

New Publications.

Continued from Seventh Page.

ance, as from time to time the gloomier is smitten wondrously by the gloomier on the head and breast, we seem to hear a soft, and thud, as of the rhythmic blows of the hired man in the back yard industriously chopping cord-wood with a bill.

When the interviewer goes to the whips of Norway to hunt for Nansen we are told that she boarded a pine raft, such as the Norwegians use, and was paddled into the sea, the whips, whiplow, and there are lots of little, harmless japes in the book that are not a bit worse than that, and any one of whom seems to be quite as funny as the average fop. But it is at the end of the interview with Mr. Kipling that Anne Warrington Witherup Bangs—or the book—says a wise thing. "Just then Mr. Kipling went back to his millinery, while I drew close to the rail and reflected upon certain peculiarities of my own people. They certainly do love a circus!"

Of course they do! And surely all of us who are not hopeless cynics, or confirmed dyspeptics, or professional glumsters, dearly love a circus! And most of all do we love the clown that merry, waggish chap, who leaps into the ring with a hilarious "Here we are again!" and cracks some ancient, not too subtle, joke; something, for instance, such as "It'll be a fine day to-morrow—if it doesn't rain! Ah, we love the airy phrase with which he hits a nursemaid, or a small boy, or a passing stranger over the head with a string of sausages or a canvas esbace. And when he sits on the baby to make it squeak, or touches up old, gray-haired, doddling pantaloon with the red-hot poker, how we laugh! But the climax of the fun is reached when the mad wag inadvertently puts the red-hot end of the poker into his own breeches pocket and touches himself up. Then we can rear our hair out.

But really Mr. Bangs ought to keep that book in order. In noticing a book of his not long ago we expressed the opinion that Mr. Peter Nowell's grotesque illustrations were "excellent and full of fun." And then the book got to work and we find, in an advertisement, these words quoted from *The Sun* as applicable to the book itself: "Which, as Mr. Kipling's imitators say, is another story. Mr. Bangs should catch the troublesome imp and lock him up and read a few jokes to him. The Coroner will do the rest."

Our friend—everybody's friend—Mr. Anstey, is himself again. After writing the imaginary memoirs of an interesting Bengali Baboo in such a way as to inspire us with the dread that the author of "Vice Versa" was in danger of degenerating into a mere purveyor of machine-made humor, he has returned to his old manner. "Palafo and Redskin, and Other Stories for Boys and Girls" (Apollonia) is about as delightful a collection of stories of their own particular kind as one could wish for—stories of the kind that appeal to all healthy, jolly boys and all nice little girls, and that, as a natural consequence, will appeal equally to most of their elders. We should fear rather to see the boy who did not thoroughly enjoy the story of Master Clarence Tindal, the hero, and his encounter with Yellow Vulture, the chief of the Black Bogallians, a tribe of unfriendly Indians inhabiting the grounds of a country house in the south of England; with the story of the Good Little Girl, the Story of the Sugar Prince, and the sad tale of the small dog that ran away from home and became a comedian against his will; all are sure to give pleasure to the right readers. Excellent, too, are Mr. Gordon Browne's illustrations.

Now the Christmas papers are with us, and among them none is better than the number issued by *Life*. This contains amusing material, both pictorial and paragraphic, and one capital short story. We wish to draw attention to the work of an artist who labels his pictures "A Pleasant English Custom, with Historical Precedents." If he is to be believed, it is the pleasant English historical custom for her young men to wear corsets, and to lead young women under the mistletoe and then there deliberately bite pieces out of either their ears or their chins. We wish emphatically to protest against the introduction of such customs here. The corsets and the arms and legs are mere matters of taste, but our girls are far too nice to be thus mutilated. About the queerest thing in the number is a double-page drawing by Mr. Charles Dana Gibson, in which a rather ruffy-looking young woman, who must be at least eighteen feet high, leans upon the arm of a stout, elderly person, whose head has obviously been carved with a chisel out of a turnip. A number of marionettes in evening dress are poised on either side, apparently in mid-air. It is not easy for the uninitiated to say whether they are in the foreground, background, or middle distance. Mr. Gibson's ideas of perspective are sometimes so peculiar. The best thing in the number is Mr. Oliver Herford's humorous fable in verse, with its accompanying full-page illustration.

We have also received: "Instinct and Reason. An Essay Concerning the Relation of Instinct to Reason, with Some Speculation of the Nature of Religion." Henry Rutgers Marshall, M. A. (Macmillan). "South London." Sir Walter Besant, M. A., F. S. A. Illustrated. (Frederick A. Stokes Company). "The Money Market." E. F. Benson. (Drexel Biddle). "The Woodley Lane Ghost and Other Stories." Madeleine Vinton Dahlgren. (Drexel Biddle). "The Laurel Wink." Mary Louisa Molesworth. Illustrated. (Drexel Biddle). "Through the Yangtze Gorges; or, Trade and Travel in Western China." Archibald John Little, F. R. G. S. Third and revised edition. (Imported by Scribner). "Word Lett and Word Lett for Letter. A Biographical Romance." A. J. Drexel Biddle. Illustrated. Third edition. (Drexel Biddle). "Paving the Way. A Romance of the Australian Bush." Simpson Newland. Illustrated. (Drexel Biddle). "Tale from Town Topics. A Witch of Today." Charles Stokes Wayne. (Town Topics Publishing Company). "Some Marked Passages and Other Stories." Jeanne L. Pennington. (Foris, Howard & Hulbert).

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