

no means lacking in grace and dignity, but perhaps not quite as vigorous as the prose version. The book itself, with its excellent and tasteful paper and binding, is a credit to the publishers, and will make an excellent presentation volume.

THE DUCHESS OF POWYSLAND. By Grant Allen. Boston, Mass.: Benjamin R. Tucker.

This is a novel which faithfully represents certain phases of English society. The story opens with two young men in a London lodging house—one of them is a briefless barrister, the other is an employee of the Board of Trade. This last is a most interesting specimen of the society cad; not the cad of Thackeray, more modern than that; the cad that we may see any day in our neighbour's drawing-rooms or in our own. The barrister, on the other hand, is a quiet English gentleman, unpretentious and sincere: and yet Douglas Harrison and Mr. Basil Maclaine of the Board of Trade are very good friends and live together. The landlady of this particular lodging house is not an ordinary landlady, she is an English lady as well as a beautiful woman. Douglas Harrison recognizes this, understands her, and consequently loves her. Basil Maclaine sees in her only a beautiful woman—can an English lady let lodgings? Of course the irony of fate causes Linda to choose—Basil, who rejects her! Years afterwards when the same Linda appears on the *tapis* as the Duchess of Powysland, Maclaine sees in her the duchess, Harrison merely the woman! The story is told without exaggeration in spite of the sensationalism of the climax. Basil is always *himself*, always true to his cad's creed; he likes to mix with "the Best People," but he has not the wit to conceal his preference. He differs from the "Crosby" of Trollope in the qualities of the head, but not in those of the heart. The other characters are well drawn, Linda's brother being a very good type of a self-made man, who, because he respects that *self*, is not ashamed of the fact. The Duke is the only character in the book that is not strictly normal; this gentlemanly scion of an old Welsh family has inherited morbid characteristics which contain the germs of insanity; one is not surprised at his suicide—suicide is, so to speak, in the blood. De Boisgoby, in one of his novels, depicts a man slowly killing himself in order to take vengeance upon his guilty wife. Mr. Grant Allen gives us a picture of a man doing the same thing in order that his innocent wife may suffer for his crime. The British Philistine is well depicted in the poem of "Old Affability" the prosperous bankers and the author has showed what is good in such nature, as well as what is painful and grotesque. "The head of the profession," the gentleman burglar is drawn to the life, as also his confederate "Bess," whom he has "moulded" to his own way of thinking. Poor "Bess" is recalled to the lost rights of her womanhood, when, instead of cynicism, she meets with sympathy, when, instead of incentives to evil, she sees a good and pure life. Miss Venables, the heiress, is charming in spite of her *hauteur*. The novelist has seized upon very varied phases of character in a short compass, but in itself that of Basil Maclaine is a masterpiece. The end is happy; the briefless barrister defends Linda when she is being tried for her life, becomes celebrated, and afterwards marries her. "Bess" lives with them, and Mr. Maclaine enjoys the society of "the Best People." *Homunculi quanti sunt!* As a psychologist and sketcher of human character, as a writer at once keen and brilliant, we consider Mr. Grant Allen one of the foremost novelists of his day.

THE *New England Magazine* for January opens with an article on Phillips Brooks, from the pen of Julius H. Ward; the paper is well written and the illustrations are particularly good. "The Master of Raven's Woe," by Arthur L. Salmon, is a weird poem:—

But there in his bitter trials' hour
He stood with madden'd dead—
Alone with the ghost of a bygone deed,
Alone with the risen dead.

Surely the title of this poem is not unsuitable! "Purification," by George Edgar Montgomery, strikes altogether another key; it is, as the name suggests, the cry of a soul which is striving to mount upon its dead self. "Mice at Eavesdropping," by Mr. A. Rodent, is the story of what a mouse heard and saw in an artist's studio; "a studio is a grand place for mice when money is plenty"; yes, but we don't want any such intelligent mice round our rooms—stop with the artists ye mice of much wisdom, at any rate don't come to us even in human guise! "The City of St. Louis," by Professor C. M. Woodward, is an interesting and exhaustive study on this great city; the illustrations are very good. Mr. John W. Chadwick writes an eulogy entitled "George William Curtis" in the spirit of a modern Juvenal. The number is a very fair one and contains more interesting matter than our space will allow us to mention.

THE *Contemporary Review*, December, 1891, contains some lines by Sir Edwin Arnold entitled "The 'No' Dance," in which a young Japanese maiden is depicted as asking for her dress; the sequel shows that she was successful,

And, while we did not speak, for wistfulness,
Watching the woven paces, wondering,
To note how foot and tongue kept faultless time
To dreamy tinkling of the samisens,
Across her breasts that golden-feathered gown
Swiftly she drew; spread her smooth arms like wings,
And passed:—O Yuki San and we alone!
The "No" dance ended!

The exquisite word-painting lavished by the author of "The Light of Asia" upon India has found its way to Japan. Andrew Lang contributes a paper in this number on "The Mimes of Herondas"; he hints that these fragments have considerably more human interest in them than the tragedies of Aeschylus and Sophocles, in which suggestion we feel sure that the English schoolboy will agree with him. George W. E. Russel writes an interesting article on Archbishop Tait, the formidable opponent of ritualism; Mr. Russel ends with the difficult question: "What is the use of Bishops in the House of Lords?" The Right Hon. G. Shaw Lefevre, M.P., contributes a paper on the "Memoirs of General Marbot." "Quelle époque et quels hommes!" exclaims Marbot upon one occasion, and we would judge from Mr. Lefevre's paper that he had just cause for his enthusiasm. "French Politics," by Gabriel Monod, completes a very agreeable issue of the *Contemporary*.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

IN an article of our last week's issue entitled "Impressions of Hartford," by Lensar, the author is represented as saying, "Hartford's pride in herself as a literary centre is very justifiable. Nor does she hesitate to comfort herself with all the dignity and hauteur of Bostonette." The word, of course, is *comfort*, and our apologies are due to the author and to—Hartford!

MR. HALL CAINE'S fresh contribution to fiction will bear the title of "St. Bridget's Eve."

FOUR forthcoming books are to have Bernhard, Langtry, Patti and Mary Anderson as authors.

A NEW story which Robert L. Stevenson has sent to England has for its title "The Beach of Palesa."

RIDER HAGGARD has finished a new novel called "Nada, the Lily." It will not be published until after the holidays.

A SERIES of hitherto unpublished essays by John Ruskin will shortly be published. The volume will be called "The Poetry of Architecture."

MRS. FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT, the authoress of "Little Lord Fauntleroy," etc., has completed for serial publication a new novel called "Giovanni and the Other."

ANOTHER new periodical is announced. This will be an English-Arabic monthly, and is to be called the *Eastern and Western Review*. It will be printed partly in English and partly in Arabic.

THE publishers of the *Dominion Illustrated Monthly* have secured a serial story from the pen of Mr. Stuart Livingston, LL.B., of Hamilton, who has for some time past been a valued contributor to THE WEEK.

CAPTAIN KANE, the heroic commander of the British man-of-war, *Calliope*, at Samoa, in the famous hurricane of three years ago, has been promoted to the office of flag-captain to Admiral the Earl of Clan William.

THE bibliography of Matthew Arnold, which T. B. Smart is compiling, will contain references to three hundred criticisms and reviews of Arnold's writings. It will conclude with an index to every poem in each of the collected volumes.

THERE will be published this month an edition, with a new preface by Mr. William M. Rossetti, of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's "Dante and his Circle" (1100-1300), which will, as of old, include the beautiful translation of the "Vita Nuova."

THERE is on the point of issue yet another demolition of Shakespeare. It is written by Mr. Thomas W. White, and is called "Our English Homer," wherein the theory is advanced that Shakespeare's plays were written by a group of scholarly hirelings.

TWO new series of publications are announced, the first of which, "The Pocket Library of English Literature," will be edited by Mr. George Saintsbury. The other, "The International Library of Fiction," will consist entirely of copyright books, chiefly fiction.

THERE has just been issued a prospectus of what promises to be a valuable work on "Game Birds," written by Mr. J. G. Millais. It will contain, in addition to a frontispiece plate by Sir J. E. Millais, R.A., several coloured engravings, woodcuts, and autotypes.

AN international exhibition of the book trade and its allied branches, says the *Publishers' Weekly*, will be held at the Palace of Industry at Antwerp, July to August, 1892. Application may be made to the Netherlands Society for the Promotion of the Book-trade, Amsterdam.

A POSTHUMOUS volume of literary essays by the late James Russell Lowell (to contain, among others, his critical studies of Milton and Thomas Gray) is in a forward state for publication. The volume is being prepared by the author's friend and literary executor, Professor Charles Eliot Norton.

PRINCE GEORGE OF GREECE, who saved the Czarewicz from a Japanese assassin several months ago, has recently performed another heroic deed. While on board a vessel in the Bay of Piræus during a heavy storm he saw a boat capsize, in which was a sailor bound for his ship. Instantly the Prince sprang overboard, seized the drowning man and swam with him to a point where help was possible.

"THE Flight of a Shadow" is the title of a new novel by Dr. George Macdonald, published by Messrs. Kegan Paul and Company. Although new to book form, it has

done duty as the Christmas number of the *Sunday Magazine*. A volume of unspoken sermons by Dr. Macdonald is also announced.

MONSIEUR DE LAVELEYE, the Belgian political economist, whose death in his seventieth year is announced from Brussels, was one of the most famous of European publicists during the last thirty years, for there were few issues in that time on which he did not express a decided and often an influential opinion.

A NEW translation of "Don Quixote," in four octavo volumes, is promised by the Harvard Publishing Company, Mass., U.S.A. The edition, which will be issued by subscription, will contain an introduction by the translator, a biography of Cervantes, a bibliography and copious notes, besides numerous photogravure illustrations.

THE proprietors of the *Monetary Times*, on the completion of its twenty-fifth year of publication, have issued a neat and useful souvenir which has been sent to the subscribers and friends of that well-conducted and reliable trade journal. The dozen "Dont's" given will be exceedingly valuable to business men if carefully observed.

THE late Dom Pedro, of Brazil, visited Alessandro Manzoni, the Italian poet, in 1872. After a half hour's conversation His Majesty bade the author farewell and replied to Manzoni's thanks with the words: "It is I who am honoured. Future centuries will still recall Alessandro Manzoni, but the memory of Dom Pedro, Emperor of Brazil, will be forgotten in a few years."

M. HENRI RENÉ ALBERT GUY DE MAUPASSANT, the French author, who is seeking at Cannes, France, to recover his health, has attempted to kill himself. Rumours were circulated that he had become insane, but these reports were denied. It was admitted that he was somewhat broken down and was suffering from nervous exhaustion.

HARPER AND BROTHERS announce as ready for publication the "Letters of Field-Marshal Count von Moltke to his Mother and his Brothers," translated by Clara Bell and Henry W. Fischer; "The Queen's Prime Ministers," a sketch of the present Prime Minister, the Marquis of Salisbury, written by H. D. Traill, D.C.L.; "Tess of the D'Urbervilles," Thomas Hardy's latest story, and by some regarded as his best, and a new edition of William Black's very popular novel, "A Daughter of Heth."

OUR novelists appear to be desirous of securing fame behind the footlights, for Mr. S. Baring Gould's novel, "Court Royal," has been dramatized by Messrs. R. Fenton MacKay and Louis S. Denbrigh. Mr. George Meredith is devoting his abilities to the creation of a comedy; while Mrs. Hodgson Burnett has produced in the provinces a play, "The Showman's Daughter," which, from all accounts, met with a very encouraging reception. To add to the list, Mr. Comyns Carr has arranged with Mr. George Alexander for the production this season of a new comedy, the title of which will be duly announced.

P. BLAKISTON, SON AND COMPANY, Philadelphia, have just ready the new London edition of the late Dr. Carpenter's work, "The Microscope and its Revelations," edited by Professor Dallinger. The London *Athenæum* says: "Special attention has been given to all that appertains to the practical construction and use of the instrument, but the interests of amateurs have not been neglected. The earlier chapters of the book have been entirely rewritten, and the work throughout has been brought up to date. It is no secret that Dr. Dallinger has spent a vast amount of labour on this new edition. Mr. A. W. Bennett and Professor Jeffrey Bell have relieved him as much as possible of the work of revising the chapters on botany and zoology."

THE recent achievement of T. P. O'Connor in producing within one week a comprehensive life of Mr. C. S. Parnell is a noteworthy but by no means unexampled instance of fast literary work. Goldsmith wrote his classic "Vicar of Wakefield" under even greater pressure, for an officer of the law stood at his elbow to expedite matters. Marion Crawford's "Mr. Isaacs" was the result of a month's work; and other authors, when the frenzy was on, have exhibited remarkable bursts of speed in composition. Horace Greeley, for example, wrote his "Printer" in thirty minutes. It was composed to be read at a Press Club benefit, and Mr. Greeley rose from bed at midnight to write it, after the poet chosen for the occasion had shown himself unequal to the task.

THE Russian correspondent of the *Figaro* sends the following account of how Count Tolstoi passes the winter days. He rises by the light of his lamp at six a.m. from his couch, which is placed in his private room, washes in icy-cold water, and dresses his hair with his five fingers. Next he partakes of breakfast, which consists of tea and bread of different kinds, with cream and cheese of his own make. From 6.30 a.m. he works till noon at sweeping away the snow, making boots, etc. At noon dinner is served, when, besides tea, there is a vegetable soup and some *kwass*, a kind of Russian beer which the Count brews. After dinner he devotes until six in the evening in talking to his disciples, and during two hours of the day he writes, but not longer. At 6 p.m. he partakes of some light supper of vegetables, and immediately afterwards retires to his couch. Just now his main topics of conversation are his strong objection to the use of tobacco and wine, and his daughters, the Countesses Nadegda and Linbow, assist at the interesting conversations. The Count is busy writing a book on "Life," which will shortly appear.