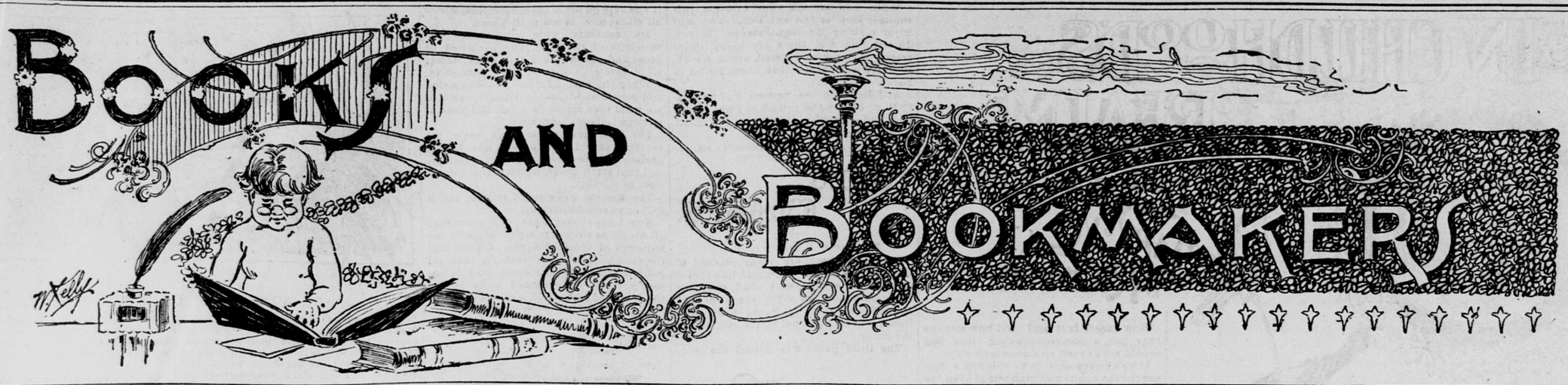

BY A CALIFORNIAN.

THE APE, THE IDIOT AND OTHER PEOPLE—By W. C. Morrow. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. For sale in this city by A. M. Robertson, Post street. Price $1 50.

When a good story, or volume of good stories, is fresh from the publishers the pleasure which it gives to all lovers of literature will be felt in a much augmented degree by those who can claim the author as a possession by virtue of his being a fellow-countrymen or fellow-citizen. Thus the feeling of patriotism and pride in a sense of semi-ownership adds zest to the appreciation of an excellence which the purely literary tastes would have found delight in without considering whence it came. Such is the double nature of the treat presented to San Franciscans and Californians in this choice collection of artistic short stories by one of our own coast writers—one in whom we can take a patriotic pride and confidently challenge comparison with him by the writers of any other State or country in the particular line which he has made a specialty. He takes rank among the strongest writers of short stories now living, and is second to none on this coast, although he has here a bright array of competitors.

The gilded griffin on the binding of the book strikingly suggests the nature of the stories inclosed, and partly prepares the reader's imagination for those charms of the grewsome and the grotesque which the author has used with consummate cleverness to spellbind the attention. To say that they are brilliantly horrible would but poorly characterize the work; although even if that were the sole achievement in them, the amount of ingenuity displayed in their construction, the skillful use of language, the extent and originality of imagination, would combine to make them of thrilling interest and of rare merit as inimitable literary productions.

Many of the stories are subtle analyses of human passion, and deserve to be read carefully and seriously pondered, not merely as a matter of curous interest in literary skill, but because they enlarge the understanding of human nature. It is one of the highest aims of fiction to so extend our sympathies that we can learn more and more to put ourselves in the author's place, and so broaden our comprehension of the human mind. Particularly is this needed in order that we may be "loyal to the low, and cognizant of the less scrutable majesties."

Mr. Morrow's book is superlative in its power of making us realize the possibilities that these "less scrutable majesties" exist in the personalities around us, perhaps seemingly far beneath us—in rags, in convict stripes, in the stupidity of the idiot and semi-idiot, in the unfortunate who is condemned for a single grave fault.

With a talent of close kinship to that of the great actors on the stage he shows us traits of character in these "lows," to whom we might well be loyal as having a majesty of heroism, patient endurance and of kindness, placing them far above us, could we but be cognizant of what is in their souls. Qualities which need the searching of keen intellect and deep sympathy to find now perhaps, but yet germs half smothered of an exalted destiny beyond our guessing. Indeed, many of the stories read as if the thought of the less scrutable majesties was dominant in the author's mind when he composed them. A fine example of this sort of portrayal is the tale of "The Hero of the Plague," wherein the ex-convict and seeming fool, Baker, is so shown as to convince us that he had wisdom enough in his dull brain to win the eternal wealth of heaven's approval.

The foundation of fact on which some of these stories are built will give them added interest. While the happenings are changed and colored by imagination, there is yet truth enough to show that the existence of such characters is credible; and this hero of the plague, for instance, really lived, suffered for his own and the stupidity of other people and wore a crown invisible to most who saw him here.

Where the tales are purely fiction the author possesses such a method of analysis of details as to make things that would seem highly improbable by less clever treatment appear not merely credible but inevitable as the outflow from the nature of the being portrayed and his compass of circumstances. The characteristics of his work are strength in the delineation of the weird and grewsome, a rare faculty for showing us many unexplored abysses of mind and emotion—passions, hopes and fears, infrequent but intense, and often felt by those the tragedy of whose lives we are prone to superciliously overlook.

There is a story in the collection called "An Uncommon View of It," dealing with the passions of a wronged husband and his gradual change of point of view and intentions in regard to his once loved and loving wife, which is not so much a story as an essay on the higher manhood, and which is a most subtle tracing of the emotions and reasonings of a noble being subjected to one of the most willi-puzzling and severe of trials.

The author evidently considers the best thing in the collection to be the tale which he has chosen to give title to the book. There are some notable examples in the history of literature where authors were unconscious of it when they performed their best work. This may or may not be the case in this instance, but, while the merit of the story about the ape and the idiot is appreciated for its artistic conformity to an ideal combination of grewsomeness with beauty, for its masterly attainment of that short-story desideratum, the sudden surprise in its development, and for its astonishing finale, so gloriously happy for the heathen Chinee and so pathetically sad for the serviceable ape who had brought this happiness, yet, in spite of these excellencies, we would unhesitatingly choose as the masterpiece of the volume the tale of "The Inmate of the Dungeon." Herein is dramatically told the story of a convicted but brave and finely fibered man—one who describes, in passionate eloquence, the soul torture caused by the jailer's lash, saying: "Then something inside me twisted hard and then broke wide open and went pouring all through me like melted iron."

THEY EXCHANGE SOULS.

FLAMES—By Robert Hichens. Chicago and New York: Herbert S. Stone & Co. Price $1 50.

The ground for this curious study about life and its passions was obtained by imagining two young men of very opposite temperaments exchanging souls. They were great friends, and before they effected the exchange were both safe from the temptations of the world. Valentine was one over whom refinement had more power than religion. "It governed him with a curious ease of supremacy and held him back without effort from most of young man's sins." Julian had passions ungovernable until he formed his close friendship for Valentine, and then the purity of his friend's life rebuked and inspired him into sinlessness so far as gross forms of indulgence were concerned. Valentine came to believe that there was no merit in his natural frigidity and longed to "have drumming pulses, and dancing longings, and voices calling forever in his ears like the voices of sirens." So tiring of being Saint Valentine he permits his soul to feel the thrill and temptations of Julian's warmer temperament. Out of the consequences is constructed a fairly good story.

CHARACTER STUDIES.

THE LANDLORD AT LION'S HEAD—By W. D. Howells. New York: Harper & Bros. For sale by William Doxey, Palace Hotel. Price $1 75.

Something good is, of course, to be expected when we see Howells' name as author. In this novel there are at least half a dozen characters drawn with skill, and the dialogue with which the book is replete is clever. The story opens with an account of an artist's trip into the country to paint the Lion Head Mountain. He boards for three weeks at the Burgin farm, and becomes so interested in the characters he meets there that after a five years' absence in Paris he returns to the New England farm to renew his acquaintance with the country people whose history makes most of the story.

At the very first passage the author executes some of his fine work in character drawing by sketching the farmer's boy Jeff, who is a strange mixture of good and evil. Jeff is afterward sent to Harvard, and his wild and fickle career and his entanglements with women of various character take up a goodly portion of the volume, although the artist, Westover, is by far the nobler character.

There is a lifelike scene in the parting between the artist and the farmer's wife, when there is a fine display of courteous tact on the part of the artist and of simple-minded kindness on that of the woman as she tries to buy from Westover his fine picture of the mountain for a part of the board money he had just handed her. She is exceedingly liberal and wants him to demand just as much of the $15 as he thinks is right.

Jeff falls in love with a country girl, Cynthia, who is far too good for him. There are many interesting scenes between these two and Jeff retains nobility enough to confess his faults to her in order that she may not be deceived into marrying him with the truths she should know unrevealed. Jeff becomes attracted by another girl of lighter character and the passages between them are interesting by contrast with those had in his previous love affair.

UNLITERARY BOOKSELLERS.

Booksellers do not appear to gain much literary knowledge from contact with literature, says the New York Press. The following list contains a bona-fide selection of titles of books exactly as they were written in the booksellers' orders received during the year by a certain firm of publishers:

WHAT WAS ASKED FOR.	WHAT WAS WANTED.
Republic of Flats.	Republic of Plato.
Boy, Muscle and the Peas.	Bog, Myrtle and Peat.
Worcester's Diseases of the Calendar.	Worcester's Diocesan Calendar.
The Treacle of Storm.	In the Track of the Storm.
Photo Frames, 1895.	Photograms, 1895.
Nobody Born.	Nobly Born.
Stories From a Diary Adopted.	Stories From the Diary of a Doctor.
God-Aim Us by a Farmer.	Guadeamus. By Farmer.
Thoughts for Washing Days.	Thoughts for Working Days.
Courdal's Cart in Lecture	Caudle's Curtain Lectures.
Nancy's Voyage to Greenland.	Nansen's Voyage to Greenland.
Play Actress and Cricket in the Pandmonium Library.	Play Actress. By Crockett. Pseudonym Library.
How to Make a Hand Camel.	How to Make a Hand Camera.
Alice and Her Mistress.	Alice; or, The Mysteries.
Founders and Heretics.	Frondes Agrestes.
Pharaoh's Life of Christ	Farrar's Life of Christ.
Frenchie Owen.	French Heroines.
Shakespeare's The Felon.	Shakespeare's Othello.
Across the Russian's Nose.	Across Russian Snows.
C. B. Genius, or Generous, or some such thing.	Cambridge Bible Genesis.
Marbles of Modern Speculation.	Miracles of Modern Spiritualism.
Think of the Mighty, or Sinks of the Mighty.	Seats of the Mighty.

SIX SHORT STORIES.

THE IMPUDENT COMEDIAN AND OTHERS—By F. Frankfort Moore. Chicago: H. S. Stone & Co. For sale in this City by William Doxey, Palace Hotel. Price $1 50.

These half dozen tales about actors and actresses are of commendable merit. They contain a great deal of witty dialogue, and have that expert way of exceeding expectation at the finish, which is one of the main features in the art of short story telling. However good the writer is at the start or in the midst of his tale there is always a climax of cleverness at the finale, and things sometimes take a turn wholly unlooked for. There is a good story about how David Garrick and Peg Woffington, while they were preparing a play for the stage, found one of the actresses too tame at rehearsal. In order to rouse this girl to more vim and passion in her playing of the part of a jealous woman a scheme was resorted to to make her jealous in reality. Then she played stronger than they bargained for. The story that gives title to the book is about the famous Nell Gwyn, the favorite of Charles II of England. It abounds in wit. There is a scene of pathos in it finer than the reader would think possible when beginning to read about the merry mistress of the profligate king. It tells of how the man who loved her honorably and self-sacrificingly when she was a young girl, coming home from the sea, hoping to claim her for his bride, but finding the woman for whom he had labored and hoped so long in the possession of his king.

NEW EDITION OF TWAIN.

THE AMERICAN CLAIMANT, and Other Stories and Sketches—By Mark Twain. New York: Harper & Brothers. For sale by A. M. Robertson, Post street, City. Price $1 75.

This is a new library edition of some of Mark's smile-provoking compositions. About half the volume is taken up with a series of short sketches called the "Merry Tales," which were designed to meet the wants of busy people with only scraps of time to spare on literature. Several of these stories are reprints from the Century and Harper's Magazine. "The American Claimant" is a long story, and the claimant is none other than the Colonel Mulberry Sellers made famous both by the book "The Gilded Age," and by the successful impersonation of that character on the stage by John T. Raymond.

IN THE VALLEY OF THE HUDSON.

THE END OF THE JOURNEY—By Marie Florence Giles. G. W. Dillingham Company. Price 50 cents. For sale by William Doxey, Palace Hotel, San Francisco.

Vera Courtney, the heroine of this tale, gives up her whole life to what she deems the behests of duty. She is hotheaded and passionate by nature, but by will power she gains a complete victory over her lower self. She is mated with an unworthy man and spends a life of bitter disappointment. The motive of the story is good; the execution commonplace.

W. C. MORROW.

DISAGREEABLY GREWSOME.

THE DEVIL-TREE OF EL DORADO—By Frank Aubrey. New York: New Amsterdam Book Company. For sale by A. M. Robertson, Post street, City. Price $1 50.

That feature of the story which is given prominence by the title, and the illustrations to the same, are too unpleasantly horrible to be commended. The tale describes a tree in an unexplored region of South America which has great writhing, snake-like branches reaching out for victims that pass beneath, then lifting them to the deadly embrace of the tree's center, where by some vampire-like action the blood is sucked out of them. The dry bones are dropped to the ground, where hideous serpents hungrily await the ghastly remnants. The romance is not recommended to those of a nervous temperament. Other fanciful descriptions of the wonderful unexplored Roraima country do more credit to the author's vivid imagination.

AN ALLEGORICAL PAMPHLET.

THE KING, THE KNAVE AND THE DONKEY. By "Pythias Damon." Chicago: T. S. Denison. Paper.

This is one of the Denison series of quarterly issues. It is a sort of a satirical essay on historical and political subjects. It is fairly well written, but there seems to be an attempt to imitate the style of Carlyle, and as it is but a feeble echo of the master, the work would have had more force if he who writes under the nom de plume of Pythias Damon had refrained from borrowing another man's mannerisms. The "donkey" in the tale represents the people. Perhaps the best thing in the book is in the chapter on "The Heresy of Discontent," in which is strongly condemned the teaching of the false idea that ambition and perseverance will accomplish anything. "How much better to say to the poor boy: 'You may always remain poor, but now in your youth lay deep and well the foundations of character, industry and steadfastness. These will serve you poor, and adorn you rich.'"

CONCERNING PLANTS.

ELEMENTS OF BOTANY—By J. Y. Bergin. Boston: Ginn & Co.

This textbook is for the most part an expansion of the manuscript notes which have for some years been used as a basis for the botany teaching in the Boston English High School. They are designed for a half-year course in botany. The author says he has endeavored to combine in one volume the simplest possible directions for laboratory work with an outline of vegetable anatomy and physiology and a brief statement of the principles of botanical classification. The book is nicely bound and is illustrated with a number of very clear cuts.

STONE IDEALS.

"A HANDBOOK OF GREEK SCULPTURE." By Ernest Arthur Gardner. Macmillan & Co., London. Price $1 25. For sale by the Emporium Book Department, City.

Professors Percy Gardner of Oxford University and F. W. Kelsey of Ann Arbor (Mich.) University are editing a series of handbooks on archæology and antiquities, of which this is one. It is the work of a thoroughly competent author, a professor of archæology in University College, London, who was formerly director of the British School of Archæology at Athens. The book is written in a manner suited to the needs both of the student and the educated reader. There are a number of fine illustrations, reproduced from ancient works of art, in this volume. The book is divided into four principal parts: the fifth century before Christ, the fourth century, the Hellenistic age, and Greco-Roman and Roman sculpture. In the course of the work the author takes occasion to vindicate Lord Elgin from the charge of wrongdoing when he carried off the famous "Elgin Marbles" from Athens. They are now safe in the British Museum, he asserts, and they were far from being safe where they were.

REPRINTS.

HOW TO TELL A STORY, AND OTHER ESSAYS—By Mark Twain. New York: Harper & Bros. For sale by A. M. Robertson, Post street. Price $1 50.

These clever writings of the prince of humorists have appeared before in the leading magazines, but they will bear repeating without vexing the ear, for twice-told tales are not always tedious when the raconteur is a master of his art. In his essay on "How to Tell a Story" Mr. Clemens claims that the humorous story is distinctively an American product. The English, he says, can write comic ones and the French those that are witty. The humorous story is dependent for success on the manner of telling it, but in comic and witty stories the matter is sufficient to make them go. There is something rather humorous in the thought of Mark Twain undertaking to tell other people how to tell a story. Talking to the general public in this vein is much as though a seagull should seriously try to instruct us in the art of flying. "Only a portion of art can be taught, and the artist needs the whole."

FOR LOVERS OF NATURE.

THE STORY OF THE BIRDS—By James Newton Bassett. New York: D. Appleton & Co. For sale in this City by William Doxey, Palace Hotel. Price 65 cents.

A very well printed and illustrated book. The author is an associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union. Many of the pictures are taken from Frank M. Chapman's "Handbook of Birds," and they reproduce groups in the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The story of the birds is told with a distinct acceptance of the theory of evolution. The author puts forth a hypothesis to account for nearly every phenomenon he narrates about bird life, and claims that there is more stimulation to thought, more assistance to memory, even in an imperfect or incorrect hypothesis than in none at all.

The following pathetic lines have reached the review desk of THE CALL. Our sympathies are extended to the parties concerned:

WHO KILLED THE LARK?

Who killed the Lark?
"I did," said Doxey;
"I did it by proxy,
I killed the Lark."

Who saw him die?
"I," said Gelett;
"I and Vivette,
I saw him die."

Who caught his blood?
"I," said Bruce Porter,
"In my little mortar
I caught his blood."

Who'll make his shroud?
"I," said young Garnett,
"I'll broider and darn it:
I'll make his shroud."

Who'll be the person?
"I," said Peixotto,
"I'll be it in toto,
I'll be the parson."

Who'll be chief mourner?
"I," said Miss Florence.
"My tears fall in torents.
I'll be chief mourner."

Who'll toll the bell?
"I," said brown Yone.
"So sadful and moany
I'll toll the bell."

All the freaks in the land
Flew off in the dark
When they heard the bell tolling
For Burgess' Lark.

E. C. T.

STORY OF A HOLD-UP.

THE GREAT K. AND A. TRAIN ROBBERY—By Paul Leicester Ford. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. For sale in this City by William Doxey, Palace Hotel. Price $1 25.

The author of "The Honorable Peter Sterling" won such wide favor with that book that anything fresh by the same writer is sure to find a welcome from readers of fiction. This little tale cannot compare with that great political novel with which Ford made a reputation as a writer, but there was evidently no pretense or even effort to make it anything extraordinary. It is, however, a very readable story. The plot involves a mystery, and there is a pretty love affair running all through the tangle of the train robbery, which adds much to the interest of the tale. There is, too, a surprise for the reader in the working out of the motives for the hold-up and the discovery of the unexpected class of people who were concerned in instigating and executing it. We note quite a problem of the true point of honor brought into the narration by the embarrassments of the railroad man who hunted down the perpetrators of the train robbery. He was in love with a girl who was implicated in the plot, and who was as sweet, innocent and lovable as no one could conceive it possible for an accomplice of train-robbers to be.

WHERE A MAN WAS FOOLISH.

SAINT EVA—By Amelia Pain. New York: Harper & Brothers. Price $1 25.

The sweet saint of this story is the daughter of an Italian father and an English mother. She is beautiful and so excessively innocent that she possesses not even that knowledge of the world to be derived from reading modern novels. Her ideas are perfectly fresh and one of her women friends has a way of asking her questions about life and herself in a tone of banter which greatly disconcerts her, but only serves to amuse her querist. Eva falls in love with Clayton Seaford, who is in many respects a remarkable man, but appears not to have a sense of appreciation. He proposes to her and is accepted. Later he inherits a vast estate and then his fiancee's value is diminished in his eyes. She loves him too deeply to bear his abandonment and her heart breaks. "Saint Eva" is a sad though a pretty story.

GOETHE.

Goethe himself has said that the faults of great men seem exaggerated as well as their virtues: and if we apply this principle to his case it ought to remove much of the odium which rests on his name. Some of the accusations which have been brought against him are undoubtedly just; but it is equally certain that others have originated either in party prejudice or from the jealousy of his literary contemporaries. He is certainly to blame for his desertion of Frederika, and probably for other flirtations—though such behavior does not always seem to militate against a man's character. Goethe's love affairs, though by no means to his credit, were of quite a different sort from the immorality of Byron, Burns and Heine.

The accusation, however, that he was a selfish aristocrat, unpatriotic, insensible to the sufferings of the poor and opposed to the popular and reformatory movements of his time, is untrue and unjust, and can easily be proved so. That he was an aristocrat cannot be doubted; but so was Sir Walter Scott, for they were both brought up and educated at a period when aristocracy was considered the natural order of society.

Of all classes of people none would seem to be so unfitted—from their tenderness of feeling, their pictorial habit of mind, and their sensitive temperament—for practical politics as poets and artists; and they have generally recognized this themselves.—F. P. Stearns in April Lippincott's.

HERE AND THERE.

The news that Kipling is going to Crete as a correspondent of the London Times appears to be confirmed.

The Jewish Publication Society of America (Philadelphia) announces a work to be entitled "In the Pale—Stories and Legends of the Russian Jews," by Rev. Henry Iliowizi.

It is said that Professor Drummond left plenty of biographical material behind him, and it is thought that his old friend, Dr. James Stalker, will write a "Life" in the near future.

Alphonse Daudet's next novel, "Soutien de Famille," is almost finished. A popular edition of his works in parts is coming out in Paris just now. Each part costs only 2 cents.

A new one-volume edition of Boswell's "Johnson," now preparing in London under the editorship of Percy Fitzgerald, is to have a feature unknown hitherto in the literature of the subject. There is to be a biographical dictionary of all the names mentioned in the "Life."

The demand for copies of the Queen Victoria book, the Century Company, who are the agents for it, states, is an eager one in the United States. There are two editions, and as they are printed in a special type and the number of each is limited, copies are likely to have an enhanced value.

A fine library edition of the Spectator of Addison and Steele is announced in London. It is to be reprinted from the first edition and in eight volumes, and it is to be edited by Mr. G. A. Aitken, who is known as the author of an interesting biography of Steele. He will supply a general introduction and notes.

Harold Frederic in a recent letter says that his sketches, published in book form under the title of "Mrs. Albert Grundy," were written long before the "Dolly Dialogues," to which they have been compared. Most of them were contributed to the National Observer in Mr. Henley's time, and they ended there just about the time the "Dolly Dialogues" began in the Westminster Gazette.

In May Dr. Fritz Hummel's work on "Ancient Hebrew Tradition" will be published simultaneously in the United States, England and Germany. Dr. Hummel controverts the method employed by the higher critics of the Old Testament. He attacks the Graf Wellhausen hypothesis. E. & J. B. Young & Co. of New York will be the American publishers.

In reference to a lately published anecdote of Campbell one is reminded of Walter Scott's story. "When I repeated 'Hohenlinden' to Leyden he said: 'Dash it, man; tell the fellow that I hate him; but, dash him, he has written the finest verses that have been published these fifty years.' I did mine errand as faithfully as one of Homer's messengers, and had for answer: 'Tell Leyden that I detest him, but I know the value of his critical approbation.'"

In "Answers to Imbeciles," a sarcastic contemporary endeavors to caricature the answers to correspondents of a certain journal. It is "The Chump," as he styles himself, who writes these answers. Of course, the questions never existed, but the sarcasm is well aimed. Here is an answer which readers of literature will appreciate:

"The poem, 'Nothing to Drink But Cocktails,' is from 'Pommes de Terre and Other Poems,' by Woodyard Kindling. 'George Eggnogg Haddock' is the nom de bloomer of Miss McFee, author of 'How to Eat Food.'"

A new biographer of Ibsen says the dramatist spends an hour twice a day at a Christiania hotel reading the papers. On his right hand he has a glass of brandy and on his left a glass of beer, and from them he takes alternate sips as he reads. Another hour of the day he passes walking, clad all in black, on the main street. He is rarely seen in any man's company, and never at the theater. Bjornstjerne Bjornson is furious with Ibsen for writing his last play, "John Gabriel Borkmann," which he asserts is full of bitter attacks on his own family life. Ibsen's son is married to Bjornson's daughter, and the relations between the fathers-in-law have been strained for some time. Bjornson proposes to retaliate soon in a book.

The Saturday Review will go around distributing slaps and punches—and listen to what it inflicts on Zangwill: "Mr. Zangwill shuffles around his shop, unhooking from its peg this one or that of the greasy, threadbare garments in which he deals. He is the true outcome of a cheaply educational age. Desperately anxious to make a show of scholarship, he is devoid of any culture, of any tact in culture. He bedecks his pages with such flowers of learning as quorum pars magna fui, floreat, auri sacra fames, hinc illæ lachrymæ, solvitur ambulando, facilis descendus Averni, o fortunatos nimium, ex hypothesi, ad nauseam, and væ victis. Eureka is thrown in to show his love of Greek. Wahlverwandschaft, Gott sei Dank and the rest of it proclaim his interest in philosophic systems." Mr. Zangwill, if not too busy in Jerusalem in search of the local coloring for his new story, will certainly indulge in a good laugh at the censorious Saturday.

Rubinstein wrote a lot of smart things and stowed them away in his desk, where they were found after his death. Some of these, with an introduction by Herr Hermann Wolff, have been published. Here are some of the epigrams:

There used to be small concert halls and great artists. Now there are great concert halls, but——

What is poetry? It rhymes, but it is not so. What is truth? It does not rhyme, but it is so.

For many years I wanted to compose a work entitled "Love Theme, With Variations," but I gave it up. When I was young I had the theme, but not sufficient experience for the variations. When I was old I could write the variations, but could not find a theme.

When the stream of musical thought runs dry, then is the time to introduce the leit motif.

People send me poems to set to music. They might just as well send me a girl to fall in love with.

In his letter on book collecting, written to Mr. Quaritch some time ago, Mr. Gladstone entered a protest against the binding of books, says "Lounger" in the Critic. The modern English book he denounced as being very badly bound "in that vitally important particular, easy opening." This is quite true, also, of a great many American books; but while I was looking over some cheap reprints by an American publisher the other day, the bookseller called my attention to the strength of the bindings. He took a volume in his hands and opened it in the middle, bending the covers back so that they lay flat against each other. The pages creaked and groaned a little, but there was no breaking, and the book would stay open at any place. If this can be done with cheap books, why not with more expensive ones? Nothing, certainly, is more irritating than to have to hold a book tightly in your hands to prevent the pages from closing in your very face.

LITERARY NOTES.

A new and cheap edition of H. M. Stanley's "Darkest Africa" will be published at an early date by Messrs. Sampson Low.

Mrs. Deland, the author of "John Ward Preacher," has sent copy for a new book to her publishers, Houghton, Mifflin & Co. It will be entitled "The Wisdom of Fools," and will be made up of five stories.

In the series of "Writings of the Fathers of the Republic" the Putnams have concluded to print "The Life and Correspondence of Charles Carroll of Carrollton." It will be in two volumes, edited by Kate Mason Rowland.

Professor William Trent of the University of the South, a writer of excellent abilities, is about to publish a volume dealing with the "Southern Statesmen of the Old Regime." His list of subjects ranges from Washington to Jefferson Davis.

"One Man's View," which is to be issued by Herbert S. Stone & Co. shortly, is announced by the publishers as a problem novel in which there are none of the features which have so often offended in psychological studies. The "view" is said to be a novel one. The author is Leonard Merrick, one of the younger English writers.

The Hon. Andrew D. White, our newly appointed Embassador to Germany, will carry the prestige of a fresh literary success when he crosses the sea. His "Warfare of Science With Theology in Christendom" has attracted more serious attention than any book of its general kind published for a long time, and its sale is said to continue to be very large. The book has aroused much attention in England.

A new kind of college article is launched in the May Scribner's with "Undergraduate Life at Harvard." Heretofore college articles have described the "institution" and its official and academic history. These articles give the life of the boys in old days and at the present time. The illustrations are from original paintings by artists who have lived with the students, and not from the usual stock photographs.

Messrs. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, will shortly begin, in conjunction with Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston & Co. of London, the publication of a history of the Royal Navy, commencing with the earliest times and coming down to 1898. It will be in five royal 8vo volumes, and will be choicely printed and fully illustrated. Captain Alfred T. Mahan and Theodore Roosevelt are among the contributors.

Among Christina Rossetti's literary remains was a story which she wrote when a young girl entirely unknown to the world of letters. The matter of it is largely autobiographic, and the heroine, Maude, writes verse, which transcribed into the story forms no small part of it. Miss Rossetti's brother William has decided to bring out the story and has written an explanatory introduction to it. "Maude" will be out shortly. Published by Herbert S. Stone & Co., Chicago.

We note that the Macmillan Company has in preparation a cheaper edition of Miss Kingley's "Travels in West Africa, Congo Francais, Corisco and Cameroons. This book, whose author is a niece of the Rev. Charles Kingsley, is one of the brightest books of travel ever published, and has attracted a great deal of notice. In England it is already in its fifth edition; here its price, $6 50, has made it move more slowly than will be the case when it is issued in a less costly form.

A reminiscent article on Jenny Lind and her home life has been prepared by her daughter, Mrs. Raymond Maude, for publication in the May Ladies' Home Journal. It is said to be filled with interesting memories of the famous singer, and is noteworthy also as being the first view we have of her through the eyes of her adoring daughter. Mrs. Maude brings to light the fact that Jenny Lind was always nervous and overstrung before events—just before singing in a new opera or oratorio, but was quite calm when the very moment of action arrived.

The first volumes of the new illustrated edition of Francis Parkman's histories will be published by Little, Brown & Co. in May. The edition is to be a limited one and will be printed from entirely new type. It will be in twenty medium 8vo volumes, and will be superbly illustrated by 120 photogravure plates made by Messrs. Boussod, Valadon & Co., consisting chiefly of authentic portraits and contemporary prints, with a number of original illustrations by Howard Pyle, B. West Clinedinist, Thule de Thulstrup, De Cost Smith, Frederic Remington, F. de Myrbach and other noted artists.

The spring publications of Houghton, Mifflin & Co. comprise in poetry "The Complete Poetical Works of James Russell Lowell," in one 8vo volume, uniform with the Longfellow, Whittier and Holmes; also Francis J. Child's "English and Scottish Popular Ballads" and Eliza Scudder's "Hymns and Sonnets." In fiction there is "Henry James' "The Spoils of Poynton," Helen Choate Prince's "A Transatlantic Chatelaine," Charles Egbert Craddock's "The Young Mountaineers," Clara Louise Burnham's "Miss Archer Archer," Mary H. Catherwood's "The Spirit of an Illinois Town" and "The Little Renault," Bret Harte's Three Partners," H. E. Ward's "The Burglar Who Moved Paradise," and in biography and history Rose Hawthorne Lathrop's "Memories of Hawthorne" and Meurice's "Letters of Victor Hugo."

The first and second volumes of 'A History of Our Own Times' appeared in 1878, and were received with undoubted public welcome," say the English publishers, Chatto & Windus, in announcing the new volume of the work, which Harper & Brothers are to publish in this country. "It had occurred to the author that one of the most difficult tasks for a young student just then was to get hold of the history of our own times. If anybody wanted to learn something of the facts concerning the reign of Elizabeth, or the reign of Anne, or the reign of George the Third, or the years of the great Reform bill, there were standard books on every subject, which could be got at in every public library, and which indeed stood or the shelves of most men's private libraries; but, to make one's self acquainted with what had happened in the reign of Queen Victoria, there were only the interminable files of newspapers to consult, except, of course, for some special works dealing with particular chapters of history, such as the Crimean war or the Indian mutiny. This was the want which the author of the History was anxious to supply, and he started upon his task with the conviction that there was no necessity for making even contemporary history a dry record of facts and dates. A third and fourth volume were added to the story somewhat later, and the review of events passing within our own recollection was brought up to the crisis of 1880, when Mr. Gladstone, at the head of the Liberal party, once more returned to power. The fifth volume now announced takes up the story at that momentous epoch. I proposes to pass in review all that has happened in the affairs of the empire from that time until the 'Diamond Jubilee' of the Queen's long reign."