

IS IT A SWINDLE ?

Our readers well know that for many years, *Wood's Household Magazine* has enjoyed an enviable reputation, receiving from the press the highest recommendation, and being generally recognized as not only the cheapest, but the best Household Magazine published. We regret that anything should have occurred to oblige us to record a change in the order of things. We state briefly what we know to be the case. Last winter an agent in this city secured about 100 subscribers. These received their magazines regularly until the July one was due. In August complaints were so numerous that the Agent was compelled to write, to ascertain the cause of delay. The following reply was received :

Newburgh, N. Y., Aug. 23, 1874.

DEAR SIR,—This year has been disastrous to publishers generally, and we have borne our full share of the burden caused by the late panic. In consequence of financial embarrassment, our late issues were delayed temporarily, but they are now being brought out rapidly, and by or before the middle of September, all arrears will be made up. After that date the publication will be mailed regularly from New York City. Some changes will be made in the business. In the meantime we give you this personal rather confidential information, and a more official communication will be forwarded soon.

Yours sincerely,

S. E. SHUTES.

Soon after this a circular was sent to one—and only one—of the subscribers in London, announcing that the "Household Publishing Co.," 41 Park Row, New York, had purchased the subscription books, business, copyright, etc., etc., of the magazine, and that every subscriber should soon receive the numbers due him; and further, that "with the October number we commence a series of splendidly illustrated articles, which will run through the remainder of this year, and be continued through 1875." This nice circular closed with this paragraph:—"Subscriptions for our own and for other publications, may be sent us with entire confidence, and with every assurance that they will receive, WITHOUT DELAY, just what they order."

In a few days more the agent received a letter from this Company, stating as follows: "We are in great confusion, moving the business from Newburgh to New York, and are unable to ascertain whether your subscribers have been regularly served or not. Can you give us any idea who they are, and where located? It is impossible to tell everything by the books, as the late book-keepers have had their own way of keeping them." The complete list of subscribers names was then sent them, and they were written to repeatedly, but no magazines

came, nor any reply, until Oct. 23rd., when the following was received:—"Your postal received. The Magazines we are getting ready as rapidly as possible. We will give to every subscriber all that is due. The work is one of some magnitude, and cannot be done in a day nor a week. In a very few days we shall have everything arranged satisfactorily." This is the last the agent has heard from the "Household Publishing Co.," although he has written them again and again, threatening, in one instance, to publish them. No magazines have yet been received here, or in many other places which we might mention. In view, then, of the many promises made by the old and new proprietors that have not been fulfilled, we close our article by saying:—"It is a Swindle!" and we advise our readers to be aware of the "Household Publishing Company," 41 Park Row, New York City.

Since the above was put in type, an article in the November *Star Spangled Banner* has come under our notice.

"WOOD'S HOUSEHOLD MAGAZINE.—We are happy to announce that this popular magazine is now in the hands of the Household Publishing Co., New York, who are prepared, and with ample capital intend, to make it not only a greater success than ever before, but will start it on a firm basis and enable it to fulfil its promises, which it has not always been able to do. Mr. Geo. R. West is the treasurer of the new concern and will, we think, soon bring "Wood's" up to a high place among the popular periodicals of the country. We hope so. At least, for after bankrupting both its former proprietors, it is about time that it began to PAY. Its terms are the same as formerly, and subscriptions are received through the 'Banner' list."

Well, much as we respect the *Banner*, we cannot lay aside the evidence which we have before us. We know that both the old and new proprietors have at least been careless in not informing their agents of any unavoidable delays that may have occurred. We hope to be able, in our next, to place the "Household Pub. Co." in a better light before our readers.—ED. COMPANION.

A ROUND THE TEA TABLE.

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