

Indian jungles, on African plains, in the tropical forests of Ceylon, and other wild scenes. The recitals throughout bear the touch of the masterhand of one perfectly familiar with his subject.

ASCUTNEY STREET; A Neighbourhood Story. By Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company.

Mrs. Whitney's works are always deservedly popular, and "Ascutney Street" will add to her popularity, and be warmly welcomed by the admirers of her clever, but almost "painfully cultivated" style. This book will repay a more careful reading than is usually given to so slight a story, as it contains much depth of thought, of a refined and elevating character. Ascutney Street is charmingly described, with its little rivalries and small ambitions, as a few quotations will show. "Ascutney Street took rank, as it had been laid out to do, with pronounced gentility, albeit in a small way." . . . Most of the ladies "did their own housework, with help hired in, and with a reticent dignity, nobly superior to any circumstance involved, except the carefully guarded contingency of being caught at it. . . . To do them justice, the credit of the whole street was so much at every heart that they would not have found each other out—out loud—if they could." There are some lovely descriptions of scenery, and speaking of Miss Rickstack's garden, she mentions "the low, jewelled bed of pansies, with beautiful dark velvet faces, or pale, sweet silken ones in tenderest violet, straw-colour, creamy, or pure white, crowding and smiling upward. We are glad to see how thoroughly the authoress enters into and appreciates the well-known and delightful fairy tales—"Alice in Wonderland," and "Through the Looking-glass." Mrs. Whitney shows both courage and kindness in taking for her heroine, Jane Gregory, a pretty young seamstress, quite one of "nature's gentlewomen," and thereby interesting us in a class for whom much might be done, by a little consideration, to relieve the monotony of their somewhat "jog-trot" and toilsome lives. The story begins with the loss in a gust of wind of Jane's hat, while getting into a train; her sweet and modest manner of conducting herself under the loss attracts the attention of a gentleman—Dr. Griffith—a true "gentleman," whose unobtrusive and courteous assistance makes a lasting impression upon her, and thus is laid the foundation of the romance of both lives. It is a most pleasant and interesting book, even though a somewhat "laboured simplicity" is apparent, and it would seem that the English language is inadequate to supply Mrs. Whitney with sufficient adjectives, consequently obliging her to "coin" a good many.

THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PRAYER BOOK. By the Rev. Dyson Hague, M.A., Rector of St. Paul's Church, Halifax, N.S. Toronto: The J. E. Bryant Company.

Some sixteen years ago we heard the celebrated Rev. Stopford Brooke lecture in St. James', Piccadilly, on "Christianity in the Poetry of Shelley." By explaining away everything the poet said against the Christian faith, he managed, very cleverly, to prove that Shelley was rather a good Christian. This seems to be the Rev. Dyson Hague's method with the Prayer Book. He is determined to make it "Protestant" in his own, coloured, acceptance of the term. If history is against him, so much the worse for history. He quite ignores the fact that the English Reformation was based on an appeal to Catholic antiquity, and that the quoted opinions of the Reformers savour so strongly of Catholic (not Roman) doctrine, that they would make a modern Protestant, of Mr. Hague's type, shake in his shoes. That does not matter in the least. The Prayer Book must be "Protestant" at any cost, and "Protestant" the Rev. author proceeds to make it.

In a brief book notice it is impossible to go into the question in detail, and we will therefore refer only to the chapter on the Communion Office. We have here a fair sample of the author's idea of argument. On page 42 he says: "It is well, then, to remember that these services—communion, baptismal and ordination—were composed and compiled, and supervised, in the most Protestant age, and by the most Protestant men, and were in identity with, or similarity to, the most Protestant views that the world has ever known. A comparison of our Communion Service, with the Sarum or Roman services, will speedily make this point clear. What our Communion Service is, as compared with the Roman Mass, is known to all who may have ever witnessed that ceremony in a Roman Church. The strange and unintelligible mutterings, the incessant crossings and genuflections, the kissing of altar and paten, the uplifting of the host, the prostration of the people, the lighting of the candles, the burning of incense, the changing of vestments, the tinkling of the bell—all these things remind one more of the performance of some ceremony of heathenism than the administration of the Lord's Supper to His believing people." This certainly is a wonderful statement. First as to the "Protestant age" and the Protestant authors of the Prayer Book. Why, that age had no idea of modern "Protestantism"; Protestantism then meant opposition to Roman corruptions, and not, as now, to Catholic truth. Were we to quote the teaching of these so-called "Protestant men" on such subjects, as confession, absolution, baptismal regeneration, and the real presence, Mr. Hague and his school would repudiate it with vehement indignation. It is also a revelation in

theology to learn that the essential truth of a service depends on its accessories. The English Communion cannot possibly be at all the same as the Roman mass, because, forsooth, the latter is celebrated with vestments, lights, incense, genuflections, etc. Then, we suppose, the Communion office in St. Paul's Church, Halifax, has no identity with the one used at St. Alban's, Holborn, or St. Matthias', Toronto, because in these latter churches we see many of the ornaments complained of; and if we carry this kind of reasoning into every day life, the woman we left in the morning in a plain tweed dress cannot be the same beautiful being who greets us, on our return in the evening, in all the radiance of the gas light, and with all the adornment of silks and jewels.

Knowledge—John B. Alden, publisher—adds its weekly quota of information on matters of encyclopedic interest.

Friend's Music and Drama in its Christmas number is a striking illustration of what the happy combination of artistic taste and business energy can accomplish.

THE Musical Courier comes to us in bright attire, the letter-press is of unusual merit, and it is accompanied by an artistic supplement comprising sixteen well executed character portraits of members of the Metropolitan Opera House Company of New York.

THE Christmas Wide Awake is, as usual, charmingly printed and illustrated. In the space at our disposal it would be invidious to particularize where so many things are good; we have found the stories invariably readable. The frontispiece is, to our mind, worth the price of the issue.

ONE of the brightest, purest and best purveyors of literary pabulum to the youthful appetite of the present day is that old—yet ever youthful—journal—The Youth's Companion of Boston. Its Christmas double number has almost restored to us the fervour and vivacity of youth.

Queries Magazine has for frontispiece an excellent portrait of Richard Wagner. Amongst the articles are one on Whittier, another on Mercator, and a third on J. P. F. Richter. Teachers will relish the reprinting of a lecture on "Science Teaching" by A. P. Laurie of Cambridge, England.

THE Illustrated London News—Christmas number—has the beautiful coloured plates "The Swing," and "Idle Moments," and "Little Jack Horner," the last from a picture of the distinguished artist Jan Van Beers. The letter-press is seasonable and charming, and includes "Only a Shadow," by the well known writers D. Christie Murray and Henry Hermann; "Mrs. Hauksbee Sits Out," by Rudyard Kipling; "Ye Baron's Daughter and Ye Squire of low Degree"; and "A Ballad of two Lovers," with appropriate illustrations interspersed.

THE Cosmopolitan for this month is a good number with a varied and interesting table of contents and many delightful illustrations. Amongst the more important articles are "The Passion Play at Oberammergau," "The Cruise of the Tonoma," "Literary Boston," "Field Marshal von Moltke," "Collections of Teapots"—all embellished with admirable pictures. Dr. Edward Everett Hale writes on "Temperance" as a social problem; Murat Halstead reviews current events; and Gertrude Franklin Atherton contributes an amusing story of a fascinating widow who engaged herself to four young men at one and the same time.

Outing for December is a capital number. The first part of "A Far Countree" shows great power, and from the materials of the remotest history is woven a thrilling and absorbing tale. In "The Switzers of America," C. H. Shinn writes of old mining days. Walter Camp brings football to the fore in "What is Foul Tackling." "Cyclists for Cavalry Duty" is an able article on a new phase of modern warfare. St. George Rathbone graphically writes of Florida. J. Parmly Paret brings cricket to the fore in "Scientific Bowling." Buck hunting finds an advocate in Merlin. And other bright readable articles treat of a variety of topics such as Swan Shooting, Photography, Fox Hunting, etc.

THE Methodist Magazine for December has quite a Christmas flavour. Mr. Algernon Blackwood contributes "Christmas in England." The editor demonstrates the superior advantages of Canada over any country in the world. Professor A. P. Colman, Ph.D., writes on "Norway and Its People." Lady Brassey's "Last Voyage" comes to its tragic close, and the editor adds a postscript on her death on board the *Sunbeam* and burial at sea. All the above are well illustrated. Other articles, poems, etc., make a capital number. The Magazine for 1891 will be enlarged by 100 pages to make room for a new department on "Popular Science."

THE December number of the New England Magazine will no doubt please a variety of readers. The literary man will read "Emerson and His Friends in Concord," and "Our Unclean Fiction" (which the author traces to French influences). The historian will turn to "Anti-Slavery Boston," and "King Philip's War," and "A General of the Revolution" (Major-General William Heath is the officer alluded to). The politician will interest himself in the question "What shall we do with the millionaires?" and all will read such lighter articles as "A Day in the Yosemite with a Kodak"; "The Romance of Miles O'Meara"; "Making Man-o-war's men," etc. Numerous illustrations accompany the letter-press throughout.

THE December number of the Forum on "The Government of American Cities," Andrew D. White, shows that the weakest point of American government is in the management of municipal affairs. Jules Simon, of the French Senate, contributes an able article on "The Stability of the French Republic." President Eliot, of Harvard, writes of "Family Stocks in a Democracy." President W. A. P. Martin, of the Royal Tung Weng College, China, writes on "China's Competition with Western Nations." W. M. Springer publishes results of the Census. Archdeacon Farrar writes on the "Formative Influences" in his own life. There are other essays by Major J. W. Powell, Frances Power Cobbe, Commander F. M. Barber, Andrew Lang, and Prof. R. H. Thurston.

Scribner's Magazine for December is a capital holiday number (with a special bronze cover) containing articles illustrated by Robert Blum, Domenico Morelli, Harry Furniss, Howard Pyle, A. F. Jacassay, C. D. Gibson, W. L. Taylor, and W. L. Metcalf. Among the contributions are Sir Edwin Arnold's first paper on Japan; Humphry Ward's description of a famous London picture sales-room; W. H. Rideing's picturesque account of Amy Robsart's country; A. F. Jacassay's article on Domenico Morelli; and three short stories suited to the Christmas season by Octave Thanet, Richard Harding Davis, and George A. Hibbard. The poems of the issue include Helen Leah Reed's Sargent prize translation of Horace, Book III, Ode XXIX.; and contributions by Richard Henry Stoddard, Duncan Campbell Scott, and James Herbert Morse.

THE Christmas number of The English Illustrated Magazine now issued opens with "The Ancestral Home of the Washingtons," and we promptly skipped it because we do not want to hear anything more of Washington or of Abraham Lincoln, at least not just now. "The Wisdom Tooth," by Christie Murray and Henry Hermann, is a passable story. There is a gossip article on Clint, entitled "A Painter of Players." The reproduction of some of Clint's work is good, and the gossip about the players is interesting, if somewhat stale. The Bishop of Bedford sends a timely and instructive contribution on "Working Men's Clubs." If we have any fault to find with Mr. Norman's "Inns and Taverns of London," it is that he has not given us enough of them. We are disappointed in the humour of Mr. Wain's designs to the "Frogmoussiad," but we are perhaps a little too exacting. We need only refer to some welcome illustrations of spots in Westminster Abbey by Herbert Railton, accompanied by notes by Archdeacon Farrar. A couple of short stories and an instalment of Marion Crawford's serial make up a very good number. There are some quaint and pretty initials, headings and tailpieces.

THE December number of St. Nicholas has for frontispiece Rembrandt's wonderful portrait of himself, engraved by T. Johnson. This portrait is referred to in Mrs. Dodge's account of Holland and its strange features. There are to be two of these papers, and it is the first, which here appears under the name "The Land of Pluck," fully illustrated by new drawings made expressly by George Wharton Edwards. Another important contribution is "The Story of the Golden Fleece," by Andrew Lang, with illustrations by Birch. The serials, by J. T. Trowbridge, Noah Books, and Mrs. C. V. Jamison, are captivating stories; all three serials are admirably illustrated. Among the shorter stories, Joaquin Miller has an exciting tale of his own early life, illustrated by Remington. Frank M. Bicknell tells of "The People who Jumped," illustrated by E. B. Bensell; Miss Ewell of "Master Muffet's Mishap." Adele M. Field describes an "Elephant Hunt in Sierra," and Emilie Poulsson has a pretty Christmas story. There is a poem by R. W. Gilder, and a "Sewing Song," by Mary J. Jacques; a jingle by Isabel Frances Bellows; a poem, "The Little Fir-Trees," by Evalene Stein, and pictures, notions, and suggestions as usual.

THE December Century has a Christmas story by Joel Chandler Harris, and a Christmas poem by President Henry Morton, of Stevens Institute, while the editor has "Some Christmas Reflections." The frontispiece is "Daphne," by George W. Maynard in "The Century Series of American Pictures," and the opening paper is General Bidwell's "Life in California Before the Gold Discovery." Here is also published "Ranch and Mission Days in Alta California." Mr. Charles Henry Hart has a paper on "Franklin in Allegory," with a full-page engraving of Franklin after a portrait by Peale, and reproductions of French prints. The fiction includes stories by Joel Chandler Harris, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps—"Fourteen to One" (a true story); Richard Harding Davis, and Maurice Thompson—"A Pair of Old Boys"; F. Hopkinson Smith's "Colonel Carter of Cartersville" is continued; and "Sister Dolorosa," a three-part story, by James Lane Allen, is begun. This is a companion story to Mr. Allen's tragic story of "The White Cowl." It is interesting to read in this number the views on acting by Tommaso Salvini, the greatest of living tragedians. Other illustrated papers are Mr. MacLay's "Laurels of the American Tar in 1812," and Mr. Rockhill's "The Border-Land of China." The poetry of the number has "Some Boys," by James Whitcomb Riley. Other poems are by Austin Dobson, and Celia Thaxter, and George Parsons Lathrop. Further topics treated are "Trees in America," "The Railway Zone-Tariff of Hungary," and "Higher Education: A Word to Women," by Miss Josephine Lazarus.