

with admiration. The plot is well sustained and the author's style free from most phases of affectation.

THE NEW TIME: a Plea for the Union of the Moral Forces for Practical Progress. By B. O. Flower. Boston: Arena Publishing Company.

This book, from the pen of the able editor of *The Arena*, is composed of a series of papers which have, from time to time, appeared in the pages of that periodical. The subject is, and ought to be of great interest to all people; and we are grateful to the author for the large amount of valuable information he has gathered together and put into readable shape. At the same time we must confess we are unable to follow him in all the views and opinions he expresses—for instance, when he writes:—"Only education, justice and freedom can avert the shock and devastation of bloody revolution."

Freedom which will be unknown until the greatest wealth-producing nation, the land which might be the most independent of all governments ceases to become, year by year, more and more hopelessly a debtor to the nations which are wealth-absorbers, and which, shorn of the power to thrive by craft, would no longer be in position to fatten off the wealth-earning peoples.

"A step toward this end will be taken when the United States demonetizes gold and makes her own notes, based on her actual wealth and the integrity of the nation, the only recognized legal-tender money; notes sufficient in volume to permit free exchange in a business carried on practically on a cash basis instead of the credit system, though not so great as to be impaired by representing more than a conservative per cent of the actual wealth of the nation."

Such rash statements and opinions as these detract very much from the value of the book as a whole.

PERIODICALS.

"School Excursions in Germany" is the name of the opening paper in the current issue of *The Century* from the pen of J. M. Rice; this interesting paper is followed by "Playgrounds for City Schools," by Jacob A. Riis, Joseph B. Bishop writes upon the "Price of Peace," Anna Fuller contributes a clever short story entitled "Jake Stanwood's Gal." Readers of this magazine will welcome the fifth in the series of papers entitled, "Across Asia on a Bicycle." M. C. W. Oliphant writes upon "Addison the Humorist." The fifth chapter of "A Bachelor Maid," by Mrs. Burton Harrison is reached in this issue. Amongst other interesting contributions we would mention "A Gentleman Vagabond," by E. Hopkinson Smith.

In the current issue of *Harper's*, Caspar W. Whitney treats upon that interesting subject, "Riding to Hounds in England," "The General's Bluff," by Owen Wisten is an amusing short story. "Early Summer in Japan" is the title of a contribution by Alfred Parson. Anna C. Brackett writes some pretty lines entitled "Within." Charles W. Warner's serial, "The Golden House," is continued in this issue. W. E. Norris tells the tale of "The Tug of War" with considerable animation. That popular writer, Brander Mathews, commences a serial entitled "The Royal Marine," an idyl of Narragansett Pier. Mary E. Wilkins contributes a pleasant sketch of "A New England Prophet." John White Chadwick discusses "The Origin of a Great Poem."

The stories and descriptive articles that are given in *St. Nicholas* for September will be sure to satisfy the most exacting boy or girl, and there is a wealth of amusing poems and accompanying pictures. Molly Elliot Seawell's serial, "Decature and Somers," has another instalment, and the pictures are exceedingly spirited. W. F. Hornaday has a graphic account of "A Wonderful Monster—The Walrus," which is profusely illustrated. "The

Wreck of the Markham" is a stirring and true story of the Nantucket Shoals and of the work of the Life-Saving Station, by Edwin Fiske Kimball, illustrated. Palmer Cox, in "The Brownies Through the Union," tells of the adventures of the funny little fellows in Kentucky and in the Mammoth Cave. The young readers will be especially interested in John W. Palmer's story of "A Little King with a Long Name," ten years of age, who ruled the dominion of Nepal some twelve years ago.

A continuation of Prof. James Sully's "Studies of Childhood" opens the *Popular Science Monthly* for September. The special subject of this paper is "The Imaginative Side of Play," and it shows, by means of many incidents, how strong is the power of "making believe" which children use in their plays and also throws some light on their behavior with dolls and pictures. The preparations that are being made for "Commercial Power Development at Niagara" are fully described by Ernest A. Le Sueur. The possibilities of this undertaking are enormous, and the prospects seem good for realizing a considerable portion of them. The paper is graphically illustrated. Under the title "Ethical Relations Between Man and Beast," Prof. E. P. Evans shows how the doctrine that the earth was made for man has fostered cruelty to animals. A new plan for reaching the North Pole is offered by Stuart Jenkins in an article entitled "Arctic Temperatures and Explorations." The writer gives his experience in enduring extreme cold as a Canadian surveyor, and presents details as to route, equipment, and time for a successful polar expedition. A fully illustrated paper about "Barbaries; A Study of Uses and Origins," by Frederick Le Roy Sargent, gives much interesting information. There is an article of charming interest, by the late Frank Bolles, on "The Humming Birds of Chocoma." Other good articles there are which make up the number.

The September number of *The North American Review* contains some articles of decided interest. The first place is given to a paper on the late Lord Chief Justice of England, by Lord Russell of Killowen, the present Lord Chief Justice. One would naturally expect a great intellectual treat from a combination of such illustrious names, but though the article is necessarily interesting because of the writer's exalted position, we venture to think it a rather commonplace production. Mr. W. H. Mallock deals with the significance of Modern Poverty, and whilst showing that it is the relative amount of poverty one must consider and not the absolute amount, he hits some pretty blows at Mr. Henry George and the Socialists. The great problem to be solved is not how to revolutionize our institutions in the interests of the unfortunate, but how to absorb the unfortunate into the society which Socialists are anxious to destroy. Three men of affairs write of China and Japan in Korea, Mark Twain comes heroically to the defence of Harriet Shelley, and Professor Blaikie discusses the Peasantry of Scotland. We commend to the earnest attention of all women, Mr. William Walsh's remarks on the Conceited Sex. Mr. Walsh seems to think that women are very far from perfection—especially the strong-minded and would-be intellectual kind—and has the courage to say so. Dr. Stewart, of Quebec, writes briefly of Restless French Canada. What he has to say is well worth careful consideration.

Brazilian grass never grew in Brazil, and is not grass; it is nothing but strips of palm-leaf.

Burgundy pitch is not pitch, and does not come from Burgundy; the greater part of it is resin and palm oil.

A thousand wrongs and abuses that are grown in darkness disappear, like owls and bats, before the light of day.—James A. Garfield.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL.

Mr. Jerome K. Jerome is said to be writing a play.

Mr. George Moore's next novel is to appear first in serial form in the *Idler*.

Mr. Thomas J. Wise has just begun publication, in the pages of the *Athenaeum*, of his "Bibliography of the Works of Robert Browning." It will afterwards be extended, and issued in parts to subscribers.

Mr. Shadwell, of Oriel College, will select from Walter Pater's papers such matter as he thinks it advisable to publish. It is also proposed that several of Pater's friends prepare a memorial volume from their reminiscences.

The *Idler* is to be edited henceforth by Mr. Barr. Mr. Jerome will retain his interest in the magazine, but his increasing work on *To-day* has led him to resign the editorial direction. Both editors' names will disappear from the cover.

John Muir, the well-known California naturalist, has written a book on "The Mountains of California," being a description of the mountains, glaciers, glacial meadows, forests, etc., of the Sierra Nevadas. It will be fully illustrated and will be published this fall by The Century Company in a 12mo volume of about 350 pages.

The Prussian Academy of Sciences has granted to Professors Zeller and Diels \$2,000 for continuing the publication of the writings of the commentators of Aristotle. Professor Zeller took leave of his classes at the University of Berlin, on August 2, with a speech in which he said that his health had always been so good that in his 110 semesters he had never missed his lectures for a single week.

Messrs. Charles L. Webster & Co. will at once publish "Max O'Rell's" new book, "John Bull & Co.," which deals with "the great Colonial branches of the firm, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa." If we may judge of the whole book from the Australian chapter, which we read the other day in *La Revue de Paris*, the author has abated nothing of the wit, the shrewdness, and the lively intelligence characteristic of his earlier writings.

While the number of second and third rate novels yearly increases, those that deserve to be labelled A1 are as undoubtedly on the wane. The pitiable state of the German book-market is partly answerable for this result, since it has driven some of the ablest contemporary novelists, such as Sudermann, Gerhardt, Hauptmann, and Voss, to turn aside from their original and obvious vocation in order to write indifferent dramas, because these prove to be more remunerative than first-class novels. Veteran standard authors like Freytag, Dahn, and Spielhagen, who have been before the public for three or more decenniums, seem to labour under the delusion that whatever they now write must necessarily be worth reading, and that a writer who once has achieved fame has nothing further to do in order to keep it up but to go on producing with clockwork regularity a certain number of volumes per annum, whether or not these books are distinguished by any of those qualities which made the reputation of their earlier works.—*Blackwood's Magazine*.