Literary News and Criticism

A Winning Novel by a New American Author.

QUEED. A Novel. By Henry Sydnor Harrison. With a frontispiece by R. M. Crosby. 12mo, pp. x, 430. The Houghton Mifflin Company.

Five years ago Mr. William De Morgan gave to readers of fiction a sensation of delight such as they had not enjoyed in a long period. "Joseph Vance" disclosed the originality and the charm which we so seldom encounter that we scarce think of looking for those qualities any more, and, in fact, one does not need to be a pessimist in order to doubt their turning up again at all. The novel of the day is not precisely a thrilling affair. Why should one have much confidence in its suddenly being raised to a higher power? Well, the type may rub along in its familiar groove, but here is Mr. Henry Sydnor Harrison to show us that he, at any rate, has nothing to do with the type. He has written a novel in his own way, on a good theme, and he gives us just the surprise and the pleasure that we received from Mr. De Morgan, with an added tang traceable both to the author and to his material. "Joseph Vance" owed much of its strength and beauty to the revival in its pages of what can only be described as the Victorian tradition of novel writing. "Queed" is a book of to-day, written by an American, and its appeal is to us therefore peculiarly intimate and moving.

Besides being an American Mr. Harrison is an artist, a point upon which we are the more inclined to insist because the earlier chapters of his book make it seem a little doubtful. You wonder if he is going to give himself up to analysis of eccentric character at the expense of his story as a story, the latter moving a little slowly and even somewhat loosely. Presently, however, you see that the author knows quite well what he is about and is engaged in establishing analysis and narrative in just the right relation—the right relation, that is, for the furtherance of his own very special and individualized purpose. To put that purpose in a nutshell, we should say that it was the interpretation of the spirit of things in American life, the portrayal of a group of human beings not for the sake of external traits but for the sake of their souls and their really representative character. The scene is laid in the South, but there is nothing here of that mawkishness and that dreadful "bounce" by which we have been bored and fairly sickened in the pages of so many of the novelists of that region. There is no ecstatic sentimentality about the unparalleled loveliness of the Southern women; we are not asked to bend the knee in awe before Southern "chivalry," and, perhaps best of all, we are spared initiation into the fainting blisses of Southern cookery. When he has occasion to treat of the South as the South Mr. Harrison goes with a very delicate touch to the heart of the subject. Let the reader turn to the chapter over which is placed the legend "Queed sits on the Steps with Sharlee, and sees Some Old Soldiers go marching by." Surely we need not explain what the chapter contains, but we must note that its tribute to Southern patriotism is poignant, sane and sweet. It is so for no other reason than that Mr. Harrison is simple and sincere, writing with honest feeling and letting all emotional claptrap humorously alone.

The hero of this book is a young man, very much alone in the world, who has been brought up in ignorance of his parentage by a New York policeman. With diabolical precocity he has made himself a scholar, but when he comes from the North to live in the town of this novel and complete a great book on Sociology he knows neither parents nor friends and carries himself as an absolutely egotistical recluse. In the first chapter he is knocked over in the street by Behemoth, the great "pleasure dog" of the heroine, Miss Sharlee Weyland, "Sharlee" being, by the way, the short for Charlotte Lee. Queed sees nothing to laugh at in his harmless accident. He sees nothing to laugh at in anything, and in the boarding house kept by Miss Weyland's aunt the bleak youth moves like a machine, repelling all those about him and altogether promising to make a hopeless mess of his life. Something of the tragedy of his situation may be gathered from these touches in the portrait that Sharlee draws of him, for his soul's good, at the middle stage of their acquaintanceship:

> You are a failure as a sociologist for the same reason as both your other failures: you are wholly out of relation with real life. Sociology is the science of human society. You know absolutely nothing about human society, except what other men have found out and written down in textbooks. You say that you are an evolutionary sociologist. Yet a wonderful demonstration in social evolution is going on all around you, and *you don't even know it*. You are standing here directly between two civilizations. On the one side there are Colonel Cowles and my old grandmother—mother of your landlady, plucky dear! On the other there are our splendid young men, men who, with traditions of leisure and cultured idleness in their blood, have pitched in with their hands and heads to make this state *hum*, and will soon be meeting and beating your Northern young men at every turn. On one side there is the old slaveholding aristocracy; on the other the finest democracy in the world; and here and now human society is evolving from one thing to the other. A real sociologist would be absorbed in watching this marvellous process: social evolution actually surprised in her workshop. But you—I doubt if you even knew it was going on. A tremendous social drama is being acted out under your very window, and you yawn and *pull down the blind*.

Obviously, Sharlee has constituted herself the guide, philosopher and friend of Queed, and, just as obviously, she has an almost impossible protege on her hands. Indeed, this passage, deep as it cuts, does not, by any means, exhaust the hero's potentialities for mulish, callous resistance to the kindly influences around him. There are moments in which Queed is fairly appalling and seems the least likable young man that ever strayed into a novel. But it is a testimony to the author's power that we never lose our sympathy for his amazing young sociologist. Is not this but another way of saying that Queed is a thoroughly human creature?

There lies the secret of this book. Of the development of the story, of the processes by which Queed's problem is worked out, we resolutely refrain from saying a word, for we will not spoil, by so much as the fraction of a revelation, the pleasure which the reader will have in following the comedy for himself. But there need be no restraint in speaking of Mr. Harrison's insight and art in the portrayal of character. His people are of all sorts, politicians, editors, business men, the miscellaneous types of the boarding house aforesaid, and mere men and women. All of these people, major and minor, stand upon their own legs and all have the most beguiling reality. Some of them we like or dislike at first sight, as in life itself. Others, and notably Queed himself, we learn to understand gradually, and as we go along, again as in life itself. In every case we feel that we are laying hands upon the truth, that the author has not for a moment captured us by doing this or that for mere effect. Take, for example, Mr. Charles Gardiner West, who is not in any literal sense the villain of the piece, but certainly serves as a foil to the hero. A better portrait of the typical American of the more specious sort was never painted. Queed, the bigger and finer man of the two, so justifies himself that he rightly holds the centre of the stage, yet we are not sure but that the study of West is the more consummate achievement on the author's part. We look with warm admiration upon his dealings with this figure, dealings the more impressive because they steadily avoid the note of over-emphasis that must have been fatally easy to strike in the circumstances. Nowhere else is Mr. Harrison more tactful, and the book abounds in tact.

It is the tact of the artist, the sure, selective touch which is partly a matter of trained literary skill and even more a matter of instinct. Extend the analysis into those parts of the book which are distinctly emotional and you find the author preserving the same poise, writing with the same fine firmness. A young girl dies in the book and Queed goes to her funeral. The scene is one to read with tears, and these may be honorably shed, for Mr. Harrison's pathos is, like his humor, absolutely unforced. Very manfully he writes, telling of a life which you feel he has not so much observed as shared, and kindling to its interests quite naturally, so that you listen as to the narrative of a friend. We hear, in season and out of season, about "the great American novel," chiefly from those who have a theory as to how it should ultimately be written. We do not say that Mr. Harrison has written it. But he has shown us one way of going about the task, and, incidentally, has given us that deep pleasure which, as we said at the outset, is offered to the reader of fiction only once or twice in a very long time.

LASSALLE

The Man, His Life and His Work.

FERDINAND LASSALLE. By George Brandes. 8vo, pp. 230. The Macmillan Company.

Begun thirty-six years ago in the form of a series of articles in an English magazine, completed in its present form in 1881, Mr. Brandes's monograph bears the stamp of that talent which has won for him his prominent place in the literature of the nineteenth century. As a character study the book is far more than brilliant. It is of sterling consistency, so lucidly developed that, having read it, one returns with fullest appreciation to the brief characterization of its subject with which it opens:

> Somewhere, in one of his letters, which is full of impatient outbursts against the tardiness with which events develop, Lassalle uses the phrase "my ardent soul." Thousands use the expression, as the mere figure of speech it has become. Lassalle perhaps alone could use it without exaggeration, for his innermost being concealed some force akin to fire. His burning love for knowledge and science, his thirst for righteousness and truth, his enthusiasm, his unrestrained self-confidence, his deep self-conceit, his courage, his delight in power—these were characteristics which all found expression in the same fiery and devouring manner. He was a bearer of light and fire to the world; a bearer of light, bold and defiant as Lucifer himself; a torchbearer who delighted to stand in the full glare of the torch with which he brought enlightenment—*grand oseur et grand poseur*.

The author holds no brief for socialism in these pages. His view of Lassalle the agitator is that of the impartial historian, who links past with present, but ventures to cast a speculative look into the future. It is in the scientific historic spirit that he deals with "Capital and Labor" and its relation to Karl Marx's work. It is ever the man himself, his mind, his will, his magnetic personality, that are kept in the foreground as the real causes of his influence.

The subject matter of the volume is divided into two periods of approximately equal length. The first deals with Lassalle's birth, environment and early life, with his philological studies, his "Herakilitus," and, above all, with that feat of modern chivalry, his eight years' struggle in the Prussian courts of law for the rights of Countess Hatzfeldt, a Homeric battle won by a needy young enthusiast for a penniless woman in the face of all the resources of Prussian aristocracy and wealth. This was the time also of his first entrance upon the field of politics.

The second period is that of the years 1862-'64, and embraces the whole of that part of his work that has made his name known throughout the world, including the closing episode, most widely known of all—his fatal duel and its cause. The author shows us here a new, an unforeseen, an incalculable Lassalle, a blunderer, despairing in the profundity of his feeling, but withal acutely conscious of the ridicule which the failure of his suit must pour upon his colossal vanity. But there was more, Dr. Brandes holds, a break-up of the vital power within him, and the consequent rise to the surface of coarser elements in his disposition, hitherto perhaps unknown even to himself.

That was the end, but his allotted task had already been completed. These two years were a period of achievement, of amazing activity and agitation, of triumph and popularity. Between March, 1862, and June, 1864, he wrote twenty works, three or four of which attained the length of books; he delivered numerous speeches, was constantly negotiating with deputations of laborers, founded and organized the General Union of German Workmen, and carried on an enormous correspondence, while at the same time entangled in at least ten political lawsuits. The author traces the theoretical foundations upon which Lassalle built his agitation, the basis of his whole activity, to the ideas of the German democracy of 1848.

REMBRANDT'S HOUSE.

From The London Globe.

Within a short time Amsterdam will possess a new attraction to lovers of art. The house where Rembrandt lived from 1639-'58, and where he passed the most happy years of his married life with Sashia van Uilenburg, is being restored and arranged as a small Rembrandt museum. The historical building, long much neglected, became the property some time ago of a society, and is now being restored under the direction of a famous architect.

As is well known, says the "Mundus," Rembrandt had a great passion for collecting, and the house at Amsterdam during his life contained innumerable treasures; the walls were covered with pictures by Carracci, Raphael, Michelangelo, Novellara, Brouwer, Hals, Lievens, Porcellis, etc. There were a great number of curious arms, prints by Lucas Mantegna, Raphael, Michelangelo, Tempesta, Titian, Rurer, Holbein, Van Dyke, Rubens, Morevelt and Callot, an almost complete collection. One would have gladly seen the house restored as it was when Rembrandt inhabited it, but that could not be, as it was quite impossible to obtain again all the works of art which it once contained, and thus it is now arranged as a small museum, where chiefly etchings and drawings, about seventy in all, by the great painter will be on view.

JUVENILES

Summer Reading for Boys and Girls.

The writers of books for the young and their publishers have once more done their share of making the long vacation of our boys and girls as pleasant and interesting as possible. Here is a long shelf full of books, entertaining and instructive, and often exciting enough to lure from more active pursuits on sunshiny days, as well as to make profitable "lost" ones of drizzle and rain. History, adventure and sport, camping and athletics, all contribute toward the entertainment, and all the seasons are represented. It is sometimes not unwelcome to read of snow and frost and skating and hunting in mid-July. Decidedly of the long summer is Zane Grey's "The Young Pitcher" (Harper), which opens so brightly that even grown-ups will recall for a moment their vanished college days. Its hero, Ken Ward, is an old acquaintance of our boys. In the present story he begins as a freshman, slowly learns to know the strange rules laid down for "freshies" by their elders, leads rushes, and attracts the attention of the baseball coach by putting to flight a mob of "sophs" with a basketful of admirably pitched potatoes. So on the team he goes. A wholesome story for high animal spirits. Football is the sport to which "Cliff Stirling" (Philadelphia: David MacKay) is devoted. This is a tale of school, not college, life. The hero shares the honors, not so much of the game as of developing manly traits, with another boy who has to prove his prowess and merit step by step in the skeptical republic of boyhood.

The hard road of a Texan in a New England school is the subject of Morgan Scott's "Boys of Oakdale Academy" (Hurst & Co.). East is East and West is West through many pages of this story, but in the end all is well. A readable tale, even though the New Englanders occasionally descend to atrocious puns. "Ben Stone at Oakdale," by the same author and with the same imprint, is a sort of American ugly duckling story, the ostracized, humiliated boy winning the respect of his enemies in the end. Football plays a part in this story. The boyhood of Dave Porter has already furnished material for ten stories to his biographer, Mr. Edward Stratemeyer, thanks in part to the boy's natural desire to find his father, in search of whom he visited the South Seas and Norway, his persistence being properly rewarded. In the intervals of his search he attended school. In the eleventh volume of the series, "Dave Porter and His Rivals" (Boston: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard), he is back there, and discovers that the establishment is dominated by a new and far from desirable set of boys. Here's the plot, which is diversified with automobiling, motorboating, football, hockey, skating and other sports. While a link in a series that is apparently to be continued, the story is complete in itself. Mrs. Etta Anthony Baker's "The Captain of the S. I. G.'s"—the Staten Island Giants—(Little-Brown) is, of course, a baseball story, but the members of the club have other diversions and games. The local color of the book is not strong enough to prevent it from being read and understood anywhere but in the Borough of Richmond.

ADVENTURE.

A thrilling story of Ohio River pirates at the close of the eighteenth century is told by Frederick Walworth Brown in "Dan McLean's Adventures" (The Baker & Taylor Company). Dan is their captive on the island that serves as their headquarters. The problem of his escape becomes more urgent when a young girl is brought in after another foray. "The Dreadnought Boys on Battleship Practice," by Captain Wilbur Lawton (Hurst & Co.), is a swiftly moving tale of two young American naval recruits, and Lieutenant Howard Payson's "The Boy Scouts of the Eagle Patrol" (same publishers), a story of many happenings along the south shore of Long Island, boy scouting being but one of its many interests. It were impossible to tell in a brief notice all the adventures crowded by Dr. George Cary Eggleston into "What Happened at Quasi" (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard). Quasi, be it known, is a peninsula on the coast of South Carolina, where four youths, two from the North and two Southerners, spend the summer. Sailing, hunting and fishing are complicated by the efforts of a band of smugglers to drive them away, since they interfere and are deemed dangerous, and, for good measure, there is at the end a happy find. A rattling good story.

The life and work of the cattle range in the good old days are worked into the story of "Wells Brothers, the Young Cattle Kings" (The Houghton Mifflin Company), by that old hand, Mr. Andy Adams, in the best way imaginable that combines both romance and fact. Of course the boys succeed, but the darker side is not altogether forgotten. The boys' summer camp, its organization and routine are dealt with in "Camp St. Dunstan" (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard), by Mr. Warren L. Eldred, from whose picture of the life in these useful institutions no amusement or sport seems to have been omitted. By way of good measure, there is a mystery in the story. Tod felt lonely in the coast village where he was spending his vacation with his parents. So his kind mother allowed him to invite his nice, quiet friend Dick to visit him, during the season, Dick's parents being in India, for this is an English story. But from the moment of his arrival Dick proved to be born to trouble as the sparks fly upward. The record of all his mischief, into which he dragged Tod, of course, is amusingly told by R. E. Vernede in "The Quietness of Dick" (Holt). That industrious and ingenious writer of aviation stories, Mr. H. L. Sayler, has added two more books on the subject to his growing list, "The Airship Boys in Finance," which is a wondrous tale of a flying cow and Wall Street, and "The Airship Boys' Ocean Flyer," which made the crossing from New York to London in twelve hours (Reilly & Britton).

PAGES FROM HISTORY.

First issued in the fall of last year, Charles H. L. Johnston's "Famous Scouts" (L. C. Page & Co.) continues to deserve the attention of young America in search of picturesque reading. Israel Putnam, Daniel Boone, Simon Kenton, Lewis and Clarke, Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, Kit Carson—these are romantic names. There are other heroes of the forerunners of civilization in this book, which ends with an account of the exploits of Buffalo Bill, the last scout of the old frontier. Mr. Johnston ends his book with a declaration of faith in arbitration for the English-speaking nations, and an appeal to our boys to learn to shoot straight, because "Americans and Englishmen do not wish to see their countries walked over."——A quintet of books by William M. Thayer that appears in a new issue, printed from the old plates, is "From Farm House to White House," "From Boyhood to Manhood," "From Pioneer House to White House," "From Tannery to White House" and "From Log Cabin to White House," these being stories of the careers of Washington, Franklin, Lincoln, Grant and Garfield (Hurst & Co.).——Augusta Huiell Seaman has added to the large literature concerned with the problematic escape of the Dauphin what she declares to be the story on the subject for the young. "When a Cobbler Ruled the King" (The Sturgis & Walton Company) is in part a picture, not of the Revolution, but of conditions in Paris under the Terror, in which several historical personages of the period figure, Napoleon foremost among them. The tale presupposes a certain measure of historical knowledge on the part of its young readers, without which they would, indeed, be very much at a loss. According to the author, the Dauphin left France for America with the declaration that he would never consent to rule over the people that had murdered his father and mother. The story appeals most of all to the compassion of the young.

HERO AND FAIRY LORE.

Still another collection of hero tales is put forward by Mr. Francis Storr, editor of "The Journal of Education," of London, who is of the opinion that "young readers of to-day resent the sermons even of a Kingsley," and that the stories may be relied upon to point their own moral. "Half a Hundred Hero Tales of Ulysses and the Men of Old" (Holt), has been collected from many sources, Hawthorne's "Tanglewood Tales" alone contributing no less than ten. Most of the immortal tales are here, the Wooden Horse of Troy, the Quest of the Golden Fleece, Theseus and Ariadne, the Death of Hector, Ulysses and the Cyclops, Pyramus and Thisbe, Hero and Leander, Pygmalion, Romulus and Remus, King Midas and Polycrates and his ring—a selection wisely made.——"Historic Girlhoods," by Rupert S. Holland (Philadelphia: Jacobs & Co.) spans the ages from Saint Catharine to Louisa Alcott, with, in between, Joan of Arc, Mary Stuart, Pocahontas and Priscilla Alden, Catharine the Great, Fanny Burney, Sarah Siddons, the Empress Josephine, Louisa of Prussia, Florence Nightingale, Queen Victoria and others to the number of twenty-one. In the case of most of them the title "Girlhoods of Historic Women" would have been a better title. The author mingles fancy with facts when they are scant, and, considering his youthful audience, is properly reticent when occasion demands.——That delightful picture of school life in the Middle West in the fifties of the last century, Mary Hartwell Catherwood's "Rocky Fork," has been issued in a welcome new edition, with illustrations by Frank T. Merrill (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard). The charm of the book, its atmosphere, will probably mean more to grown-ups than to the children of this generation.——"Favorites from Fairyland" (Harper) contains six classics of the nursery selected by well known grown-ups, as follows: "Little Snowdrop," the choice of Mr. Howard Pyle; "Cinderella," selected by Professor Lounsbury, Mr. John Bigelow and the children of the late ex-President Cleveland; "The Ugly Duckling," Miss Jane Addams's favorite; "Jack and the Beanstalk," recommended by President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia and Mr. Hamilton W. Mabie; "Beauty and the Beast," the late Mrs. Julia Ward Howe's choice, and "Sleeping Beauty," suggested by Dr. Shailer Mathews and Dr. Henry van Dyke. The illustrations are by the fantastic Mr. Peter Newell.——After the "Teddy" books the "Sidney" books, and now Miss Anna Chapin Ray comes forward with the first of the "Buddie" books. "Buddie: The Story of a Boy" (Little, Brown & Co.) is an entertaining tale, and the boy in it is a likable boy, a boys' boy, a manly chap who promises to make friends among the youngsters. Miss Ray has a pretty knack of writing sound, wholesome and at the same time highly diverting juvenile stories.——Hunting with a camera is proved to be a most attractive sport in "The Blue Goose Chase" (The Baker & Taylor Company), by Mr. Herbert K. Job, State Ornithologist of Connecticut, the title of his book referring to his actual trip down the delta of the Mississippi and the western coast of Louisiana in a successful quest for the winter habitat of the blue goose.

THE GREEN SEA.

From Notes and Queries.

I have never understood why Byron, who knew more about the sea's moods than most poets, should have called Shakespeare a "greenhorn," and ridiculed the lines,

> Thy multitudinous sea incarnadine,
> Making the green one red.

Byron maintained that "blue" or "gray" would have been more true to nature. Shakespeare may have judged by his own experience, and he must often have heard sailors speaking of "a green sea" washing over the forecastle of their ships, but in that case the adjective is applicable not to the actual color of the wave, but to its volume.

As to the general appearance of the sea, that must, I suppose, be a matter of circumstance and opinion; but, from a purely scientific point of view, it is interesting to note a remark made by Lord Rayleigh, who a few months ago delivered a lecture on "The Colors of the Sea and Sky": "The true color of the sea might be seen in rough weather, when, looking through a wave with the sun behind it, the observer would perceive no blue, but a fully developed green."

Experimenting with water from Capri and from Suez, Lord Rayleigh "got a color which might complimentarily be called blue, but rather was greenish-blue; while that from the Seven Stones Lightship off the Cornish coast gave a full green."

So Shakespeare was, as usual, perfectly correct.

NEW FRENCH BOOKS

M. Rodin on the Great Gothic Cathedrals.

Paris, May 25.

M. Auguste Rodin, the Dante of modern French sculpture and author of the yet unfinished "Gates of Hell," has written a book about "The Cathedrals of France," published by Plon-Nourrit. He does not attempt to give minute architectural descriptions of these grand edifices, but confines himself to analyzing the impressions received from them. The French cathedrals are the finest manifestations of Gothic art, which, according to M. Rodin, is essentially a French art. The cathedrals were the outcome of French nature. One can never understand them or love them unless one understands and loves French nature. In studying them one finds that unity, dignity and harmony of proportion which go to make up what is called "le gout," or purity of taste in art. This taste is defined by M. Rodin as "the adaptation of human will and force to the will and force of nature." All admirers of these great edifices will find delightful chapters in M. Rodin's book, in which he celebrates the cathedrals of Chartres, Amiens, Rheims, Melun, Sens and Mans.

Mme. Judith Gautier's charming little booklet of verse, issued by Fasquelle, contains a score of bright and pleasing poems descriptive of life and scenery in China, Japan, Egypt and Paris. These Oriental images of daring fancy appear at a timely moment, because at the Bibliothèque Nationale an exhibition in commemoration of her father, Théophile Gautier, is now open, where one may see, until the end of July, a most interesting collection of portraits, caricatures, love letters, pipes, waistcoats and personal relics of the poet described by Baudelaire as the "parfait magicien-des-Lettres." From Fasquelle, also, comes, "Anicette et Pierre Desrades," a light and frisky novel by M. Marius-Ary Leblond, dealing with the primitive lives of two children, twelve years old, who were born and brought up in the Ile de la Réunion. Daragon publishes "Mon Iceberg," by M. René d'Ybag, a romance of a young officer during the military manœuvres in Normandy.

M. Tristan Bernard, sometimes called the "French Mark Twain," has gathered together in a small volume a number of short stories and ironical skits on well known Parisians, with the title "Sur Les Grands Chemins," published by Ollendorff. Bernard's humor and dry wit are permeated with quixotic sadness. His experiences with the telephone, which are often "an exasperating awaiting for the invisible, are analyzed with true philosophical feeling. C. I. B.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Current Talk of Things Present and to Come.

There are Dickensians and Dickensians. More than forty years ago the great novelist gave a public reading in which through his impersonations of Sikes and Nancy he stirred his audience out of itself. But Mr. W. F. Prideaux writes to "The Athenæum" to say that he was there and was thus affected: "Strange to say, the impression that lingers longest in my own memory is not of the wonderful Sikes and Fagin, but of Dickens himself in his immaculate evening dress, glancing down at his buttonhole and seeing the flower was a little faded, and after the interval returning with a fresher bloom." That is surely a priceless recollection. The author continues: "It is possible that the actions of the natural man impress us more than the greatest efforts of dramatic art." Quite so.

Morris in Iceland.

Four more volumes have just been issued in the beautifully printed new edition of the works of William Morris, which is being edited, with introductions, by his daughter. Two of these complete "The Earthly Paradise," one is given to "The Story of Grettir the Strong" and "The Story of the Volsungs and Niblungs," and in the fourth we have the poet's journal of his travels in Iceland in the early 70's. They make delightful reading, for the scenes traversed touched his genius at some of its most sensitive points, and he wrote, in consequence, with infectious gusto. The subject is one on which to pause at some length, but we are content to note now just the rapidity with which Longmans, Green & Co. are carrying out a fine enterprise.

Baedeker.

About this time look out for new volumes of Baedeker, new editions of those inimitable guide books which are really more than guide books, and make by themselves a little literature. From the Scribners we have received the twelfth edition of "The Eastern Alps," the sixteenth of "London and Its Environs," the fifteenth of "Belgium and Holland" and one altogether new volume. This is "The Mediterranean," which embraces all the sea routes and covers enchanting excursions into Spain and Morocco, into Algiers and Tunis and over much other Southern ground. The German edition appeared in 1909. This one has been prepared by Professor John Kirkpatrick, who fifty years ago translated the handbook for the Rhine and thus introduced Baedeker to the English speaking world.

Alpina Americana.

Several years ago the American Alpine Club published a monograph on the Sierra Nevada. Now, in the second number of "Alpina Americana," it celebrates the marvels of the Canadian Rockies. The text, by Professor Charles E. Fay, describes the physical characteristics of the mountains and briefly traverses the history of their exploration. There is a list of peaks above ten thousand feet in height, which includes data relating to the first ascents, and at the back there is a valuable map. Most welcome of all is the series of large half-tones from photographs, pictures of extraordinary beauty. They are printed very clearly, on a generous scale. Altogether this is a publication to rejoice the soul of every mountain lover.

A Tragic Story.

One of the most stirring stories of our Civil War—and one full of the elements of tragedy—is that of which the Virginian woman, Elizabeth Van Lew, was the heroine. It is told with vivid effect by Mr. W. G. Beymer in the current "Harper." With amazing resource and determination Miss Van Lew served as the most important spy of the federal government in Richmond, and as the helper and protectress of the Northern officers in Libby prison. She was in constant danger, for suspicion dogged her; but out of her unquenchable hatred of slavery and a love for the Union as great she drew courage for work which might possibly have meant a rope for her. One day she had a cipher dispatch to send to General Grant—a report of the number and disposition of the Confederate forces in and about Richmond. She went forth, market basket in hand, to seek a messenger:

> A man overtook her and whispered as he passed: "I'm going through to-night!" She gave no start of surprise, no look of curiosity; the man walked just ahead and she followed. Was the federal agent come at last?—or was this another of the countless traps of the secret police? The man was an utter stranger to her, but the need was urgent, imperative—should she take the chance? She quickened her pace, and as she in turn passed him again came the whisper: "I'm going through the lines to-night!" In her hand she held the cipher dispatch, torn into strips and each strip rolled into a tiny ball; should she commence to drop them one by one? In great perplexity and fear she quickly glanced back for a look at his face. And instantly some instinct, some woman's instinct said "No," and on that inner prompting she impulsively turned into a side street and hurried home. Next day she saw that man, a junior officer, marching past her house for the front with his Confederate regiment. By such hairs as these did the sword hang over her day after day, day after day.

Fame and Finance.

The Johnson Society of Lichfield, the town wherein the lexicographer was born, has lately been visiting his London haunts. One of the group, we are told, was frankly communicative as to the commercial side of literary reverence. "What we are really here for," he is quoted as saying, "is to make people talk about Lichfield. We want to turn Lichfield into a pocket Stratford. They say that Stratford makes £40,000 a year out of Shakespeare. Well, why shouldn't we make our little bit out of Johnson?" He continued:

> There is really no reason why we shouldn't manage to rope in every American who comes to England. If you ask me, Lichfield is a far finer type of a sleepy old English cathedral town, with grass growing in the streets, and the whole place hardly changed since the eighteenth century. Then we have Addison as well, and Garrick would have been born there if only his mother had not gone to stay for a week at Hereford. Properly managed, it ought to be a little gold mine.

Cromwell's Last Prayer.

From a MS. quoted in Notes and Queries.

> "His highness prayer Thursday in ye afternoon being 2 Sept. 1658. Dyed ye 3rd.
>
> "'I am a poore foolishe fellowe O Lord and Thy people would fain have me live. And they think it best for them I should live. And they think if I live it will redound much to Thy glorie. And all the stir is about this. And some would fain have me dead. Lord pardon them and pardon Thy foolishe people and forgive their sinn. And do not forsake them, but love them and bless them and give them rest and bring them to a consistency. And give me rest for Jesus Christ his sake. To whom wth Thee and Thy Holy Spirit be glory and praise for evermore. Amen.
>
> "'And now, Lord, forgive the sinn of this little foolish prayer of mine.
>
> "'I am a Conqueror, more then a Conqueror through Jesus Christ that strengthens me.'
>
> "And after these words he had but little sense, but after some hours tossings, about 3 on fryday morning he lay still and so continued till he expired at 3 in the afternoone.
>
> "[Transcribed from an original paper of Majr Genl Butler, who is said to have taken the words at ye beds feet of Oliver Cromwell.]"

She Knew Sir Walter.

One of the few persons who knew Sir Walter Scott has just died, in her ninety-second year, in her house, near Abbotsford. This was Miss Jane Smith, the daughter of the novelist, architect and builder, John Smith. Sir Walter often came to the architect's house to discuss alterations or additions at Abbotsford, and was always kind to the small Jane. One who knew her in later years says in "The Scotsman":

> She particularly remembered one frosty morning just before Sir Walter left for his last journey abroad, when, having alighted from his carriage and seeing her at the gate, he said: "I've come tae see your father, Jane; but how's a puir lame auld man tae walk along they slippery stanes unaided? Ye might hae putten some ashes for him tae walk on!" and then, perhaps noticing her shyness and concern, with a kindly smile he said, in that engagingly affectionate manner which endeared him to all he met were it but for a moment. "Come, my child, let me lean upon your shoulder, and sae we winna need the auld ashes!" So, with one arm on his cane and the other on the young girl's shoulder, the man passed in at the door of the house in which Miss Smith died a few days ago. He smiled to her as he passed out, and she did not see him again; but well remembered a day when all were in black and wisps of crape were tied on every cottage door handle in Darnick, as the long procession of mourners, extending for a distance of two miles, passed slowly through the village in silence, following to its last rest within the hallowed ground of the Abbey Church of Dryburgh the body of the loved Laird of Abbotsford.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE.

THE MATERIALS OF THE PAINTER'S CRAFT. In Europe and Egypt from Earliest Times to the End of the Seventeenth Century, with Some Account of Their Preparation and Use. By A. P. Laurie, M. A., D. Sc. Containing seven reproductions in color and other illustrations. 8vo, pp. xv, 443. (Philadelphia: The J. B. Lippincott Company.)

An exposition of the methods and materials employed for wall painting and decoration, frescos, panel pictures and illuminated manuscripts.

THE ENGLISH STAIRCASE. An Historical Account of Its Characteristic Types to the End of the Eighteenth Century. By Walter H. Godfrey. Illustrated from photographs by Horace Dan, etc., and from Measured Drawings and Sketches. 8vo, pp. xvi, 74, lxiii. (Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons.)

Illustrating the principal types used in England and Scotland.

BIOGRAPHY.

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF MARTIN LUTHER. By Preserved Smith, Ph. D. With illustrations. 8vo, pp. xvi, 490. (The Houghton Mifflin Company.)

The story of his life and career, presenting him as a great character rather than as a great theologian.

THREE YEARS IN THE CONFEDERATE HORSE ARTILLERY. By George M. Neese. 12mo, pp. 362. (The Neale Publishing Company.)

A diary of passing events, written during the war, descriptive of personal experiences on the firing line.

EDUCATIONAL.

A STUDY IN SOUTHERN POETRY. For Use in Schools, Colleges and the Library. By Henry Jerome Stockard, President of Peace Institute. 8vo, pp. 346. (The Neale Publishing Company.)

Opening with a brief treatise on the art of poetics, selections from the work of Southern poets follow. The work of each is prefaced by a biographical sketch and is followed by questions for study.

FICTION.

THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE. (L'Homme Sans Figure.) By Albert Boissiere. English version by Florence Crewe-Jones. Illustrations by J. H. Redman. 12mo, pp. 339. (The G. W. Dillingham Company.)

A romance of love, mystery, crime and adventure.

IN HER OWN RIGHT. By John Reed Scott. With illustrations in color by Clarence F. Underwood. 12mo, pp. 336. (Philadelphia: The J. B. Lippincott Company.)

A chronicle of love and mystery of the present day.

THE FIRST LAW. A Romance. By Gilson Willets. Illustrations by Robert A. Graef. 12mo, pp. 352. (The G. W. Dillingham Company.)

In order to save herself from the consequences of a crime she is supposed to have committed, the heroine, an English woman, commits a series of deceptions, fraudulent deals and lies.

THE GAMBLERS. A Story of To-day. By Charles Klein and Arthur Hornblow. Illustrations by C. E. Chambers. 12mo, pp. 351. (The G. W. Dillingham Company.)

A novelized version of the play of the same name, portraying present day business conditions in America.

OUT OF AFRICA. A Book of Short Stories. By Thomas Lane Carter. 12mo, pp. 288. (The Neale Publishing Company.)

Eleven stories of South African life.

A STUDY IN EBONY. By Dotia Trigg Cooney. 12mo, pp. 284. (The Neale Publishing Company.)

A story of the colored race. The principal character in the tale is a little colored girl.

THE MILLER OF OLD CHURCH. By Ellen Glasgow. 12mo, pp. vi, 432. (Doubleday, Page & Co.)

A love story

ANNA MALLEEN. By George H. Brennan. 12mo, pp. 377. (Mitchell Kennerley.)

The story of a young actress.

THE ROSE DOOR. By Estelle Baker. 12mo, pp. 202. (Chicago: The Charles H. Kerr Company.)

HISTORY.

CALIFORNIA UNDER SPAIN AND MEXICO, 1535-1847. A Contribution Toward the History of the Pacific Coast of the United States, Based on Original Sources (Chiefly Manuscript) in the Spanish and Mexican Archives and Other Repositories. By Irving Berdine Richman. With maps, charts and plans. 8vo, pp. xvi, 541. (The Houghton Mifflin Company.)

THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION. An Historical Treatise in Which the Documentary Evidence as to the Making of the Entirely New Plan of Federal Government Embodied in the Existing Constitution of the United States Is, for the First Time, Set Forth as a Complete and Consistent Whole. By Hannis Taylor, Hon. LL. D. of the Universities of Edinburgh and Dublin. 8vo, pp. xiii, 676. (The Houghton Mifflin Company.)

JUVENILE.

THE BUNGALOW BOYS. By Dexter J. Forrester. Frontispiece. 12mo, pp. 303. (Hurst & Co.)

A narrative of outdoor life in Maine.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DICTIONARY OF AVIATION. By Robert Morris Pierce. 12mo, pp. 267. (The Baker & Taylor Company.)

Containing 4,276 title words and phrases. Every word is pronounced in full in the Universal Gammakap, and the subjects covered include aeronautics, natural flight, aerostatics, meteorology, astronomy, geography and navigation.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE. By Ida Hook Clark. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. xi, 299. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co.)

A course of lessons in cookery and domestic science for use at home and in elementary schools.

YELLOW FEVER AND ITS PREVENTION. A Manual for Medical Students and Practitioners. By Sir Rubert W. Boyce, M. B., F. R. S. With illustrations. 8vo, pp. xv, 380. (E. P. Dutton & Co.)

A summary of the author's experiences in New Orleans, British Honduras and Central America, the West Indies, the Gold Coast and in West Africa.

IN HIS NAME. By Diana Agabeg Apcar. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 52. (Yokohama: "Japan Gazette" Press.)

Stories of the Armenian massacre.

THE HOUSE FLY. Disease Carrier. An account of Its Dangerous Activities and the Means of Destroying It. By L. O. Howard, Ph. D. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. xix, 312. (Frederick A. Stokes Company.)

With forty-one illustrations from diagrams and micro-photographs.

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Designed to aid persons of large or small means to formulate plans for a wise use of their property after death.

COTILLON FIGURES. By Joel H. Watkins. 14mo, pp. 63. (The Neale Publishing Company.)

Presenting twenty-four simple cotillon figures, with notes and diagrams.

OUR HOME CITY. By William Arthur. 16mo, pp. 133. (Omaha, Neb.: William Arthur.)

The proposition which this book sets forth is that one thousand families shall go to a tract of land bought at agricultural prices and start a city, and that each family shall build on the land, the city owning the ground and the residents owning the buildings.

A TUBERCULOSIS DIRECTORY. Containing a List of Institutions, Associations and Other Agencies Dealing with Tuberculosis in the United States and Canada. Compiled for the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis by Philip P. Jacobs, Ph. D., assistant secretary. 8vo, pp. 331. (The National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis.)

PARLIAMENT: ITS HISTORY, CONSTITUTION AND PRACTICE. By Sir Courtenay Ilbert, K. C. B., K. C. S. I. 12mo, pp. 256. (Henry Holt & Co.)

Being Volume I in the new "Home University Library of Modern Knowledge." Under the editorship of Herbert Fisher, M. A., and Professors Gilbert Murray, Arthur Thomson and William T. Brewster. It is planned to issue 100 volumes classified into Literature and Art, Philosophy and Religion, History, Natural Science and Social Science. Ten books in the series are now ready, their titles being "Shakespeare," "The French Revolution," "War and Peace," "The Stock Exchange," "Irish Nationality," "Modern Geography," "Polar Exploration," "The Evolution of Plants" and "The Socialist Movement."

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HOW CAPITAL HAS HYPNOTIZED SOCIETY. By William Thurston Brown. 12mo, pp. 29. (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Co.)

THE NEW AVATAR AND THE DESTINY OF THE SOUL. The Findings of Natural Science Reduced to Practical Studies in Psychology. By Jirah D. Buck, M. D. 12mo, pp. xxiv, 226. (Cincinnati: The Robert Clarke Company.)

THE SOUL IN A FLOWER. By Sara A. Hubbard. 12mo, pp. vi, 64. (Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.)

Attributing to flowers some of the characteristics of human beings.

MUSIC.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC. A Comparative Investigation into the Principles of Musical Æsthetics. By Halbert Hains Britan, Ph. D. 8vo, pp. xiv, 252. (Longmans, Green & Co.)

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RIDERS TO THE SEA. By J. M. Synge. 12mo, pp. x, 45. (Boston: John W. Luce & Co.)

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THE TENTS OF TROUBLE. By Damon Runyon. 12mo, pp. 131. (Desmond FitzGerald, Incorporated.)

Ballads of the Wunderbund and other verses.

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THE HARLOT'S HOUSE. By Oscar Wilde. Illustrations by Althea Gyles. 8vo, no pagination. (Boston: John W. Luce & Co.)

With five full page illustrations.

THE FRUITS OF ENLIGHTENMENT. By Lyof Tolstoi. Authorized edition. 12mo, pp. 149. (Boston: John W. Luce & Co.)

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THE COMPLETE POEMS OF EDGAR ALLAN POE. Collected, edited and arranged with Memoir, Textual Notes and Bibliography by J. H. Whitty. With illustrations. 8vo, pp. lxxxvi, 304. (The Houghton Mifflin Company.)

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