

CURRENT READING.

THE *Cosmopolitan* is leading with its most exquisite halftone engravings. A magazine with such delicate and artistic illustrations must necessarily grow popular. The May number of this popular magazine contains its usual quota of high class articles. A short story of adventure by Gilbert Parker will interest Canadians. A foot-note in the magazine gives the following particulars concerning this talented writer. Mr. Gilbert Parker is a Canadian by birth, but he has visited, in pursuit of material for his admirable short stories, most of the recondite portions of the globe—the Hawaiian Islands, New Zealand, the South Sea Islands, and Australia. In the last named country he was associate editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Times*. As might have been expected from his constant travels, his tales breathe a vigorous out-of-door atmosphere of freedom and adventure. His latest and probably most successful field has been the Hudson Bay lands, the picturesque life and history of which have given him a fresh and fertile ground work for the volume of short stories, "Pierre and His People." He has published three other books of fiction and travel, and is a constant contributor to the English periodicals. Mr. Parker has just left New York for his present home in England after a stay which has brought him many friends and well-wishers.

The *St. John's College Magazine*, Winnipeg, does not seem to be receiving the encouragement it should. It is well edited, nevertheless.

The *Arcadia* was a good magazine; but it was Canadian, and hence had to die. The good die young.

Hamlin Garland's article on "The Future of Fiction," in the April *Arena*, was worthy of him.

E. Pauline Johnson, Canada's Indian poetess, is a contributor to the May *Outing*. She talks of fresh air. Grace E. Denison, another well-known Canadian writer, continues her story, "Through Erin Awheel."

Godey's Magazine for May contains a beautiful water-color portrait of Mrs. Potter Palmer. 'The Home' department is conducted by Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher.

The Review of Reviews for May will be found as strikingly original and individual in its character as any previous issues of this enterprising periodical. It strikes out into a fresh field with Mr. Stend's magnificent character sketch of Frederick Selous, the great African traveller and hunter—the greatest Nimrod, in fact, that this world has ever produced. Mr. Stend makes a marvellously interesting chapter of exploits with lions, elephants, and other large game in the

heart of Africa, and also shows in his own peculiar virile and fascinating way how vitally the work of a great hunter like Selous may associate itself with the advance of civilization, and with the enlightenment of the Dark Continent.

A number of interesting engravings relating to the art department of the Columbian Exposition, appear in *The Art Interchange* for May. Among them is a portrait of the handsome director, Mr. Halsey C. Ives. The other illustrations include decorative designs relating to all the applied arts—china painting, embroidery, and oil and water color painting. Among these "A Convention of Frogs" for Jardiniers, some charming forget-me-not designs for sugar bowl, conventional designs for china service, sketches of furniture and houses, are most conspicuous for their originality and beauty. Among the paintings in color which accompany this issue are two which are likely to attract attention. "A Perilous Plight," showing a capital study of pug dogs, and "An Afternoon Call," a very pretty figure sketch. The text includes two extremely clever things, a very bright story by Polly King, and a London Letter. The issue is replete with articles and illustrations which appeal to amateur artists and to those who are interested in beautifying the home. The May issue, with its three colored supplements, can be had of all newsdealers, at 35 cents.

A notable feature of *Outing* for May is the first of a series of articles upon the giants of the American equine world, under the title of "Queens of the Trotting Track." From the days of famous Lady Suffolk down to the reign of peerless Nancy Hanks, all record-breaking performances and other bits of horse-lore are cleverly woven into a clear and instructive article.

THE UNITED STATES BOOK CO'Y.

CHARLES W. Gould, receiver for the United States Book Company, who, at a special term of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, held March 30, was empowered by order of Judge A. R. Lawrence to "conduct and carry on all the business of the United States Book Company and its subsidiary companies," has just issued the following circular:

"As receiver of the United States Book Company and its subsidiary companies, I have been ordered by the Supreme Court of the State of New York to continue the business of publishing and selling books. I shall have the assistance of John M. Forbes, Esq., Vice-President and General Manager of United States Book Company, and of the managers of the different departments and the subsidiary companies.

"The stock on hand is ample; the lines are complete and will be kept so.

Prices and discounts will remain as heretofore.

"The reports which have been spread abroad regarding the selling of large quantities of books at ruinous prices are erroneous. While quantities have been sold, they have been in the nature of job lots only. New catalogues are in preparation and will shortly be sent to the trade. New books will be announced from time to time.

"Lovell, Coryell & Co. will have the line of gilt top presentation sets and various other new books. Hovendon Co. will have a number of popular sets and various new two-volume sets like those which proved so salable last year; also a new and very attractive line of gilt top 12mos. The grade of work will be sustained and improved throughout the lines.

"On May 1 the offices and salesrooms of all the subsidiary companies will be removed to Nos. 5 and 7 East 16th street, the present offices of the United States Book Company, where samples will be kept, while the stock of goods will be removed to Williamsburg, L. I., corner North 11th and Berry streets. All shipping will be done from Williamsburg, and all goods returned must be sent there as also all packages for enclosure.

"On May 1 the retail, jobbing and publishing departments of the United States Book Company will be discontinued. Its publications will be issued in future by Lovell, Coryell & Co. and Hovendon Co., as shown in their respective catalogues. All orders for these books should be addressed to the company publishing them. The organization and business of the subsidiary companies will be preserved, and after May 1 all orders should be addressed to the individual companies at 5 and 7 East 16th street.

"CHARLES W. GOULD."

STEREOSCOPIC PHOTOGRAPHY.

This form of photography, popular although it is and always has been throughout the States, has never seemed to get the same grip on the "other side," since it practically died out some years back, but there is no doubt what owing chiefly to the introduction of the cheap American form of stereoscope and American photographs, such as Niagara, etc., it is reviving again in England, and at the present time there is a fair trade being done in these goods. We have received a sample set, consisting of a walnut stereoscope, polished hood and folding handle, and also one dozen good photographs, which is now being issued by Mr. Horace C. Lewis, of Bradford, England, at 7s. 6d. complete, and it is excellent value. Mr. Lewis has a very fine series of stereoscopic photographs, including Scotch, English, and Continental subjects, and there is no doubt that many of the trade would like to have photographs of places which some have personally visited, and others never seen