

NEW BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Holiday Season Brings Forth a Flood of Good Literature.

CHRISTMAS MAGAZINES VERY ARTISTIC

Famous Work of a Famous Explorer in Forbidden Lands—Artistic Reprint of Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress"—Books of the Week.

The reading public, at least that portion of it which takes kindly to stories of exploration and discovery, has been looking forward for some months to the publication of "In the Forbidden Land," by A. H. Savage Landor. The brief accounts of Mr. Landor's explorations in Tibet, which have appeared from time to time in the public press, have stimulated curiosity. For once at least public expectation, though great, will not be disappointed, for the work is fully in keeping with Mr. Landor's reputation as a writer and the story which he has to tell is fully as thrilling as newspaper quotations had hinted.

Mr. Landor left England in the spring of 1897. He had at first intended to descend upon Tibet from the north, but finally entered it from northwest India, by Almor, in Kumaon. He desired to explore southern Tibet and the course of the upper Brahmaputra. He was accompanied by the Tibetan officials, who guard their frontier from inquisitive intruders, did their best to prevent Mr. Landor from entering the country, but by a clever ruse he managed to outgeneral the guards and cross the frontier with his little band of native followers. Rugged and mountainous as the country is, some of the passes being 20,000 feet high, progress was rapid until, when apparently among friends, the venturesome explorer was suddenly seized and bound. He was subjected to the most excruciating tortures, his body racked, his face roasted and his eyesight nearly extinguished with a red-hot iron, and every preparation made for his decapitation.

He was finally bound on a pony with a spiked saddle that crushed his spine, and hurried back to the frontier, where he was met by a rescuing party. Apart from the exciting adventures with which he met, Mr. Landor has much to tell of this strange and interesting people with whom he came in contact. The author's geographical results; the solution of the uncertainty regarding the division of the Mansarovar and Rakast lakes and the visit to and the fixing of the position of the two principal sources of the Brahmaputra, never before reached by a European. Harper & Bros., New York. Two volumes, copiously illustrated. Cloth, \$9.00.

Another work that has been looked forward to with pleasant expectations by the reading public is Rudyard Kipling's latest volume of stories, "The Day's Work." These stories are the product of the author's mature genius. There are twelve stories in the volume, "The Bridge Builders," "A Walking Delegate," "The Ship That Found Herself," "The Tomb of His Ancestors," "The Devil and the Deep Sea," "William, the Conqueror," "The Maltese Drat," "Bread Upon the Waters," "The Soldier in the Fourth Dimension," "My Sunday at Home" and "The Brushwood Boy," thus presenting widely different manifestations of Mr. Kipling's genius. Doubleday & McClure Co., New York. Cloth, \$1.50.

L. J. Bridgman furnishes some fair illustrations to a thin volume which includes one of Kipling's best stories, "The Drums of the Fore and Aft." Nearly every one has read this story, but it is worth reading again with the aid of these pictures. If any one is unfamiliar with the heroic act of Takin and Lew, the little Cockney drat, let him read this story—one of the greatest soldier stories of the language. Boston, Dana, Estes & Co.

Bedon has a famous book best so adequately illustrated as the new edition of "Pilgrim's Progress," with illustrations and decorations by the brothers George, Louis and Frederick Rhead. The original drawings, exhibited first in London and afterward in New York, attracted unusual attention in both cities and a general demand was expressed to see them reproduced in connection with the text of Bunyan's classic—the most popular single book ever written in the English language. They are not only highly decorative, but they reflect with remarkable fidelity the spirit of the book itself. There are thirty-six full-page illustrations and twice as many smaller ones, with headbands, initials, etc. The type in which the work is printed has been carefully chosen to harmonize with the style of the pictures and decorations. Doubleday & McClure Co., New York. Cloth, \$1.50; edition de luxe, \$5.00.

"Latitude 19," a romance of the West Indies in the year 1821, by Mrs. Schuyler Crowninshield, is the author's first novel. The local color is very captivating and the interest of novelty attaches to the historical background, including as it does the pirates and voodoo worshippers of the earlier part of the century in Hayti and the strange figure of King Christophe. Cloth, \$1.50.

Miss Farmer's chafing dish lectures at the Boston Cooking school have been highly successful and her new book, "Chafing Dish Possibilities," will be found most useful by those who are preparing the little might rarebit as well as those who like to use the chafing dish in cooking eggs at the breakfast table. The book includes nearly 250 recipes, all of which have been tested by actual experience. Careful directions for measuring are given. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. Cloth, \$1.00.

December Magazines. The Christmas numbers of a majority of the magazines are at hand and one thing may be said for them: They are works of great artistic merit, the illustrations and cover designs being executed with the greatest care. It would be no easy matter to find better examples of the printer's and engraver's art than are furnished by some of them. As to the contents, it is hardly possible to give unstinted praise, as there is quite a mingling of trash and rubbish along with the good. The greater majority even of the most popular magazines have contained so much about the late war that that subject is becoming decidedly threadbare. General This and Colonel That have told all about the ways and wherefores, have described their personal experiences and sensations and have done so very wisely upon the lessons to be learned. At first it was interesting and the public read it all eagerly, but too much of a good thing becomes tiresome after a time and magazine readers will have to be pardoned if they inwardly groan when they see the like contents of their favorite publications and secretly wonder how long it will be

The Art Amateur for Christmas is "a thing of beauty." Its exquisitely reproduced color plate entitled "Grandpas" from the famous academy picture by Charles E. Proctor, which won the Hallgarten prize and another at Syracuse, is one that will appeal to everybody for the tenderness and pathos expressed in it. The text of the magazine is extremely varied and highly interesting. It is a biography of Rubens with some superb examples of his work. Several

pages are devoted to "The Collector." Henry Mosler's "Wedding Feast" is illustrated. There is an excellent account of Charles E. Proctor's work, of the National Academy, Water Color Club and Carnegie Institute exhibitions. For the student there are illustrated articles on Pen Drawing, Landscape Painting, Flower Painting, Wood Carving, Tapestry Painting, etc.

American Reviews. The Atlantic continues to devote its political comments to the immediate and proximate problems confronting the country. The December number presents a valuable group of papers upon the question of dependencies and their management. Benjamin Kidd, the distinguished English sociologist and critic, opens the number with the only contribution to American literature which he has made during his recent tour in this country, entitled the United States and the Control of the Tropics, in which he maintains that the tropics must be developed by their own labor managed by northern capital. First in the inquiring person talked with Miss Annie Russell, a notable and gracious stage beauty, whose physical loveliness is yet subordinate to her art. Looking at her it is easy to comprehend how she took London's collective heart by storm.

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Feeling star-wise from beneath her cloud of silken hair, she smiled and said: "That is a hard question—very hard. I think no one can say exactly which is the greater help in a stage career, beauty or brains." "Speaking numerically, would you say the beauties have it?" the inquiring person murmured.

Miss Russell shook her head, but said, meditatively: "That is another thing about which no one can dogmatize. Of course a much vaunted beauty will draw the crowd, but the genius—the woman of whom the multitude is a great harp, strung with its own heart strings, she, too, can pack the playhouse, and keep on packing it when the beauty has left it." "Still—for immediate results, don't you think beauty wins hands down?" asked the inquirer.

Miss Russell nodded. "Hands down," she replied. "But only in a certain way. Some stage people, you understand, are chosen first of all to look the part. Managers often learn painfully that nature makes dreadful mistakes—who are still worse mistakes on the stage. Right here lies beauty's greatest aid. Heretics are all supposed to be beautiful—otherwise they could not be heretics. No," shaking her head, "I do not blame managers for that."

"Since beauty is so nearly the trump card of success, is it likely we shall ever see a hideous heretic?" the inquirer asked.

Miss Russell smiled. "A feminine Cyranos? No," she said decidedly. "Sex makes a world's difference in the matter of faces. Ugliness in a man is character—in a woman it is—simply ugliness."

I have a habit of calling when my stage career was beginning to find my first spoken of as 'one of the stage beauties.' Perhaps it is the memory of it which gives me so great a sympathy with Mary Anderson. It stings to have people say, as some of the 'O's' do, 'Oh, how she looks!—it too handsome.' A player is quick to feel such a mental attitude—there is a subtle rapport between the two sides of the footlights. I love to recall Peg Woffington—I think she would be even greater in our own day for her beauty and her good looks. Like perfect music unto noble words."

Beauty's Plenty, Genesee Few. After Miss Russell, hear Miss Julia Arthur, young, very beautiful, reeked a genius, and enormously successful. For a person so gifted she is singularly judicial. Asked to choose between beauty and genius, she said: "I would choose beauty. I have said. Talent, skill even, are so often paraded as genius, the term, which so few merit, has almost lost its distinction. Happy the woman to whom nature gives two such great gifts! I would choose beauty, for it is the more common expression—there are millions in it, as to some intelligent agriculturist, as a substitute for the Tonka bean, of which an enormous quantity is imported from Venezuela every year."

Other Periodicals. For its series of illustrations of our native flowers, Meekhan's Monthly for December has for its Prang chromo a representative of the south in the famous Carolina vanilla plant, *Liatris odoratissima*. In the historical chapter concerning it, Wilmington, N. C., the "Home of Wood," is now produced, indicating—that to use a common expression—there are millions in it, as to some intelligent agriculturist, as a substitute for the Tonka bean, of which an enormous quantity is imported from Venezuela every year."

The people of Tacoma and of the northwest generally evince no small amount of pride in the State, a monthly magazine that would be a credit to any section of the country. It certainly speaks well for the literary taste of the people of the northwest that it is possible to maintain a literary publication of high class in a comparatively new country and where the population is small as compared to older communities. Among the features of the last number were: "Dan's Nugget," sketch, "An Embroidered Sketch," "Autumn," something, "American Girl Can Do," "Off to the War" (a colloquy), "Under the White Cliff's" (fiction), "In the Land of the Midnight Sun," "The People of the Shades," "The Gospel of the Stage," "Disappointment" (a Quatrain), "Off to the War" by Curtis Freeman of Omaha, which gives the magazine something of a local interest.

The holiday number of the Woman's Home Companion is a Christmas gift in itself, with its wealth of short and long stories appropriate to the season from Francis Lynde, Robert C. V. Meyers, Ople Reed, Julia Truitt Bishop, Mary F. Leonard, Hester Caldwell Oakley, Harriet Prescott Spofford and William O. Stoddard. An illustrated page entitled "A Christmas Story" contains several beautiful poems of the Christmas-tide. Edward A. Steiner, in relating the facts of the downfall and death of the Prince of Austria, tells a story stranger than ever imagined in fiction.

The complete novel in the December issue of Lippincott's is by Annie Eliza Brand and has its action mainly in London. "Mrs. Russell's Sister" is a young, well-to-do and attractive widow, who takes a small house in a back street with a view to benefiting her humbler neighbors, but her philanthropic efforts are apt to require masculine assistance and all her fortitude cannot keep her lovers at a distance. Other features embrace "Philadelphia a Century Ago," by Kate Mason Rowland; "Lincoln of Coyote," by James T. McKay; "Babylon the Great," by Austin Bierbaum; "Table Sundries" by Calvin Dill Wilson; "Nobody's Fool," by L. S. Bernard; "Signature in Newspapers," by Alfred Balch; "Verona," by William Stevens Perry; "Six Weeks on the Stage," by Charlotte Adams, and "Rudolf's Decision," by Frederic M. Bird.



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