

by the publishers of *The Century* to illustrate Mr. Howell's series on Italian cities, of which this is the first paper.

HARPER'S BAZAR AND HARPER'S WEEKLY, in the early numbers of this year, keep up, indeed rather exceed, the usual high standard of these popular weeklies. The first issue of the *Bazar* for the year is an admirable number, the illustrations, especially "A Christmas Story," "The Morning Prayer" and "Santa Claus," being unexceptionably good. Juliet Corson is writing in the *Bazar* good articles relating to health. In referring to the longevity of the Jews, she writes, "a recent Jewish writer asserts that the remarkable survival of the race, despite the persecution of centuries, is a clear instance of the survival of the physically fittest, the natural sequence of a religion which considers the present and material welfare of its followers, and which attaches as much importance to the care of the body as to the condition of the soul. . . . Even less than two hundred years ago so little was the sanitary necessity of habitual cleanliness understood that when Priessnitz announced his water-cure he was hailed as the discoverer of a new factor in medical treatment."

ST. NICHOLAS "for young people"—and many who are not young are greatly pleased in reading it, is really a charming serial. In the December and January numbers every page is full of most interesting things. In the February number we are promised, amongst other good things, a frontispiece, "Beggar Boys at Play," after the celebrated painting by Murillo; "Driven Back to Eden," with five illustrations; "No Longer a Baby"; "Davy and the Goblin"; "My Valentine," verses, illustrated; "A Garden of Girls"; "English Kings in a Nut-shell"; "Little Red-Riding-Hood and the February Wolf"; "A Queer Partnership"; "Ralph's Winter Carnival"; "The Brownies' Return," illustrated; "Stories of Art and Artists"; "For Very Little Folk" and "Jack-in-the-Pulpit." The great feature which makes St. Nicholas so attractive is its entire, and, if we might here use such an expression, "far-fetched," originality.

THE "WEEK" asserts that it enters on its second year with a most encouraging prospect for the years to come. Its early difficulties have been surmounted; it is now firmly established; its circulation fully answers the expectation of its proprietors, and is steadily increasing. The union which it presents of the magazine with the weekly journal appears to be recognized as the thing needed; and independent journalism is evidently growing in favour with the most enlightened and patriotic portion of the community, as it certainly should. The *Week* stands high in the estimation of foreign journals as well as with

the Canadian press on both sides of politics. Its weekly criticisms of current events and opinions, from one of the ablest of modern writers, is its greatest feature; while its "Topics of the Week" and its departments of education, science, art, music, and sometimes health, make it a welcome, and indeed an almost indispensable visitor.

IN "GRIP" of the 10th inst. is a good cartoon representing "Typhoid Bay," Toronto, with vapors of "infection" flowing upwards from the mouths of the sewers, which empty their accumulated filth into what once was a beautiful basin of water. There is a representation of an old pump labelled "foul water," and of the recently elected mayor, in working costume, with broom in hand, with Mr. Grip standing near saying, "now then, my lad, bustle around and get to work. You've no time to lose." In explanation, *Grip* writes, "What we want is good city government, whether Grit or Tory. Give us John A. and good city water. Let us have the N. P., and a good drainage system. Finish the C. P. R. next year and clean up the back yards."

THE MONTREAL DAILY STAR, we learn, is bringing out a magnificent Carnival number, something that will eclipse in artistic merit and absorbing interest every illustrated paper heretofore issued in this country. It will have the attack on the ice palace and defence by the Garrison in all its magnificent pomp and brilliancy; the tobogganing fête in its true natural beauty; the ice Condora after the Egyptian models, inaugurated with electric and pyrotechnic illuminations; the mammoth ice-lion (British); the great sleigh drive, embracing thousands of superb equipments, and probably the grandest thing of the kind of modern times; the fancy dress entertainments, true to nature; and a magnificent inset-plate of the ice palace—a fine picture for framing. There was a great *furor* over the last year's Carnival number of the *Star*, the issue running up to nearly a quarter of a million. It is said this year's number will be far ahead of that. The artists are Bengough, Julian, Harris and Haber. The writers, George Murray, John Reade, Dr. Beers, "A Iron-lad" Murray and W. H. Turner. *Grip* sends for production in the Carnival *Star* a double page which is said to be the most side-splitting cartoon ever published in this country. The Carnival number, too, will be published at the low price of fifteen cents, by Messrs. Graham & Co., Montreal.

PROBLEMS OF NATURE is a new aspirant for public favor, published semi-monthly, in New York, and edited by H. B. Philbrook. It is a scientific paper, and advances many new theories, as, for example, on the "Origin of Species," the "Effects of Electricity in the Earth" and in the "Growth of Plants," and "The Phenomena of Vaccination," which are as striking in their boldness and the confidence with which they are put