

Literary.

The Christmas Ladies' Home Journal by far surpasses, both in literary and artistic excellence, any previous issue of that popular magazine. Conspicuous among the contributors are ex-President Harrison, who gives the introductory paper of the series he is preparing upon "This Country of Ours"; Mrs. Mary Anderson de Navarro, who most interestingly tells of "My First Appearance on the Stage"; and Mary E. Wilkins, who gives the first of "Neighborhood Types" papers. Rudyard Kipling's latest and best romance, "William the Conqueror," (richly illustrated by W. L. Taylor), is begun in the Christmas Journal, as is Julia Magruder's new novelette, "The Violet," which Charles Dana Gibson has illustrated, while Mrs. Burton Harrison's fascinating story, "The Holiday Dance at Worrosquoyack" (pictures by W. T. Smedley), is delightfully concluded. James Whitcomb Riley's tenderly reminiscent poem, "At the Gate" (superbly illustrated by A. B. Frost), and Kate Greenaway's winsome dainty little people, are two page features of the December Journal. Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney in a "Friendly Letter to Girl Friends" sharply criticises society for what it is, and shows its true mission or purpose, and a fitting page-mate to it is Lillian Bell's caustic analysis of "The Man Under Thirty-Five," a brilliantly witty paper. Edward W. Bok editorially discusses the South and Southern people, directs attention to "An Evil of the Holidays," chats upon "A Young Christmas" and "Young Men and Evening Work." Dr. Parkhurst talks strongly in condemnation of "The Passion of Money-Getting"; Hezekiah Butterworth tells "How Longfellow Wrote His Best-Known Poems," and Robert J. Burdette humorously and pointedly treats of the "Wasting Other People's Time." Aside from the usual departments and talks about fashion in feminine attire, there is a daintily-illustrated article—"Attractive Dinner Cards," which outlines the art of dinner-giving; also instructions in Christmas decorations for churches, talks of Christmas gifts, receipts for candies and puddings, suggestions for needlework, parties and games. "An Ideal Kitchen" and "A \$3500 Suburban Home," both illustrated, are especially useful articles; the latter gives all the plans and details of construction, and is by a practical architect. The musical feature of the number, a hymn, "Jesus the Very Thought of Thee," is one of Bruno Oscar Klein's best compositions. The artists represented in the Christmas Journal are among the most notable illustrators, and include A. B. Frost, Kate Greenaway, W. L. Taylor, C. D. Gibson, Alice Barber Stephens, W. T. Smedley, E. Grivaz, E. M. Hallowell, Abby E. Underwood, Miss E. S. Green, W. S. Rice. By The Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. One dollar per year; ten cents per copy.

The old-time Christmas number of a domestic magazine was a good thing, fairly adapted for use at the fireside and in the home, but the Christmas number of to-day, as is well typified in Jenness Miller Monthly, is a fitting illustration of the development of literary work and taste in the last few years, especially as it applies generally and in detail to what might be called the kingdom of women. From the cover the bright eyes a pretty child peep out shyly at the beholder; a merry Christmas party; "Under the Mistletoe," greets the reader from the frontispiece, and many other equally attractive illustrations sprinkle the book from the first cover to last. The reading matter is especially well adapted to the requirements of the season. There is an admirable Christmas sermon by Rev. Phebe A. Hanford, a glowing Christmas story, and a Children's Christmas story, equally filled with delight and pathos; an article on Christmas Entertainments, and another on Christmas Gifts. The editorial page reflects the theme of the cover in a plea for the betterment of childhood. Besides these there is an array of practical articles that furnish a valuable encyclopaedia for the woman of to-day. She is told how to dress from the admirable Jenness Miller standpoint, which will con-

duce to her health as well as to her beauty. The department known as "Occupations for Women," suggests to her how she may get a living. She is told how to increase flesh, having been told how to reduce it in the November number; how to cook, and how to keep house according to the latest and most approved methods, in the "Household Science" department; how to go into society enjoyably and instructively, in the "Afternoon Tea" department; how to walk, in the "Physical Culture" article; in short, the number is crammed full of good things for women in all stations in life. The department known as "Correspondence" is also worthy of special note, every question, of which there are a great number on subjects pertaining to hygiene, dress, household science, etc., being answered entertainingly and in detail. Altogether the Monthly is one of the gems of the Christmas market.

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