought belonging to the pragmatic phase of its newer movement.