

THE WATER-BABIES: A Fairy Tale for a Land-Baby. By Charles Kingsley. New Edition. With one hundred illustrations by Linley Sambourne. London and New York: Macmillan and Co.

This is a handsome edition, very finely illustrated, of the Rev. Charles Kingsley's well-known fairy tale. The story itself, which perhaps is familiar to our readers, is a pathetic one, relating the adventures of one of those unfortunate little chimney-sweeps Charles Lamb loved so well, who, tumbling down the wrong chimney in a country house, found himself in a little girl's room, and being found there also by the nurse, took flight over fell and crag till, fevered and delirious, he ended his short, unfortunate human life in a brook, where he went to bathe. But his life was continued afterwards in the form of a water-baby; and it is as such that he meets with the surprising adventures that are the main burden of the tale. These are told as delightfully as only Charles Kingsley could do it; the story is full of hearty good nature, sound sense, and wholesome precept, garnished with a most diverting strain of wit. It is a classic for children.

DEGRADED. Hamilton: *Spectator* Printing Company.

This is an anonymous novelette, written, however, we understand, by a Hamilton lady, and dedicated to "all girls whose only inheritance is Adam's legacy—Work." The principal characters are Dr. Arlington, "a proud, happy-looking man" (well he might be); Chester Marsh, a sweet, graceful woman; two majestic old ladies, Dr. Arlington's mother and his aunt; and his sister. Out of these and their environment, the authoress has weaved a very charming story, which she has told plainly and gracefully. The heroine, a school teacher out of employment, takes, against the wish of her aristocratic aunt, domestic service with Dr. Arlington; and the purport of the book is to show how by choosing healthful work and doing her duty she is *not* degraded, and, moreover, receives the guerdon—but, stay, our readers, if they cannot guess, must find out what she receives from the book itself: it will well repay a perusal.

THE NEW KING ARTHUR: An Opera without Music. By the author of "The Buntling Ball." New York and London: Funk and Wagnalls.

This is an opera that needs no music. The "New King Arthur" is really a very enjoyable book; once begun it is difficult to lay it down again. The story itself is a parody on Tennyson's Arthur and the Round Table; but this is not its charm: what makes it so diverting is the humorous treatment of the versification, which, varied as it is, is really perfect. It seems there is a mystery about the authorship of this volume and "The Buntling Ball," by the same anonymous writer; and the volume is accompanied by a blank which, if filled up by a correct guess of the name of the author before the 1st March, will entitle the guesser to a thousand dollars.

THE ESSAYS OF ELIA. By Charles Lamb, with an Introduction by Alfred Ainger. New York: John B. Alden.

A well-printed, readable edition of this delightful English classic. It is accompanied by a good introduction, which serves admirably to direct the reader to the varied treasures of Lamb's humour contained in the volume.

WE have received also the following publications:

JOHNS HOPKINS' UNIVERSITY STUDIES. Fourth Series: 1. Dutch Communities on the Hudson River. By Irving Elting, A.B. Baltimore: N. Murray.

LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE. February. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Company.

MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN HISTORY. February. New York: 30 Lafayette Place.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. January 30. Boston: Littell and Company.

MUSIC. "The Beautiful Snow." Duet for Soprano and Alto. Words and music composed by William McDonnell. Toronto: Strange and Company.

CENTURY. February. New York: Century Company.

WIDE-AWAKE. February. Boston: D. Lothrop and Company.

NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW. February. New York: 30 Lafayette Place.

BROOKLYN MAGAZINE. February. Brooklyn, N. Y.: 106 Livingston Street.

THE advantages accruing from the careful and efficient management of a public company are well shown by the exhibit of the affairs of the North American Life Assurance Company, made at the annual meeting of the Company held here last week. The comparison of the amount of business done with that done by other companies, and the abstract of the relative position of this Company, as to assets, cannot but be most satisfactory to policy-holders, who have the assurance, moreover, that a prompt settlement of claims has been made a distinguishing feature of this Company. The whole report, which appears elsewhere in this issue, is well worth the attention of intending insurers.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

LAURENCE HUTTON begins a series of illustrated papers on "Some American Book-Plates" in the February *Book-Buyer*.

N. TIBBALS AND SONS announce the publication of "Romish Teachings in the Protestant Churches," by an anonymous author.

THE Harpers will issue at once in their Franklin Square Library Count Leo Tolstoi's novel, "War and Peace." It is also published by William S. Gottsberger.

D. LOTHROP & Co. issue this month Mrs. Sarah K. Bolton's "Social Studies in England." The volume is rich with facts and data for political economists in America.

"A SCHOLAR'S ROMANCE" is the title of Mr. F. Marion Crawford's new novel, and it will be published in both English and American editions by Messrs. Macmillan and Co.

THE February issue of *Outing* is a pleasing winter number, containing several articles of special interest, and a wide range of general matter upon topics more or less connected with recreation.

ONE of the best magazine articles on Ice Yachting that has appeared in five years is from the pen of Col. Charles L. Norton, of the University Club, New York, in *Outing* for February. It is fully illustrated with diagrams relating to construction and rig.

A NEW edition of Mr. Cross's "Life of George Eliot" has just come from the press of Harper and Brothers, with an appendix giving new and important information relating to the subject of George Eliot's change of religious belief in 1841-42, and recollections of the Coventry period of her life.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY will issue immediately a new edition of Macaulay's Works in sixteen volumes, and a cheap edition of Mrs. Ole Bull's popular memoir of her husband; and announce as in preparation a new edition of Taswell-Langmead's "English Constitutional History from the Teutonic Conquest to the Present Time."

CHARLES GODFREY LELAND is the latest subject of a sketch in the *Critic's* "Authors at Home" Series. More than two pages of the issue of that paper for January 30 are filled with an account of his life in Philadelphia and abroad, the sketch being written by his niece, Mrs. Joseph Pennell, formerly Miss Elizabeth Robins, of Philadelphia.

FRANK DEMPSTER SHERMAN, whose graceful poems in the *Century* and the *Atlantic* have gained him so wide a popularity as a writer of *vers de societe* is at present living in Peekskill, N. Y. In *February*, which D. Lothrop and Co. publish, appears as an original contribution to the volume a poem entitled "In February," which is conceived in Mr. Sherman's best vein.

THE successors of Goupil in Paris are about to start a new monthly illustrated review entitled *Les Lettres et les Arts*. Each number will contain about one hundred and forty pages and nearly forty illustrations, including engravings, etchings, photogravures, and coloured engravings. The price per copy will be \$6; per year, \$60. Charles Scribner's Sons are the American agents.

IN March the Messrs. Putnam will begin the publication of a monthly journal to be called the *International Record of Charities and Correction*, and to be devoted to "the discussion of all questions relating to the care and treatment of the unfortunate and criminal classes, in all their varied aspects—humanitarian, economic, scientific, governmental and practical." Its price will be \$1 a year.

TWO volumes of the prose and verse of Wm. Maginn, the famous editor of *Fraser's Magazine*, have just appeared in London. Maginn was an exceptionally clever man, but of too convivial a nature to buckle down to hard work. He wrote many brilliant papers, as these volumes show, and he might have earned a handsome living, but he preferred to live his own wild life and died an object of charity.

MR. J. E. COLLINS appears in the current number of *Outing*, and is announced to appear in the forthcoming *Wide Awake* as "Edmund Collins." He, therefore, has followed illustrious examples in cutting off a superfluous initial. Mr. Collins had a story in a late number of *Wide Awake*, and a paper on "Canada Since Confederation," in a late issue of *Leslie's Monthly*, under his old signature—J. E. Collins.

MESSRS. FREDERICK WARNE AND COMPANY have begun the publication of "The Albion Poets," a series of standard poetical works in a neat cloth book, which is sold at retail for \$1.50. When we find the complete works of Shakespeare in the series with its 1,100 or more pages, we are convinced that cheap book-making has reached its height. The poems of Wordsworth will form the next volume, which will be ready in a few days.

THE home billiard-table may be made, with little trouble, an instrument of most excellent moral influence, and a woman can learn to play as readily as a man. A writer on the subject, in *Outing* for February, says: "Young women, learn the game of billiards, and learn it well! It will repay you a thousand times for your trouble by its charm; and who knows but that some day the skill which you acquire will keep a restless husband from his club when fireside and music will have failed?"

"ST. NICHOLAS" for February has a richly-varied table of contents. Among those articles which may be classed as timely is an outdoor sketch entitled "Fish-spearing through the Ice," which shows how some clever boys improved on an ingenious Indian mode of fishing; "Badminton," a sort of indoor tennis for winter days, is the subject of a paper by C. L. Norton; Sophie Swett has an amusing "coasting" story called "The Girl Who Lost Her Pocket"; and there are bright Valentine verses by Elizabeth Cummings, and others.

WHEN Houghton, Mifflin and Company declared the John W. Lovell Company to have violated the rights of Mr. Longfellow's heirs by publishing "Hyperion," the latter firm brought a libel suit against them for \$25,000 damages. On trial it was shown that the Lovell cheap reprint was not a verbatim reproduction of the uncopyrighted edition of 1839, but contained changes of the original text. Accordingly, on Wednesday of last week, Judge Ingraham, of New York, directed a verdict for Houghton, Mifflin and Company, the poet's authorized publishers.

IN the contents of the "Midwinter" *Century* may be found a remarkable variety of subjects of public moment, and an equally remarkable list of names associated with the history, literature, and art of America. If this issue of the magazine has an inhospitable look to foreign contributors, who happen to be wholly and by accident excluded, they may find recompense of courtesy, in the plain speech from forty-five American writers, on "International Copyright," spoken in the "Open Letters" department, and which is one of the most striking features of the number. Lowell opens the argument against literary theft with a quatraine in the most biting vein of Biglow's humour; epigrams of satire, reason, justice, and exhortation from writers prominent in every branch of letters follow; and Whittier at the end speaks a few words of Quaker scorn of the American attitude to the subject more bellicose than avowed warfare. The leading article in "Topics of the Time" expresses the editorial view of "The Demand of American Authors."