

THE WORLD OF BOOKS.

"The Best Plays of the Old Dramatists." Successive volumes of the Mermaid series increase our appreciation of its excellence. The last three are quite as perfect as their fellows have been. Prof. Symonds' introduction to *Thomas Heywood*, edited by A. W. Verity, impresses us, indeed, as superior to any that has preceded it. The plays in this volume are, "A Woman Killed With Kindness," "The Fair Maid of the West," "The English Traveller," "The Wise Woman of Hogsdon" and "The Rape of Lucrece." The illustration shows the interior of the Red Bull play-house, and is reproduced from the frontispiece to *Kirkman's Drolls*, 1672.

Four of the best plays of *Thomas Otway* are contained in the fourteenth volume of the series, edited by Hon. Roden Noel, who contributes an admirable critical introduction.

The fifteenth volume is devoted to *Philip Massinger*, other of whose plays were given in the first volume of the series. The sight of it suggests the desirability of adding a second volume of *Middleton*, of whom, in such a series as this, we cannot have too much.

That the series does not, speaking broadly, lack comprehensiveness, is best shown by the following list of volumes in preparation:

Ben Jonson (three volumes) edited by Brinsley Nicholson and G. H. Herbert.

Patience Grissell and Other Plays, edited by Ernest Rhys.

The Purson's Wedding and Other Plays, edited by W. C. Ward and A. W. Verity.

Dryden (two volumes) edited by R. Garnett.

Chapman (two volumes) edited by Brinsley Nicholson and W. G. Stone.

Shadwell, edited by George Saintsbury.

Arlon of Fecraskam, and Other Plays Attributed to Shakespeare, edited by Arthur Symonds.

Ethelred and Lacy, edited by Arthur Symonds and W. C. Ward.

Fanbrugh, edited by W. C. Ward.

Parguhar, edited by A. C. Ewald.

The Spanish Tragedy and Other Plays, edited by W. H. Drake.

Lee, edited by Edmund Gosse and A. W. Verity.

The names of the gentlemen having charge of this series would seem to render eulogy unnecessary. It may be added, however, that these volumes contain from 400 to 500 pages, are beautifully printed and bound, and are sold for a half-crown.

The series is published by Vizetelly & Co., 16 Henrietta street, Covent Garden, London, whose St. John agents are J. & A. McMillan.

Walt Whitman's Works.

Admirers of "the good gray poet," Walt Whitman, will thank me, I am sure, for calling their attention to his *Complete Poems and Prose*, just published in Philadelphia. The book contains about 900 pages, is beautifully printed and presents three fine portraits. It is issued in limited, numbered edition of 600 copies, signed by Whitman, and is, indeed, his personal venture, so that those who buy it may be sure that their money will serve to help the master in his helpless old age. The price of the book is \$6 and it may be ordered through Mr. David McKay, No. 23 South Ninth street, Philadelphia. I have a copy and can bear testimony that it is the richest six dollars' worth that has been offered in America this many a day.

Notes and Announcements.

The memorial fund to Matthew Arnold has now reached the sum of \$35,000, the larger part of which will be invested for the benefit of his widow.

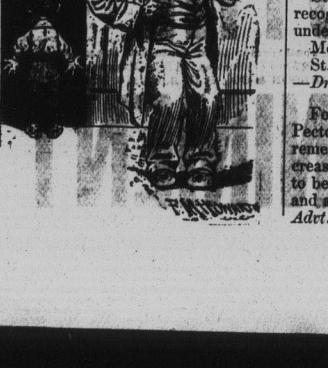
A serial story entitled "The Begum's Daughter" will be an attractive feature of the *Atlantic Monthly* for several months, beginning with the May number. It is by Edwin Lassetter Byrner.

Speaking of the plaintive pessimism of the prevailing tone of the minor poets of the present day, the *Athenaeum* calls them a lot of "golden-mouthed but lugubrious singers" whose "banefumes" are "redolent of cultured melancholy." Amid all the brightest scenes of earth with laughter rippling around them and sunlight glinting upon their yellow curls, they persist in being wretchedly miserable.

It requires an examination of the catalogue of books published by the late firm of Ticknor & Co. to make one realize how much Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. will gain by the purchase of their copyrights. Among the authors represented in this remarkable list are Howells, Julian Hawthorne, Bunner, Bellamy, Robert Grant, E. W. Howe, Byrner, Blanche Willis Howard—a very large proportion, indeed, of the younger writers of America. We congratulate Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. upon this accession to their wealth of literature.

That Mr. Browning and his publishers, Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co., have reason to congratulate themselves on the success of the uniform edition of his works is evident from the fact that the eleventh volume thereof, to which we called attention several days since, has already reached the sale of more than 3000 copies, about one-third of which have found their way to this country. We note this circumstance as an evidence that Mr. Browning, in his old age, has attained something like popularity. That he will ever attain the popularity which was enjoyed by Scott and Byron during their lifetime is scarcely probable, partly on account of the difference between this verse and theirs, and partly because poetry is not in demand as it was then. No publisher would ever dream of giving the most eminent of living poets—let us say the Laureate—the sum of 3000 guineas, for a poem, which was the amount guaranteed to Moore for *Lalla Rookh* before a line of it was written; the sum of 2000 guineas, which we believe was the price which Scott received for *Marmion*, or the hundreds and thousands of guineas which Murray paid to Byron for his Eastern stories, his plays and *Don Juan*. The day of great payments, like that of great poets, is past.—*New York Mail and Express*.

A SMART BOY AND HIS GRANDPAPA.



TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The friends of the late Dan Maginnis have taken steps to erect a monument to his memory. The tribute will be well deserved. Maginnis was one of the comedians who knew how to be funny without becoming vulgar.

There is good cheer in the announcement that Brander Matthews and George H. Jessop have contracted to write a comedy for the New York Lyceum theatre. Perhaps in time play-writing may again become the employment of literary men rather than of stage-carpenters.

Mr. Lawrence Barrett, who is a great student of the Bible, is said to be preparing a commentary on the Old Testament. Possibly Mr. Barrett intends to dramatize some of the Old Testament stories. "Jonah" has been familiar to theatrical companies for years, and Joseph, who was passed into the pit by his brethren, is the first passional of whom any record is known.—*America*.

Two young toughs who had come from the gallery of the Broadway Theatre, between the acts of *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, stood in a bar-room and spoke of the play: "I ain't much of a critic," said one of them, "and I don't suppose I could tell a good play from a bad one, but this here squeel me where I'm sold. I wouldn't have believed a kid could do it." "That's so," said the other. "It made me think of the old woman; if it didn't I'd—d—d." Such a play—one that draws crowds of women old and young, and at the same time makes a hoodlum think of the "old woman," must be what is known in theatrical parlance as a "big winner."—*America*.

FAMOUS WARD McALLISTER.

Sketch of the Much-Talked-of Leader of the Patriarchs' Set in New York.

Mr. Ward McAllister has been talked about during the past six months more than any other private citizen.

Who is he? If you should see him walking down Broadway some afternoon, you would be much surprised. He is not a "dude." He is not even dandified in his dress. He has the appearance of a successful man of business between 55 and 60 years old. If he should raise his hat you would find that he is bald. What little hair he has is light brown. He has a heavy sandy moustache, and a large, gray imperial. His eyes are blue, and his eyebrows heavy.

He is not six feet tall, although pretty near it.

He has been a leader in New York and Newport society for about thirty years, and it is only his reputed remark that there were only about four hundred in New York society that caused his fame to become national.

And then, he never made the remark as usually given. He merely said that only about four hundred people would attend the Patriarchs' ball, the swiftest event of the New York season. In the same breath he said there were some 1000 names on his wife's calling list, and that there were many people in society whom one would not think of asking to a ball, but who would never be omitted from a dinner.

Mr. McAllister is a southerner, being born in Georgia. His father at one time was a justice of the United States Circuit court. He studied law, and was admitted to the bar in California in 1851. A few years after this date he removed to New York, where he has since resided. He married a Miss Gibbons. His wife, however, is now an invalid and is never seen in society. Her daughter, Miss Louise, takes her place at the dinners given by Mr. McAllister at his home. These he gives as often as once a week, but they are small affairs, the guests not numbering more than six or seven. He resides at 16 East Sixteenth street, in a plain house, plainly furnished, but he always spends his summers at Newport, where he entertains extensively. His income is reckoned at about \$30,000.

"I have no claim whatever to be the leader of society," he says. "In the first place, a man to hold such a position must be rich. I am not. I am simply a modest man living on a modest income."

Mr. McAllister is a prominent member of the Union club, but seldom dines there, as he prefers his home and the company of ladies. His habits are very regular. He rises about eight o'clock. From 10 to 11:30 he devotes himself to the business of arranging for entertainments. At noon McAllister visits his butcher. This he considers one of the most important duties of his day. After luncheon he goes to the Union club. Between this visit and his daily walk, which he never neglects, the afternoon is consumed. He receives no one in the evening except a choice coterie of intimates. These are the persons who know McAllister best. The great chief has but few evenings to devote to them or to his family. He is in constant demand as a dinner guest. He is full of good spirits and news. If there is really nothing new in current gossip he is never at a loss. He invents something.—*New York Truth*.

Two Kings.

"Willie, did you go to Sunday-school today?" asked the aunt of a youth of rather precocious tendencies.

"Yes'm."

"And what was the lesson about?"

"Some about 'Two Kings.'"

"Why—about them?"

"Yes—about them. They beat two queens."—*Merchant Traveler*.

True as Gospel.

Lemuel—"I tell you men may prate as they will about woman's extravagance, but she can dress well on a sun that would keep a man looking shabby."

Since dryly—"That's true. Now the sun that my wife dresses on keeps me looking shabby year in and year out."

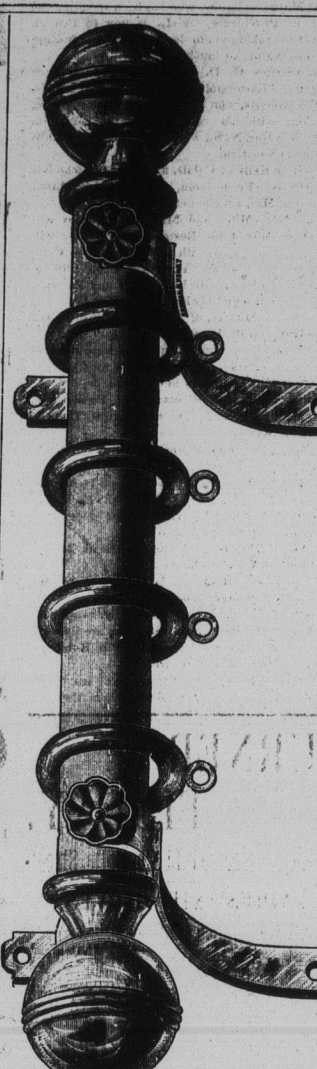
Identified.

St. Peter—For some reason I do not recognize your face. What is that bungle under your arm?

Mortal—Only the earth. I—

St. Peter—Step in this way, Mr. Gould. —*Drake's Magazine*.

For nearly half a century Ayer's Cherry Pectoral has been the most popular cough remedy in the world. The constantly increasing demand for this remedy proves it to be the very best specific for colds, coughs, and all diseases of the throat and lungs.—*Advt.*



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ADVERTISE IN PROGRESS.

ASSESSORS' NOTICE!

THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS OF TAXES for the City of Saint John, in the present year, hereby require all persons liable to be rated, forthwith to furnish to the Assessors

True Statements of all Their
Real Estate, Personal Estate
and Income,

and hereby give notice that Blank Forms, on which statements may be furnished under the City Assessment Law, can be obtained at the office of the Assessors, and that such statements must be perfected under oath, and filed in the office of the Assessors within THIRTY DAYS of the date of this notice.

Dated this first day of April, A. D. 1889.

WM. F. BUNTING, Chairman,
JOHN WILSON, Assessor of Taxes,
URAH DRAKE, Assessor of Taxes.

Extracts from "The Saint John City Assessment Act of 1882."

Sec. 23.—"The Assessors shall ascertain, as nearly as possible, the particulars of the real estate, the personal estate, and the income of any person who has not brought in a statement in accordance with their notice and as required by this law, and shall make an estimate thereof, at the true value and amount, to the best of their information and belief, and such estimate shall be conclusive upon all persons who have not filed their statements in due time, unless they can show a reasonable excuse for the omission."

Sec. 24.—"No person shall have an abatement unless he has filed with the Assessors the statement, under oath, within the time hereinbefore required; nor shall the Common Council in any such case, sustain an appeal from the judgment of the Assessors, unless they shall be satisfied that there was good cause why the statement was not filed in due time, as herein provided."

SYDNEY WARD.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., Feb. 12, 1889.

WE, the undersigned Residents and Voters of the City of Saint John, in the City of Saint John, N. B., do hereby nominate WM. LEWIS, Esq., of said Ward, to represent us in the Common Council as Alderman, and pledge ourselves to do all in our power to secure his election.

Signed by 85 electors.

To the Electors of Sydney Ward.

GENTLEMEN: In compliance with your requisition, asking me to allow myself to be put in nomination as a candidate for ALDERMAN at the approaching election, I beg to say that, although the matter is not of my choosing, I am entirely in your hands, and will accept with pleasure your flattering nomination. A glance at the names on your requisition convinces me that you intend to carry the election, and I am content to leave the result in your hands, assuring you that if elected my best efforts will be made to do all in my power to put forward in the future, as in the past, my best efforts in the interest of this city, and Sydney Ward in particular.

I have the honor to be, Yours, etc.,
WILLIAM LEWIS.

To the Electors of Wellington Ward.

THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE having postponed the holding of the civic elections for the present year until after the consummation of the union of the cities of Saint John and Portland, we desire to sincerely thank those of the Electorate who have expressed their confidence in us and so generously proffered us their support.

At the election of representatives to the Civic Board of the new city we will be candidates for the office of

ALDERMEN,
and solicit your suffrages at such election.

We are,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Respectfully yours,
WILLIAM LEWIS,
THOMAS W. PETERS.

St. John, N. B., 25th March, 1889.

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