

## CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

Verse and jingles of all descriptions abound in the *St. Nicholas* for June, including a short story, "Rain and the Robin," by Duncan Campbell Scott. A charming sylvan story is the "Little Dryad," by Mary Branch. The serials by Miss Seawell and Howard Pyle are continued, while that by Mary Hallock Foote is brought to a conclusion. The series on "Historic Dwarfs" by Mrs. Roberts is continued.

*The Century* for June contains the conclusion of Mark's Twain's serial, "Pudd'nhead Wilson," a story which will add considerably to his reputation. In a different vein is the conclusion of Thomas Janvier's two-part short story, "The Loan of the Half Orphans," the delicate humor of which is quite irresistible. Frank Stockton and Alexander Drake each have a short story, the one on hypnotism, the other one of his midnight series. Altogether the number is a specially remarkable one, containing contributions from Sherman, Stedman, Boyesen, Brander Matthews and Miss Thomas, besides those already mentioned.

*Littell's Living Age* for June 2nd has among its contents an account of a somewhat remarkable visit paid to the Tennysons by a young lady in 1839, taken from Blackwood. On the page devoted to poetry is a particularly attractive and simple song entitled "Where have you been to-day, Annie Smith?" It is copied from the Romantic Farce by John Davidson, a new writer whose work has received great praise from the English publications.

The *Illustrated London News* for June 2nd is specially attractive by reason of the reproduction of a number of the Academy pictures. W. E. Norriss' new story, "A Victim of Good

Luck," is in his most amusing and agreeable vein. Other interesting views of the news of the day is not wanting, such as "Mr. Asquith's Wedding" and the Cape team of cricketers.

Educationists will find "The Scope of the Normal School," in the *Atlantic* for June, a most instructive paper. It is by M. V. O'Shea of the Mankato State Normal School.

A friend of Thomas Carlyle, Sir Edward Strachey, contributes a group of his letters not before published and some reports of his conversation. Mrs. Wiggin has a short story entitled the "Nooning Tree" and Bliss Carman a poem: the Gravedigger.

"Perlycross," by R. D. Blackmore, is unfortunately drawing to a close in *Macmillan's* for May. There is a scholarly and interesting Discourse on Sequels, signed by the initials N. P. J., and Andrew Lang writes with his accustomed grace an article on the "Last Flight of Joan of Arc." The number contains also two short stories, "Ditas" and the "Cliff Climbers."

Paragraph-writing, by F. N. Scott and J. V. Denney. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 259 pages. Price, 80 cents.

We take pleasure in calling the attention of all who have to teach English composition to advanced classes to this new and excellent work, which, we are sure, they will find very helpful.

The authors, recognizing the great labor involved in writing and, still more, in correcting essays, and the unsatisfactory results commonly obtained, and believing that paragraph-writing may be made very largely to serve the same purpose, and that