

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

On turning over the pages of the September *Overland*, one cannot but be struck with the extreme beauty of the scenery portrayed. The number is also noticeable for the excellence of its verse.

The papers in *Littell's Living Age* for September 16 are nearly all biographical, including A visit to Prince Bismarck, Gilbert White of Selborne and Charles Baudelaire and Edgar Poe. There is a capital short story from Temple Bar entitled *The Helgorn*.

American magazines, whether of purpose or not, contain more and more matter which is especially interesting to Canadians. In the September number of *Scribner's* we find *The Tides of the Bay of Fundy*, by Gustav Kobbé, finely illustrated by Twatchman and Pérard, and a richly colored poem entitled *Harvest*, by Duncan Campbell Scott. Articles of special literary interest are Izaak Walton, A Thackeray Manuscript in Harvard College Library, A Letter to Samuel Pepys, Esq., by Andrew Lang, and Richardson At Home, by Austin Dobson. The *Sharpness of Death* is a short story by E. K. Tompkins, so lifelike and penetrating that one hardly dares to hope that it isn't true.

Of all modern magazines there is none that presents a more scholarly appearance than *Shakespeareana*. Type and paper are all that can be desired and the wide margins impart an air of leisure and dignity which is extremely becoming. There are only two articles in the issue but these are notable. The first is, "The First Heir of Shakespeare's Invention" by Appleton Morgan, and gives his grounds for doubting that Shakespeare wrote *Venus and Adonis*. The second is "A Plea for the Adoption of the Bankside Reference Canon," by Alvey A. Adu. The second and third chapters appear of "A Man That's Married," a Shakespearean story by Charles Falkner, jr.

September is the *World's Fair* number of the *Cosmopolitan*. The most interesting of

the papers devoted to the subject are: A First Impression, by Walter Besant; Transportation, Old and New, by the Editor, Mr. Walker, and Points of Interest, by Ex-President Harrison. By far the most interesting part of the magazine, from a literary point of view, is contained under the new department, "In the World of Art and Letters," where one may read month by month what Sarcey, Boyesen, Lang and Janvier have to say. Mark Twain contributes an interesting and somewhat extravagant short story entitled "Is he living or is he dead?" The Traveller from Altruria is rather discouraging this month, but perhaps this is the inevitable effect of our atmosphere on an Altrurian.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From Messrs. Macmillan & Co. (London and New York) through the Copp, Clark Co., Toronto, we have received the latest volumes of the *Elementary Classics, English Classics* and *Twelve English Statesmen* Series, viz :

Homer Iliad VI. Edited by Walter Leaf and N.A. Bayfield, M.A.

Macaulay's Essays on Clive and on Warren Hastings. Edited by K. Deighton.

Edward the First.

All of these are excellent numbers of their respective series, but the last merits a much more extended notice. It is a remarkably clear and vivid narrative of the life and reign of Edward I. and a valuable addition to historical biography, and the author, Prof. T. F. Tout, shows research and skill in his marshalling of facts and development of the history of the great king "whose work lived on in his own realm of England where after ages agreed to recognize him as one of the greatest and wisest of her rulers."

The Sixth Book of the *Iliad* is part of the work to be read for Matriculation this year, and the edition above mentioned supplies all that a student could ask for in the way of notes, vocabulary and general information.