

*peutic Sarcognomy* and his *Manual of Psychometry* are suggestive and interesting. Among many papers contributed to *The Arena* that on "The Coming Cataclysm of America and Europe" in August, 1890, is characteristic. In this he predicts before 1916 the devastation by tidal waves and earthquakes of the Atlantic Coast of America, and similar disastrous results on the Pacific, especially at San Diego and Coronado. "The destruction at New York and Jersey City will be the grandest horror." So many of his predictions have failed of fulfilment in the last ten years that it is safe to say that people will not worry over these. The death is also announced of the editor of *The Hartford Times*, Mr. Alfred E. Burr, on the 8th inst.



#### "FACTS."

"Wit should be a shield for defence and not a sword of offence."

—*New Century*, 23rd Dec.

Let dogs delight to bark and bite,  
But we shall cherish Heiterkeit!"

—*Modern Hymn*.

As an Esotericist of the Universal Brotherhood I had placed in my hands on the 15th December, a brochure, 16pp. octavo, wire-stitched, published by F. M. Pierce, at 144 Madison Avenue, New York, and entitled "Facts." Although "published", with the delightful appreciation of the incongruous which distinguishes American humour, it bears upon the title-page an intimation that the statements contained therein are not for the public. As one of the public was kind enough to send me a copy from New York in addition to that conveyed to me by the ordinary occult channels, I make bold to avail myself of the privilege of using my discrimination in dealing with it. Mr. Pierce's literary efforts have not before, so far as I am aware, appeared otherwise than in scattered magazine articles. His style is clearly marked and recognizable under various pen-names. As "Libra" he discoursed upon "Woman" in the December *Universal Brotherhood*, and it is interesting to compare his present excursion into that difficult domain of literature the epistolary field.

There are pessimistic critics who declare that letter writing is a lost art. Mr. Pierce's effort to arouse interest in it is no doubt well meant, and we must not forget that some of the finest letters in the language deal with trivial themes. The present selection does me honour in selecting an example from my own pen. I confess I should have liked to see another specimen, and, if consulted, would have suggested that which gave rise to Dr. M'Alpin's collaborated reply. Exigencies of space, or other causes, probably the latter, have robbed me of this satisfaction. This, however, is one of the goads of the ambitious mind, and I must control myself until a later and enlarged edition includes a fuller collection. It is what is known as a "corker" anyway.

"Facts" is, of course, a realistic melo-dramatic romance. The author with the daring imagination which betokens the masters of historical fiction seizes upon a dramatic situation, and availing himself of every poetic (and other) licence, proceeds to make the most of it, and succeeds in producing a highly diverting performance. In respect of style Mr. Pierce's present opportunities are somewhat limited, but the fine rumble of his diction is fully in evidence, particularly in the 116-word consummation on page 4. Mr. Pierce's mechanical proclivities no doubt affect his sentences, in which hyphenated compounds are not uncommon, but who is not susceptible to the majestic roll of a distant train of box-cars as it sweeps over a culvert? The Automatic Coupling Law is not to be enforced for some time yet, and it may be well for Mr. Pierce to be careful lest he meet with a serious accident while coupling some of his empty verbal freight-cars, and so deprive us of the possible pleasure of hearing him break forth into ballads and blank verse.

There are five characters in the little drama. Pierce, leading heavy-weight, in the words of Mr. Gilbert, "as mild a mannered man as ever cut a throat or scuttled a ship." Katherine, the heroine, a dear creature, whose reputation is being shielded (not without reason) by the hero. M'Alpin, a