

## Rejected Books That Won Fame.

There used to be an old superstition that a flash of lightning would turn milk sour. This is the sort of effect produced upon a young author by the rejection of a manuscript by a publisher. As the author becomes older, more successful, and more experienced, such rejections do not discourage him, and if he sighs at all on these occasions the sigh is one of commiseration for the publisher who cannot appreciate a really good thing when he sees it, says a writer in the Scrap Book.

The owner of a rejected manuscript is in good company, for many of the more celebrated works of literature have been summarily returned to their authors by unappreciative publishers.

Few books published in the United States have yielded to their publishers and authors larger returns than "Ben Hur," by the late Lew Wallace, and yet the manuscript had been rejected by nearly every first-class publisher in that country before it was finally accepted by the Harpers, to whom it was submitted for the second time.

"Rejected Addresses," by Horace and James Smith, was offered to Mr. Murray for twenty pounds, but was refused. A publisher, however, purchased it, and, after sixteen editions, Mr. Murray gave £131 for the right to issue a new edition. The total amount received by the authors was more than £1,000.

"Jane Eyre," by Charlotte Brontë, was, it is said, rejected by several publishers. This, however, is rather doubtful. We believe the manuscript was sent to Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co., in Cornhill, and there it remained for a long time, till a daughter of the publishers read it and recommended her father to publish it. The result is well known. It brought the author fame and money.

"Eöthen," by Mr. Kinglake, was offered to twenty different houses. All refused it. He then, in a fit of desperation, gave the manuscript to an obscure bookseller and found the expenses of publication himself. This also proved a success.

"Vanity Fair," that very clever work of Thackeray's, was written for Colburn's Magazine, but it was refused by the publishers as having no interest.

"The History of Ferdinand and Isabella," by Mr. Prescott, was rejected by two of the first publishers in London, and it ultimately appeared under the auspices of Mr. Bentley, who stated that it had more success than any book he had ever published.

The first volume of Hans Andersen's "Fairy Tales" was rejected by every publisher in Copenhagen. Andersen had then neither name or popularity, and published this exquisite book at his own expense, a proceeding which soon brought him into notoriety.

Miss Jane Austen's novels, models of writing at this day, at first met with no success. One of them, "Northanger Abbey," was purchased by a publisher in Bath for ten pounds, who, after paying this sum, was afraid to risk any further money in its publication, and it remained many years in his possession before he ventured upon the speculation, which to his surprise, turned out very profitable.

When the poet Gray's "Ode on Eton College" appeared but little notice was taken of it.

The poet Shelley had always to pay for the publication of his poems.

The "Ode on the Death of Sir John Moore" at Corunna was written by Rev. Charles Wolfe. "It was rejected so scornfully by a leading periodical that the author gave it to an obscure Irish paper."

## An Argument for Life Assurance.

Statistics of the New York probate records, recently published in the Outlook, reveal the fact that of 10,000 adults and heads of families who died during the quarter, sixty-six per cent. left absolutely no property of any kind. Most of the remainder had very small estates, and less than 900 out of the 10,000 left as much as \$5,000 apiece.

The minister of a certain parish in Scotland was walking one misty night through a street in the village when he fell into a deep hole. There was no ladder by which he could make his escape, and he began to shout for help. A labourer passing heard his cries, and, looking down, asked who he was. The minister told him, whereupon the labourer remarked—"Weel, weel, ye needna kick up sic a noise. You'll no be needed afore Sawbath, an' this is only Wednesday night."

## Business in Force

Life Assurances in force 31st December, 1911.....	\$164,572,073.00
Increase over 1910.....	21,022,797.00