

THE PERIODICALS.

APART from the ordinary attractions of the *Century*, the February number possesses a special interest for Canadians in W. George Beers' charmingly-written and beautifully-illustrated paper on "Canada as a Winter Resort." Creditable as it is, however, as a literary production, Mr. Beers' contribution possesses more of picturesqueness than of accuracy. For instance, a graphic description is given of an eight days' snow blockade between Brandon and Winnipeg two years ago which entirely escaped the notice of persons then resident in that region. And the distance, by the way, between the two places is not 180 but about 135 miles. The frontispiece to the number is a magnificent specimen of wood-cutting by Henry Velten—"The Head of a Man." Edmund C. Stedman's article on Oliver Wendell Holmes at once commends itself as an intelligent and dispassionate estimate of the writer and his work. Mark Twain's "Royalty on the Mississippi" is a curious contribution to humorous character-painting, and the illustrations are of scarcely less interest. The pictures accompanying "A Florentine Mosaic," particularly "A Street in Florence" and the Ponte Vecchio are as true to their originals as they are artistic in finish. The "war article" of the month is "The Battle of Shiloh," viewed from both standpoints, and, like preceding ones of the series, with a profusion of cuts. The fiction department is very strong. Mr. James gives the opening chapters of "The Bostonians," "The Knight of the Black Forest" is concluded, and Mr. Howells advances "The Rise of Silas Lapham" by an exciting instalment.

CANADA—or a Canadian sport—also occupies a place on the contents-list of *Outing*. John C. Martin gives a vivid account of a snow-shoeing experience in Canada. First place is given to a travel paper on "The Mount Blanc of our Switzerland"—*anglick*, Mount Tacoma in the Pacific North-West—in which the enthusiastic writer relates his attempt to scale the hoary-headed mountain giant. "Out-door Life in Louisiana" carries one's thoughts to the New Orleans exhibition fizzle. Canoeists will read with gusto R. C. Attwood's "Down the Merrimac." The instructions "How to Construct a Model Yacht" will bring joy to many a youthful heart, and 'cyclists will enter with special pleasure into an account of a "run" from New York to Boston. "The Luck of Canadarajo Camp," "His Majesty's Ultimatum," and a third contribution to the "Tangle-Leaf Papers" provide capital story-telling, whilst in the editorial departments are found notes on important out-door sport and much useful information.

WINTER sports in Canada, with particular reference to those which form the principal attractions at the Montreal Carnival, occupy a prominent place in *St. Nicholas*. George A. Buffum treats the subject under the caption "Ralph's Winter Carnival." The opening chapters of a serial by E. P. Roe, a further instalment of "Davy and the Goblin," a novelette entitled "Tyrant Tacy," three chapters of "His One Fault," and the conclusion of Mr. Lockton's "Personally Conducted" are the leading features of the fiction department. A royal road to the attainment to history is presented in "English Kings in a Nutshell." "Among the Lawmakers" and "Stories of Art and Artists" are more solid papers which we may hope will be none the less welcome to the young folk. Many other interesting and instructive topics are skilfully treated, and the whole is made additionally attractive by some fifty first-class illustrations.

ALTHOUGH it is only a passing reference, the *Magazine of American History* also touches upon a Canadian topic, "Benedict Arnold's March through Maine to Canada." The contribution which will probably prove of most general interest, however, is Rev. Dr. Vermilye's account of the "Early New York Post Office," which is admirably illustrated. A valuable paper on George H. M. Johnson follows, a portrait of the great Mohawk chief serving as frontispiece to the number. "Early Virginia Claims in Pennsylvania" are pleasantly discussed by T. J. Chapman, A.M., and fresh evidences of the character of Andrew Jackson are supplied by the Hon. Charles Gagarre. Prof. Wilson has a paper entitled "Andre's Landing Place at Havershaw," the original map which accompanies it considerably assisting to a comprehension of the question. "Minor Topics," "Original Documents," "Political Americanisms," and the literary notices combine to perfect a very attractive number.

IN *Lippincott's Magazine* is an article entitled "Steerage to Liverpool and Return," which is almost calculated to make that class of travel more popular with the hearty and the studious man than the luxurious state-room. Certainly the writer, Thomas Wharton, who went out by the *Oregon* and came back by the *Alaska*, seems so have had "a good time," though to make a complete picture he should have tried the smaller vessels of less prominent lines—if he wished to show what the average "steerage" is. David Bennet King tells all about the recently-passed English Reform Bill—as far as he understands it. An account of the "Prussian Civil Service" is given, followed by a curious paper on "Cats and Poets." The modern infant is written about in a helpless fashion by Grace H. Pierce, who would have won our sympathies more had she protested against the parental supineness which is bringing up a race of impertinent precocities. There is, of course, fiction and poetry, and the ever-welcome "Monthly Gossip."

THE *Fortnightly Review* (Messrs. Leonard Scott's Reprint) is more varied than usual i not more interesting. The editor opens with a paper on "The Revolution in 1884," the trend of which is that the English legislative future will have a socialistic tinge. Principal Tullock has a paper on "Coleridge as a Spiritual Thinker." Next place is occupied by a discussion of the probable effects of "Re-distribution" in England, in which it is shown that the present and future advantages are all on the side of Liberalism. Baron Ferdinand Rothschild writes in a sanguine tone of the expansion of art, and Mr. Williamson speaks cheerfully of the prospects of British commerce and agriculture, thoroughly exposing the absurdity of the "fair trade" cry. E. B. de Foublanque makes short work of Mlle. Bauer's pretensions to be regarded as a victim of King Leopold. Mr. Burnand's view of the stage as a profession cannot be called encouraging, nor is Valentine's Chisol's estimate of the situation in Persia reassuring to the peace of Europe. The editor's *resume* of English and Foreign affairs is very valuable if not optimistic.

THE *Eclectic* and the *Library* magazines contain *la crème de la crème* of the leading reviews. The former has seventeen selections from eleven English magazines and reviews, on important topics of the day, as well as a mass of literary criticism. The latter contains twenty papers by as many different pens on matters that occupy the present attention of the greatest thinkers. Both magazines are well printed in clear type upon good paper, and each, moreover, is a marvel of cheapness.

At a time when Spain has been brought prominently before the eyes of the world by the recent earthquakes which have taken place there, Messrs. Adam and Charles Black, of Edinburgh, have published a volume from the pen of Mr. John Lomas, entitled "Sketches in Spain from Nature, Art and Life," which will be read with more than ordinary interest. The chief merit of the book is that it is thoroughly impartial, and enables every reader to form an unprejudiced opinion.

BOOK NOTICES.

RAMONA. By Helen Jackson (H.H.) Boston: Roberts Brothers. Toronto: Messrs. Hart and Company.

Mrs. Jackson is evidently quite familiar with the case of the American Indian, sympathizes with the fast-fading race, and feels strongly about the many wrongs which have been put upon it. In her novel, "Ramona," this is made apparent, and she makes use of the unfortunate history of the old Mexican families of California in weaving the most interesting story of her heroine, a beautiful half-breed who married the semi-civilized son of an Indian chief. Unexampled hardships, cruelties, and injustices drove the hero to insanity and death—these incidents forming the movement of a most exciting novel, which, besides, conveys a large amount of information as to the ruthless wresting of Indian lands from their aboriginal possessors. "Ramona" has well deserved the great favour with which it has been received by our American cousins.

WITHIN THE SHADOW. By Dorothy Holroyd. Boston: D. Lothrop and Company.

Cecil Chester, the heroine of this story, is a young girl who has been tenderly and carefully nurtured, and whose unusually fine natural gifts have been developed by judicious culture. The death of both her parents leaves her suddenly alone in the world, friendless and poor. Disdaining assistance, she enters the home of a wealthy widow as companion, and whilst in that position is wrongfully accused of a crime for which she is arrested and tried. The working out of this simple plot shows great ability. Of course all ends well, but the *denouement*—indeed the whole story—is most effective, and the book—which is one of the well-known "V. I. F." series, is bound to become popular.

IOARIA. A Chapter in the History of Communism. By Albert Shaw, Ph.D. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: Hart and Company.

So much has been written and said of Communism in the abstract that one is prone to turn away with petulance from any further discussion of the subject. But Mr. Shaw does not theorise, nor has he a pet scheme for a millennium. He gives a most interesting and romantic account of Etienne Cabet's attempt to establish a society in America on Communistic principles—an attempt which was considerably discounted by the revolution of 1848. The enthusiastic manner in which Cabet's project was taken up by thousands of Frenchmen when first mooted made him sanguine of success, although Communism is a plant which has not thriven on American soil. A number of Cabet's followers actually came to America and attempted to set up a community founded upon his principles; but they soon split into two camps, one of which continued in St. Louis up to the War; the other section settled in Iowa, and eventually threw off a discontented division into California. Mr. Shaw has made himself thoroughly conversant with the history of this experiment, and has given the world the benefit of his experience and his reading.

THE EDWIN ARNOLD BIRTHDAY-BOOK. Illustrated. Boston: D. Lothrop and Company.

A dainty little volume, compiled from the works of Edwin Arnold, with new and additional poems written expressly therefor, edited by Katherine Lillian Arnold and Constance Arnold, his daughters. To which is added a *fac-simile* of Mr. Arnold's handwriting in the form of a poem addressed to "The Year." An "Index of Names" is also appended. Moreover, each day, besides having a poetic sentiment by the author of "The Light of Asia," has opposite to the blank left for subscribers the name of some distinguished person born on a corresponding date of the month. Of the matter written specially for the book, there are twelve original poems by Mr. Arnold—one for each month of the year.

EVERY-DAY LIFE AND EVERY-DAY MORALS. By George Leonard Chaney. Boston: Roberts Brothers. Toronto: Hart and Company.

There is nothing commonplace about these essays—for Mr. Chaney's book is really a collection of essays upon the relation of art to morals, which had their origin in an agitation about some publicly-exposed pictures that were considered by several excellent people to be more injurious to the people's morals than helpful to their taste. The matter is discussed from a sensible and high standpoint which will commend itself to many readers. "What we see depends upon what we are," truly says Mr. Chaney: that is the key to the position taken in his delightful papers.

THE BOOK-LOVER'S ROSARY. New York: John B. Alden.

"The praise of books in the words of famous writers of all ages." In the compilation of this *bijou* hand-book the leading authors of all times, ancient and modern, have been laid under contribution.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY. An Appeal to Public Opinion. By Philo Veritas. With Map. Montreal: William Drysdale and Company.

STORIES FOR HOME-FOLKS, YOUNG AND OLD. By Grace Greenwood. New York: John B. Alden.

ENGAGED COUPLES.

If an engaged couple move in the same set, they can meet frequently at the houses of mutual friends; they are sent in to dinner together when dining out; they may dance with each other as often as they please at a ball or dance; they may sit out, when not dancing, in tea rooms and conservatories; but in doing this they render themselves very conspicuous, and this is precisely what many mothers are most anxious to avoid for their daughters, and they would rather be over-prudent than run the gauntlet of general criticism. The position of an engaged couple is rather a difficult one, and it is not always easy to steer clear of extremes. If they are absorbed in each other, they lay themselves open to facetious remarks from their acquaintances, and this is the thorn in the rose to most men. When, however, an engaged couple are reserved towards each other in society, and rather shy of being seen together lest they should provoke comment, society at once discovers that the attachment is luke-warm on one side, and doubts much if the engagement will last. The safest course for engaged couples to take is to go as little into society as possible during their engagement, and to make the engagement itself as brief as circumstances will permit. If from various causes it must of necessity be a long one, the only alternative for an engaged couple is to render themselves as little conspicuous in general society as a mutual understanding will permit.—*The Queen*.