

NEW BOOKS

Mr. William Watson is a desirable poet who was made to suffer at one time by the misplaced enthusiasm of his friends. They said that he was a new Milton and a new Tennyson, and declared him new in other extravagant ways. It is not easy to believe that a poet could be a Milton and a Tennyson both, and in point of fact Mr. Watson falls short of this surpassing qualification. He could afford to fall, a poet deal short and still be a capital poet. He is a capital poet, as anybody not already familiar with him may discover in his new book, "The Father of the Forest and Other Poems" (Stone & Kimball, Chicago). The poem of the title is addressed to a young tree—an "old superior weed" that has seen ages "retire into the dusk of alien things"—and is a review of a number of matters of English renown and glory. As an exercise of the imagination, inspired by the idea of a witness of great age, it is hardly equal to the ode addressed by Keats to a nightingale. That it should be inferior to that performance is, indeed, not surprising, and we remark the circumstance in the entire absence of any desire to gild at the present poet on account of it. A single passage in "The Father of the Forest" seems to us to be just a life given to a tree which the poet, addressing the ancient tree, observes:

Already wert thou great and wise,
And solemn with exceeding odd,
On that proud morn when England's eyes
Were with impetuous joy, behold
Bound her rough coasts the thundering main
Striven with the ruined grove of Spain.
It may be that our impression in regard to this is without reason, but it does seem to us as though there must have been some temptation for the solemnity which was exceeding odd to intermit itself momentarily at the spectacle of a dream broken up, comminuted, and floating about in the gulf of rubbish on the thundering main. Of course there is no question that the Armada went into smithereens, and we are speaking merely of the rhetorical figure, of the dream and the thing that happened to it. As we say, it may be that we are mistaken, and we are inclined to hope that we are. Certainly we have no wish to be arbitrary with one who finds not fashions his numbers, who from the commure of air cages the volatile song. Of Mr. Watson's "Hymn to the Sea," the second poem in this little volume, we feel ourselves constrained to say pleasant things. It cannot be that it is difficult to hymn the sea, for no poet that we have ever heard of has encountered considerations sufficient to deter him from hymning it. To hymn it happily, however, is obviously difficult. That the apostrophe of Byron's "Hymn to the Sea" is proof perhaps that more recent poets have not been quite fortunate with the sea. The motive in Mr. Watson's hymn is not new; he addresses the sea as a lover, and he compares its storm and its restless endeavor to the emotions of man; but he has new and sonorous phrases for the old idea.

Lover whose vehement kisses on lips irresponsible are
squandered,
Lover that woost in vain earth's imperturbable
heart;
Able to mighty frustrate, who pities thy thaws
against legions,
Looked with fantastical hosts, bodiless arms of the
aby;
So that breakest forever, that breakest and never
at broken,
Like unto thine, from of old, strength the spirit of
man.
That is not new, but it has music, and again:
Miser, whose confined recesses the spoils of eternity
cumber,
Spent-thrift, foaming thy soul wild in fury away,
We, self-amorous mortals, our own multitudinous
image
Seeking in all we behold, seek it and find it in thee;
Seek it and find it when or on the exquisite falls
of silence
Fertile turned hands, trembles and dulcely falls:
When the aerial armies engage and orgies of music,
Braying of arrogant brass, whimper of querulous
reeds.
This is slender volume. It contains, besides
a poem to Burns, several sonnets and lyrics,
and a few other things. We believe it is common
of late to say that Mr. Watson is not fulfilling
his promise. It is hard to say that he is, when
he is fulfilling the promise of his friends, or
rather the assertions of these, who should have
nothing to offer in contradiction. We are un-
able to discover that his song is less agreeable
than it used to be. "The Father of the Forest"
is not an evidence of a new Milton and a new
Tennyson, but it is a capital poem, and we
think that was. The comminuted and ocean-
tossed dream of Spain is the only possible mark
of deterioration that we have observed here,
and, as we say, we are not entirely satisfied of
the reasonableness of our opinion regarding even
that.

"Heads; or the City of the Gods," by Janet
von Swartwout (Olmsted Publishing Company),
is a book that seems to contain plenty of in-
formation, and the only question, we should think,
would be in regard to the amount of fortitude
and one would need to exercise in order to ac-
quire it. "A narrative of Olmsted in the wilder-
ness," the subtitle declares, but surely a nar-
rative in extraordinary form. Opening at page 69
we read: "Zerubbable declares: 'As for the
truth, it endureth forever, and is always
strong,' and the same page: 'Hermes
Trismegistus says: 'Concerning the truth,
I have said that some men understand it.'"
Making a good turn to page 229
—we still observe the same form. Here
it is recorded: "Hermes Trismegistus says:
'An earthly man is a mortal God, and the
heavenly God is an immortal man.' Again
a generous turn to page 230, and we read:
'Hermes says: 'These twelve mountains are
twelve nations which make up the whole
world.' A little further turning shows that
this style of narrative is continued, faithfully
and in fine type, through the 310 octavo pages
of the book.

"Hermes Trismegistus says, what Ezra says,
what St. Paul says, what the Central Park obelisk
says, what is said in 'The Light of Asia'
—some millions of these sayings we estimate
roughly make up the narrative of
'The City of the Gods.' We should
say that Olmsted is indeed in the wilderness,
and these 310 pages of dissociated observa-
tions are ever to be adjusted—how that Zerub-
bable says is to be put in correlation with what
the obelisk says, or how that both say is to
be made to have any bearing upon what is
said in 'The Light of Asia' and what the
obelisk says. The book ends with a brief poem
which begins with the sentiment, 'Wings!
Wings!' Those, we should say, are precisely
the things that are needed—wings to carry us
through these 310 pages, wings to bear us
beyond the obelisk to that remote people who
suffered in their day. The 'Light of Asia'
is intelligent as a mere flicker. There is
just some account here of a party of four or
five persons who called themselves Olmstedians
and who camped out in the Adirondacks in
1884. One of these was a Prof. Goo,
decent what is called "an address and con-
versation, or sermon on the point," and an-
other was a Mrs. Whittemore, who "shook her
shapely head sadly" and remarked (page 211):
'It is indeed a wicked world, full of malice,
envy, covetousness, jealousy, hypocrisy, truth,
courage, fraud, dishonesty, courtesy, hate, re-
venge, cruelty, and injustice.' The Olmstedians
were in the woods for seven weeks, and came
out in excellent physical condition by way of
Lake George and Saratoga. The Professor's
brother Arthur brought away with him the
added advantage of a new pair of shoes, and
Professor's daughter, Eunice, had lost her deli-
cate health at Fourth Lake and appeared with
rosy cheeks and becoming plumpness." But the
Olmstedians, whatever their bodily increase,
make really a small figure in the book. They
have the appearance of being crowded out by
Zerubbable and the obelisk. We cannot, of
course, know their own minds in the matter, but
we presume they were willing to go.

Of a new novel published we have received
"A Woman Intervenes" by Robert Barry. The
Brooklyn, by J. H. Riddell (International News Com-
pany); "One of the Sweet Old Chapters," by
Hess Porter, and "Where Kitty Found Her
Soul," by Mrs. J. H. Walworth (Fleming H.
Scholar in the Levant," by David G. Hogarth;
"Architecture for General Readers," by H.
Hendricks Statham, a second edition; "Mad-
ame Roland; a Biographical Study," by Ida M.
Tarniel, and "The House; an Episode in the
Lives of Heuben Baker, Astronomer, and of His
Wife Alice," by Eugene Field.
From Macmillan & Co. we have received "Art
and Humanity in Homer," by William Cranston
Lawson, a second edition; "The Science of
Woodbury Willoughby; The Science of Money,"
by Alexander Del Mar, a second edition;
"A Happy Boy," in the edition of the
Hudson River, translated by Mrs. W. Archer;
the seventh volume of Henry B. Wheatley's edi-
tion of "Fanny's Diary," a "Classical and
Masses; or, Wealth, Wages, and Welfare in the
United Kingdom," by W. H. Mallock.
Mr. Charles Austin Bates has just published
a large and handsome volume entitled "Good
Advertising," and it is quite amazing what a
vast amount of really interesting things he
finds to say on the subject. He writes with
wisdom and entertainment, and there should be
profit to all intelligent advertisers who buy his
book and avail themselves of his rare experi-
ence and philosophical observations.
"The Statesman's Year Book" for 1890, the
thirty-third annual publication, comes from
Macmillan & Co. The new volume is as com-
plete as its predecessors, and in many respects
is more complete. It contains four colored
maps, one of which, showing the "disputed terri-
tory" between Venezuela and Great Britain,
certainly cannot commend itself to the makers
of the "British case," a table giving the com-
parative naval strengths of the countries of the
world is on a new basis, and is excellent. The
book is brought down to date, and takes note of
the political changes even to the day of publica-
tion. The statesman's annual is one of the
yearlies for which one waits impatiently; its
contents are accepted and read, and the new
volume will not lack any of the authority of the
earlier volumes.

FIREMEN GOING TO LONDON.
The Commissioners Give Their Consent
That a New York Team Shall Go.
The Fire Commissioners have given their con-
sent to the acceptance by the New York Fire
Department of the invitation that was received
some time ago to send a crew of active firemen
to the International Tournament to be held at
London, June 1. The invitation was brought to the
department by George L. Beasley, who has been
in the city some time, studying the methods of
the Fire Department, and he is enthusiastic in
his praise of it.
The only thing that may prevent a representa-
tion of the team going to London from this city is
the fact that the Commissioners have no money
to spend for such a purpose. The trip will cost
\$10,000, and an effort will be made to raise that
amount by subscription. Commissioner Austin
has said that he will probably be the same
that was sent to Harrisburg several months
ago. The team will consist of ten men, and
H. W. Moran, Capt. Thomas F. Wells, and
George Grate of Truck 10, James Monahan of
Truck 2, E. J. Murray of Truck 12, Patrick
Murray of Truck 21, A. O'Connor and Edward
Patt of Engine 24, and William O'Brien of Truck 13.
They will take the life-saving apparatus used
in the department, much of which has never
been seen in London.
The firemen have American firemen going
to London. In 1892 Chief Hale of the Kansas
City Department took a picked crew over.
In 1893 six members of the old Volunteer De-
partment took Manhattan Engine 8 to a tournament
at the Crystal Palace. The engine was the first
steam fire apparatus used by the department.
It was so far superior to the English engines that
the Londoners were afraid to compete with it,
and it overruled the Londoners so that it could
not be used.

THE LEROUX JEWELS TO BE SOLD.
They Are Supposed to Have Been Part
of a Paris Heist.
United States Judge Benedict yesterday re-
fused to grant an order staying the sale by
Marshall Hayden of the four diamonds, valued
at \$15,000, which were seized a couple of years
ago. Leroux and his wife, who were arrested for
smuggling the jewels, were indicted, but they
were released on their own recognizances and
it is understood that they will not appear.
The jewels were advertised for sale for fifteen days.
They were sold to a party of five men, and
an extensive jewelry robbery in Paris, but the
detectives who came here from that city failed
to identify them. As a result of the robbery
they led to their discovery by the Brooklyn
police.

INDICEMENTS IN BROOKLYN.
Judge Aspinall Wants More Cases Ex-
posed in Bringing Them.
County Judge Aspinall of Brooklyn yesterday
dismissed an indictment in an assault case,
which had been brought, he said, on the most
flimsy testimony. He said: "I hope that in the
future we shall have a better sifting of the evi-
dence than that which was brought against
myself yesterday. I was called upon to dismis-
an indictment against a woman that should never
have been brought. I regard it as a disgrace
a crime for people to be indicted upon in-
sufficient or flimsy evidence, and to have to spend
time and money in the jail for nothing. I hope
that these things will be remedied."

A Trolley Line from Brooklyn to Maspeth.
The Brooklyn Heights Railroad Company will
open a new trolley line to Maspeth, Newtown,
and Corona on April 1. The route will be
through Fulton street, Myrtle street, and
Flushing avenue. The trip to Maspeth will
be made in forty-five minutes. The new route
will be a double line to Flushing, and it
will be in operation in a couple of months.
Through an extensive free transfer system the
Maspeth line will be brought in connection with
nearly all the old lines.

**Recommendations by the Kings County
Grand Jury.**
The Kings County Grand Jury yesterday
brought in a presentment endorsing the work
of the Children's Society, and recommending
the sending of the boys to the Reformatory,
Raymond street jail, and the continuance of
the workshops at the penitentiary.
City Works' Street Cleaning Contract.
City Works' Commissioner Willis of Brooklyn
will award the three years' contract for street
cleaning and the removal of ashes to the Mc-
Keever brothers, if they satisfy him that they
will do the necessary duties to do the work.
The contract is regarded as a very profitable
one, and it is said that the McKeever brothers
have received an offer of \$100,000 to submit it.

Two Brooklyn Clubs May Unite.
There is a prospect of the consolidation of the
Midwood Club and the Kickerbocker Field
Club of Flatbush. The financial condition of
the Midwood club has not been good for some
time, and it is said that the Kickerbocker will
add considerable to its membership.

New Publications.

ton's Legend," by Henry Johnston (Charles Scribner's Sons); "In the Blue Pits," by George Ebers, translated by Mary J. Safford; "Mis- tress Dorothy Marvin," by J. C. Smith, and "Sleeping Fires," by George Gissing (D. Apple- ton & Co.); "The Things that Matter," by Francis O'Riordan (G. P. Putnam's Sons); "A Silent World; the Love Story of a Dead Man," by Mrs. Oscar Beringer (Edward Arnold); "The Outlaw of Camargue," by A. De Lamotte, translated by Anna T. Sandler (Benjamin H. Rowland); "A Rich Man's Daughter," by Mrs. J. H. Riddell (International News Com- pany); "One of the Sweet Old Chapters," by Hess Porter, and "Where Kitty Found Her Soul," by Mrs. J. H. Walworth (Fleming H. Scholar in the Levant," by David G. Hogarth; "Architecture for General Readers," by H. Hendricks Statham, a second edition; "Mad- ame Roland; a Biographical Study," by Ida M. Tarniel, and "The House; an Episode in the Lives of Heuben Baker, Astronomer, and of His Wife Alice," by Eugene Field.

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