

dominated by historic fact." The book is really history, but with such embellishments as make it easy and delightful reading for many persons who would ordinarily decline to read history pure and simple. The Archdeacon is a man well equipped for such an undertaking. His "Early Days of Christianity" is a guarantee for his fitness to describe the "Dawn." Almost every page of the present work exhibits an extensive acquaintance with the secular history of the period under review, whilst his striking and vivid powers as a master of English prose, his descriptive faculty and vigorous rhetoric combine to produce a most readable and useful volume.

In the course of the narrative we are introduced not only to the splendour and wild luxury of the Imperial court—the company of Nero and the parasites who lured him on in the path of almost incredible wickedness and cruelty—of his mother, the unhappy and ambitious Agrippina,—the beautiful Poppaea, the unfortunate children of Claudius and Seneca, the weak statesman and inconsistent philosopher, but also into far different company, that of slaves and gladiators, and those classes from which the ranks of the infant Church were chiefly recruited. We pass rapidly from the intrigues and orgies of the court to the secret assemblies of the Christians about whose heads gathered and broke in awful fury the first great persecution. We have glimpses of the great Apostle of the Gentiles, never more sublimely great than when a "prisoner of the Lord." The Seer of Patmos, too, passes before us, warning and comforting the brethren with his words of love.

We close the book with a profound sense of thankfulness that our lot has been cast not in the Dawn, but in the full noon-day blaze of the Sun of Righteousness, who claims and has fully vindicated His claim to be the "Light of the World."

We can cordially recommend "Darkness and Dawn" as a very suitable Christmas present.

RIENZI, THE LAST OF THE ROMAN TRIBUNES, AND THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII. By Edward Bulwer Lytton. Boston: Estes and Lauriat.

The recent death of Lord Lytton, English Ambassador at the French capital, recalls the services to literature so ably rendered by members of this distinguished family. Owen Meredith has earned for himself a well-defined place in the republic of letters. The voluminous works of the first Lord Lytton, his father, still retain a hold on the general reader. It will be a long time before "Zanoni," "The Caxtons" and "My Novel" are relegated to the shelves of merely reference libraries. They will be read with fresh interest by generations to come. As an evidence that Lord Lytton's works are acceptable to refined and cultured readers, a fine edition of "Rienzi" and "The Last Days of Pompeii" have just been issued by the enterprising publishing firm of Estes and Lauriat, Boston. Nothing need be said of the charm that attaches to the artistic literary workmanship displayed in both of these earlier productions of the popular novelist. The career of the Roman tribune lends itself readily to the style of treatment adopted by the author. No less interesting and full of fine fancy is the story of which the awful fate that befell Pompeii forms the striking background. The setting of these gems in this edition is exquisite. The binding and typography are of the finest, and cannot fail of appreciation by all to whose taste such beautiful workmanship appeals. The engravings are simply superb, both in minute detail and general effect. There is a classic purity about them that subject and execution alike favour. In "Rienzi" there are twenty-five artistic gems, which mainly present Roman scenes in their most attractive form. The full-page illustrations of "The Last Days of Pompeii" are, for the most part, reproductions of photographs of Pompeian scenery and ideal pictures suggested by the narrative. Each work is in two handsome volumes, and each volume contains twenty-five engravings. A more handsome Christmas gift, if the gift takes the form of a book, it would be difficult to find.

THE *Queries Magazine* for December contains an article on "The Indians of South Eastern Alaska," and a very good tinted photogravure entitled "Amazons."

Cassell's Family Magazine for December has an illustrated article on English "Railway Signalling," a story of the western experiences of two girls on a claim in a "dug-out." "New Lands for Londoners" has considerable interest for those who are on the look-out for information about the Old Land. The serial, "That Little Woman," is ended. There is the usual quota of short stories, and the fashions of the month find due illustration.

The first article in the *Overland Monthly* is on the subject, appropriate to California, of "Flower and Seed Growing." In an illustrated article on "The Defences of the Pacific Coast," there is a plea for coast fortification. "The Dead Blue River" is an account of one of the bygone rivers which occur in California. "An Incident of the Gold Bluff Excitement" is an interesting account of early Californian experiences. The poetry is up to the mark; "To-morrow," by Charlotte W. Thurston, being perhaps the best piece.

In *Greater Britain* for November the most noteworthy article is "The Proposed Periodic Britannic Contest and All-English Speaking Festival," which we have elsewhere noticed at greater length. "The Globe Trotter" comes in

for some vigorous remarks which show that in the colonies he is held in no greater esteem than he is by Mr. Kipling; and there is a short sketch of Sir William Cleaver Robinson, Governor of Western Australia. The rest of the number is devoted to short articles aiming at conveying an idea of life as it is in the various portions of Greater Britain.

THE *English Illustrated Magazine* is a very readable number. The opening article is "Tigers and Tiger Hunting," by that modern nimrod Sir Samuel W. Baker. The illustrations are especially good as showing the tiger in his most characteristic attitudes. W. Clark Russell's sea story, "A Strange Elopement," is continued. "Fashions in the Nineteenth Century" and "Women on Horseback" will be of interest to our fair readers. Other articles are "Eskimos—Ancient and Modern," "Old City Houses" and "Memories of Fontainebleau," the latter by Grant Allen. The number also includes poems by Alfred Austin and John Addington Symonds.

THE *Saturday Night* Christmas number comes to us with its fine coloured portrait of "Fatima." The first story is by its able editor—"A Strange Experiment," a story of a man with a mania which results disastrously. The prize story "An Episode at Red Rock" is by Miss MacMurchy. C. W. Cooper contributes a true story of life in Canada fifty years ago. "The Gleniffer Ghost," by John A. Copeland, is a ghost story with the usual explanation. The number is well illustrated. The double page illustration "He won't hurt you" is full of peaceful beauty. The number is well worthy of the enterprise and public spirit of its management and is sure to meet with a hearty reception.

In *Temple Bar* there is the usual amount of serials. "Mr. Chaine's Sons," "Love or Money," and "A New Sensation." "Incidents in the Life of a Naturalist" is a very readable account of the early career of Philip Henry Gosse, the inventor of the aquarium. "Bernardin de St. Pierre" deals with the author of "Paul et Virginie." "In the Country of the Albigenses" and "My Journey to France, Flanders and Germany in 1739" are sketches of travel in the 18th and 19th centuries. The life of a once famous oddity forms the subject of "Walking Stewart." "Little Dutchie" is a sprightly bit of verse. "Love's Victory" and "A Winter Night's Dream" are more serious, and the former is especially touching.

PERHAPS the most interesting article in the *Popular Science Monthly* is "Progress and Perfectibility in the Lower Animals" in which the author, Prof. E. P. Evans, amusingly shows the progress in civilization made by many of the humbler creation. For instance the tailor-bird of East India, which used to stitch the leaves of its nest together with fine grass, horse-hair and threads of wool, has now abandoned these primitive means, and taken to the use of British manufactures in the shape of sewing thread and the filaments of textile fabrics. "The Rise of the Pottery Industry" and "Type-casting Machines" have reference to the world of mechanics. "Some of the Possibilities of Economic Botany" forecasts the time when tropical fruits such as the mango and mango-steen will be available for the most northerly climates. The other articles, "Dress and Adornment," "The Lost Volcanoes of Connecticut," and "Silk Dresses and Eight Hours' Work" are well up to the mark.

If it were not for carelessness in the letter-press the *Dominion Illustrated* Christmas number would be altogether good. It must be somewhat trying to a poet to have a whole word left out of a line, yet this has, we fear, been done in at least one poem. But the literary work is excellent. The list of contributors alone would prove this; for when we see such names as Charles G. D. Roberts, William Wilfred Campbell, Archibald Lampman, Agnes M. Machar, and W. H. Drummond, we are warranted in expecting a treat. The supplement includes several attractive coloured plates, and an illustrated poem by Dr. Drummond, most delightful with its *habitant* English. Professor Roberts' "Wood Frolic" opens the number with its hearty out-door ring. "After Snow," by Archibald Lampman, and "The Children of the Foam," by William Wilfred Campbell, are beautiful studies, the one of a winter morning, the other of a race of the waves to the shore. Among the stories the best is "The Whiskey Still of Golden Valley," by William Wilfred Campbell, while "The Major's Portable Fortress," by F. Blake Crofton, is a capital story of adventure. The illustrations with which the number is liberally supplied are excellent.

THE *New England Magazine* opens its Xmas number with a Xmas present for Canadians, in the shape of a special plea for annexation, by Mr. Walter Blackburn Harte, entitled "Canadian Journalists and Journalism." In it the writer practically makes the allegation that the majority of Canadian journalists are in favour of annexation. This is a serious thing to say, but say it Mr. Harte does, and in an exceedingly jaunty way. The most is made of all journalistic utterances in favour of the event Mr. Harte so plainly desires. The limited and superficial knowledge of the spirit of the Canadian press, evidenced by such absurd assertions, indicate that Mr. Harte would, perhaps, write with more authority on some subject with which he is familiar. The partisanship of the article is manifest when we notice that while the *Toronto Globe* is often referred to, the *Empire* is mentioned only indirectly, and then contemptuously. Our position is independent; but surely the *Empire* is as deserving of mention as are the journals of the smaller cities and towns of Canada.

Mr. Harte's treatment of the Hon. George Brown will, we are inclined to think, prove distasteful to many Canadians who could, from personal knowledge, estimate Mr. Brown's ability as an editor without disparaging that of his very able brother. Mr. Harte should remember that piquant and assertive writing may be entertaining and yet unsatisfactory. The rest of this number is good—the most interesting article, perhaps, being "Brunswick and Bowdoin College," with its reminiscences of Hawthorne and Longfellow.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

THE latest announcement of a new book by Andrew Lang is an edition of Burns for the Parchment Library.

MR. ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON has just sent to England a new story of some thirty thousand words. The title is "The Beach of Palesa."

OSGOODE, MCILVAINE AND COMPANY have just published the English edition of Count von Moltke's "Letters to his Mother and His Brothers, Adolf and Ludwig (1823-1888)."

It is a matter of curious interest why William Morris and other artists advocate Socialism. Walter Crane, the well known Englishman, will have an article in the January Atlantic Monthly answering the query "Why Socialism Appeals to Artists?"

MR. JOHN FISK's work on "The Discovery of America" will be published early in 1892. It has involved a vast amount of research, and Mr. Fiske is reported to regard these two volumes as his most important contribution to American history.

MR. STREAD has written the article on "Periodicals" for the eighth volume of Chambers' Encyclopædia, Mr. Lecky the one on "Pitt," Edmund Gosse the one on "Poetry," Austin Dobson those on "Prior" and "Prated," Walter Bosant the one on "Rabelais," and Philip Hamerton the one on "Rembrandt."

MR. JOSEPH W. HARPER, of Harper and Brothers, met with an accident on the afternoon of the 10th inst., and it was only by the rarest good fortune that he escaped without serious injury. He was taking his afternoon airing on the Drive in Central Park when his carriage came violently into collision with a brougham driving in the opposite direction and was badly shattered, while Mr. Harper was thrown out and badly shaken, though, we are glad to be able to state, no bones were broken.

HAVING been established in 1841, *The Jewish Chronicle* has just completed its fiftieth year, and publishes a Jubilee Number, to which many eminent members of the Hebrew community contribute. The list is headed by Dr. Adler, the Chief Rabbi, who writes on "The Functions of a Jewish Journal." The number also contains the facsimile of a letter on Jewish Emancipation written by Mr. Gladstone in 1848, and of a post-card from the right hon. gentleman dated a few months ago.

MR. AUSTIN DOBSON has written a play. The scene is laid in France at a period shortly preceding the Revolution. *Mdme. de Pompadour* is the chief character. Mr. Dobson is also preparing a selection from his poems. This volume, which will be illustrated by Mr. Hugh Thomson, will presently be issued by Messrs. Kegan Paul and Company. Mr. Dobson's critical biography of William Hogarth, with bibliography and catalogue of prints and paintings, is announced by Messrs. Sampson, Low and Company.

MR. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN is being freely mentioned by some North-West journals as that of a probable member of the new Dominion Cabinet. Even such mention is a high tribute to our esteemed contributor. The exponents of public thought in the North-West should know and voice the best interests of their constituents. Mr. Davin's culture and his unusual ability with tongue and pen, apart from his charm of manner, qualify him to fill with credit and distinction an important representative position.

MESSRS. HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY announce "Three Essays on the History, Religion and Art of Ancient Egypt," by Martin Brimmer, President of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, illustrated; new Riverside Edition of Dr. Holmes' works, Vol. IX., "Medical Essays," X., "Our Hundred Days in Europe," "Into His Marvelous Light," sermons by Charles Cuthbert Hall, D.D., of Brooklyn. "The Butterflies of North America," by W. H. Edwards. Third series, part XII., with three coloured plates and descriptive text. "Friends," a novel by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps; "Masterpieces of American Literature," including essays, orations and poems, by Irving, Bryant, Franklin, Holmes, Hawthorne, Whittier, Thoreau, O'Reilly, Lowell, Emerson, Webster, Everett and Longfellow, with biographical sketches.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *British Weekly* is quoted as stating that he has heard on excellent authority that Lord Tennyson's poem, "Crossing the Bar," was composed at the request of an old lady who complained that he had written no hymns. "We are able to substantiate that account," says the *Bookman*. "The poem was composed during an illness. Being upbraided by his nurse because he had never written any hymns, Lord Tennyson composed "Crossing the Bar" the same night, and recited it to her the next morning. Our authority for this is a lady friend of Lord Tennyson, who received the information from the lips of the poet during a visit. It is quite pos-