

## LITERARY NOTES.

The Christmas spirit runs all through the December number of *St. Nicholas*. "How a Street-Car Came in a Stocking" is told by Harriet Allen. It was not a little toy affair, but one that had carried passengers in a great city for many years. Just how happy it made the recipient every little boy can imagine. Sarah Orne Jewett, in "Betty Leicester's English Christmas," gives further experiences of a heroine who has already made many friends. There is almost a touch of pathos in "A Christmas White Elephant," by W. A. Wilson, jolly as the story is. A little girl falls in love with her Christmas tree, which she imagines is alive after reading one of Hans Andersen's tales and her parents are at their wits' end to know how to dispose of it. James Whitcomb Riley contributes a child-poem that is in his most imaginative vein, "The Dream March of the Children," and Bertha E. Bush describes in verse "The Christmas Song of Cedmon." But attractive as are these holiday features, they do not constitute the leading charm of the number. This will be found in "Letters to Young Friends," by Robert Louis Stevenson. The magazine has been fortunate enough to secure a number of letters written by Stevenson to his little ward, Austin Strong, and to other children. The first selections from them appear in this issue together with a new portrait of Stevenson and other pictures. The letters describe the romantic features of the writer's life in Samoa, and give a graphic account of his native retainers. Mrs. Constance Cary Harrison, in "The Little Carltons Have Their Say," draws from her own experience in Richmond during the war. "Our Secret Society," by George Parsons Lathrop, will prove to its readers that boys are very much the same now as when the writer was a youth. Mrs. Helen E. Greig tells of "Owney, the Post office Dog," and some new pictures are given of this remarkable canine traveler. "Bombshell: An Artillery Dog," who saved the lives of two little children by his instinct, is described by Lieut. John C. W. Brooks. The serials are represented by interesting chapters.

A Unique Mid-Winter Magazine. —The New Year's *Ladies' Home Journal* brings with it abundant assurance that it has inaugurated the red letter year of its existence—that it will be better in 1896 than ever. The best known and most popular contemporaneous writers and artists are represented in their best achievements. On the cover page is reproduced Albert Lynch's famous painting, "The God-mother," in half-tone, showing the great work of the modern master in exquisite perfection of artistic detail. Mary Anderson de Navarro continues the interesting reminiscence of her "Early Days on the Stage," recounting her trials, disappointments and ultimate triumphs. Ex-President Harrison's paper in his "This Country of Ours" series, explains succinctly and lucidly the Federal Constitution, tells of its adoption and amendments, and defines its scope and limitations. Edna Lyall, author of "Donovan," "We Two," etc., contributes an instructive paper, in which she records her "Early Literary Influences" and her first and subsequent successes as a novelist. Frank R. Stockton's "The Widow's Yarn" is a delightfully droll story told in its author's inimitable way, and Jerome K. Jerome's "Blase Billy," the first of his "Stories of the Town" series, written for the *Journal*, is in the author's characteristic and most delightful vein. Mary E. Wilkins' "Little Margaret Snell," second of "Neighborhood Types" sketches, is a uniquely refreshing bit of pen portraiture, quite equal to her first paper, which was given in the December *Journal*. Edith M. Thomas the poetess, contributes a poetic study in natural history—notes of winter—under the caption of "A Watch in the Night of the Year." Rudyard Kipling's powerful short story, "William the Conqueror," reaches a splendid climax and its conclusion in the January *Journal*, and Julia Magruder's romance, "The Violet," continues, increasing in its fascinating, absorbing interest. Edward W. Bok edi-

torially talks with young men, answering a number of inquiries submitted to him upon business and social topics. Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, D. D., writes forcibly and entertainingly upon "Memories of Our Childhood Homes," and announces that he will henceforth address himself to young men, in a series of papers. Other contributors cover the field of fashions, discuss matters of etiquette, the baby, fortune-telling as an amusement, and various topics of home interest. The departments are bright, attractive, instructive and complete. Drawings by W. L. Taylor, Charles Dana Gibson, William Martin Johnson, Alice Barber Stephens, Elizabeth S. Green and Abbey E. Underwood are among the strong artistic features of the January *Journal*, which is exceptionally bright, fresh and interesting in literature and illustrations, and which carries with it the explanation of its universal popularity. By the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia one dollar per year.

The Christmas Century is notable both pictorially and for its literature. Perhaps the most striking and novel illustrations are those by Tissot from his well-known series, "The Life of Christ," which have been seen only in Paris, but which may later be placed on exhibition in the United States. The article on this extraordinary work is written by Miss Edith Cones. Another set of interesting illustrations is by Louis Loeb, the American artist, accompanying an article on "The Passion Play at Voder-Thiersee. Vilbert's well-known picture, "The Grasshopper and the Ant," is reproduced in the series of pictures now running in "The Century," by this distinguished French artist. A little story by the artist accompanies the reproduction of the painting. This number gives the opening chapters of a story called "Tom Grogan," by F. Hopkinson Smith, with pictures by Mr. Reinhardt. "Tom Grogan" is a character which is likely to take its place among the curious and popular contemporary figures presented to the public by Mr. Smith. A real old-fashioned Christmas story by Stockton is entitled "Captain Eli's Best Ear." Among the short stories, however, none will attract more attention than Rudyard Kipling's most original inventions. The second instalment of Mr. Humphry Ward's "Sir George Tressady" is given, and it is evident that Lady Maxwell (in other words "Marcella") is to be one of the most prominent figures in the story, Marcella married and at the very top of her political and social influence. The article entitled "A Midsummer Night," by Benjamin Kidd, presents to the public the author of "Social Evolution" in a new light, that of a naturalist and lover of nature. He describes a midnight walk in a neighborhood of London. The musician Stavenhagen has a timely paper, with portrait, on Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel." Mr. Leslie J. Perry describes with numerous examples from the records the "Appeals to Lincoln's Clemency, and the Rev. Dr. Munger has a suggestive paper called "Music, Heavenly Maid." Miss Thomas writes in both prose and poetry of "Glamour." A very timely article is printed in "Open Letters" on "The International Exhibition of 1900," with a map. This is by Theodore Stanton, who speaks from the close knowledge of the subject. There are editorial essays on "Congress and the Currency System," "Fruits of Civic Spirit," "A Citizen by Adoption," etc. Harriet Prescott Spoford publishes a poem entitled "Hear, O Israel!" and there are shorter pieces of verse in "Lighter Vein."

Of several new stories of Lincoln told in the second instalment of the new "Life of Lincoln," in McClure's Magazine for December, one of the most interesting is that, when Lincoln removed with his family from Indiana to Illinois, he made thrifty use of the opportunities of the journey to peddle out, at a good point, a stock of small wares which he had bought for the purpose. The whole instalment is rich in picturesque details, and in Lincoln as he undertook life on his own account, first as a flatboatman, and then as a

grocery clerk at New Salem, exhibits a young genius and hero, doing wonderful feats of strength, risking his life to save comrades from drowning, and magically winning his way in a new community by his rare integrity, his superior intelligence, and his gift of entertaining speech. Along with the paper are twenty-five pictures, including a fac-simile of Lincoln's first vote, portraits of him in 1856, 1857, 1858, and 1860, portraits of his early associates, and pictures of all the important scenes of this period of his life. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, in the same number, describes, with fond and humorous touches, her girlhood in one of the most attractive of New England university towns, relating how she secretly began her literary career at the tender age of thirteen, and giving charming reminiscences of her father, Professor Austin Phelps, and her mother (also Elizabeth Stuart Phelps) the most popular writer for children of her day. Some portraits, hitherto unpublished, and other pictures add to the interest and value of the article. Another notable piece of literary autobiography is the story derived from conversations with Mr. Hall Caine, of the peculiar trials and labors which he, the son of a humble Manxman had to endure in order to become one of the foremost of English novelists. The central idea of his novels, Mr. Caine derives, it seems, from the Bible, of which he is a devoted student; and he composes them in his mind down almost to the last word, before he begins to write them, the writing itself being little more than mechanical, and, consequently, very rapid. The paper is very fully and interestingly illustrated. A Christmas article of great beauty, as well as interest, is Mr. Will H. Low's "Madonna and Child," with reproductions of thirty-two celebrated paintings specially chosen by Mr. Low during a recent visit to Europe. There are particularly good stories by Anthony Hope and Robert Barr, a Christmas story by Ella Higginson, and a bright travel sketch by Cy Warman the engineer poet who took the thousand mile ride on the engine of a "flyer." S. S. McClure, 30 Lafayette Place, New York.

McClure's Magazine for January will contain a selection of Eugene Field's best-known child poems, illustrated with portraits, from Mr. Field's own collection, of the real children to whom the poems relate. There will also be an article on Field's friendships among children illustrated with portraits of Field, including the last taken before his death.

A popular and growing Christmas custom is the giving of periodicals for Christmas presents. Of these The Youth's Companion offers the most for the cost, \$1.75 a year. The Companion has been the popular companion for young and old for three generations. It comes just often enough, regularly once a week, to keep up the companionship, bringing information and entertainment for every member of the family. The Christmas Number, just issued, is a good Christmas present in itself.

The last story Stevenson wrote, and the one on which he was still engaged when death overtook him, he called "A Tragedy of the Great North Road." The first instalment appears in the Christmas number of the *Cosmopolitan*. James Lane Allen begins his new novel, "Butterflies," which promises to be among the best works of that author. "Ouida," with one of her inimitable character sketches, Sarah Grand, and Zangwill with Stevenson make the fiction a strong and almost incomprehensible feature of a ten cent magazine. Nor is the illustration of The *Cosmopolitan* behind the fiction. A long array of artists, no less personages than Alfred Parsons, the famous French illustrator, Rossi, Alice Barber Stephens, Reginald Macell, R. B. A., B. West Cline, F. O. Small, F. G. Attwood, Eric Pape, Jose Cabrinety, R. C. W. Bunney, Dan Beard, and G. H. Boughton, A. R. A., contribute original illustrations.

With the December issue, The *Arena* is reduced in price to twenty-five cents per

copy and to \$3.00 per year, but this reduction in price is accompanied by no diminution in the excellence of this great liberal, progressive and reformative review; indeed, this issue is exceptionally strong. Among the eminent thinkers who contribute to the one hundred and seventy six pages which go to make up the body of the magazine, are Prof. Richard T. Ely, Justice Walter Clark, LL.D., Rev. Minot J. Savage, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, Frank B. Sanborn, Rev. John W. Chadwick, Henry Gaullieur, Prof. George D. Herron, Prof. Frank Parsons, Prof. Joseph Rhodes Buchanan, Helen H. Gardener, and Will Allen Dromgoole. The last named opens a serial of Tennessee life, which promises to be intensely interesting, and which will run during the next six issues of The *Arena*. Besides the one hundred and seventy-six pages which make up the body of the magazine, there are Editorial Notes and The World of Books, which prove of special interest to a large majority of our readers,—all making more than two hundred pages of reading matter.

Godey's Magazine for January.—Godey's Magazine has brought out another novelty for the January issue, in the shape of a Woman's Number. All the articles, stories, and poems in it are either by or about women. If anyone thinks, however, that the magazine is less interesting on this account, let him read in Joseph Dana Miller's "The New Woman in Office," of how Mrs. Blackman, Secretary of the Police Board of Leavenworth, handled a Coxey "army," and the experience of Mrs. Ames as deputy sheriff in Illinois; or of the ingenious accomplishments of women, told in "Women Inventors"; or Mrs. Martha McCulloch Williams' charming piece of fiction, "Pyramus and Thisbe"; or Frances Aymar Mathews' "A Record of Realities." In cover, illustrations, fashion department, and all the familiar features, the customary standard is maintained. Ten cents a copy. Godey's Magazine announces a prize of fifty dollars for the best short story in which the bicycle plays an important part. Mss. should be between three and four thousand words long, and must be received by February 1st. The Godey Company, New York, will furnish further particulars of the competition.—The Godey Company, 52-54 Lafayette Place, New York.

A great many country people believe that the screeching of an owl indicates impending calamity.

## Nothing To Fear

in washing with *Pearline*. It does wonders, but it does them safely. You can use it on the finest laces or the coarsest paint. The fine things are washed carefully; the rough work is done easily. *Pearline* does away with the Rub, Rub, Rub. Wash with *Pearline*, and there is little that is work; wash without it, and there is little that is worse.

**Beware** Peddlers and some unscrupulous grocers will tell you "this is as good as" or "the same as" *Pearline*. IT'S FALSE—*Pearline* is never peddled, and if your grocer sends you something in place of *Pearline*, do the honest thing—send it back. 300 JAMES PYLE, N. Y.

