

THE FEBRUARY ("MIDWINTER") NUMBER OF THE CENTURY, the first edition of which was 180,000 copies (the largest number of CENTURIES ever published), contains—besides such notable contributions as General Grant's article on Shiloh—the beginning of a novel by Henry James, entitled "The Bostonians," which introduces the reader to a characteristic group of the "strong-minded" of both sexes. Mr. Howell's descriptive papers, entitled "A Florentine Mosaic," also begin in this number, with their accompaniment of etchings and sketches by Pennell. Perhaps the most timely illustrated feature of this number is Dr. Beer's paper on "Canada as a Winter Resort," with Sandham's graphic and spirited pictures, from which we give a few brief extracts elsewhere. Mr. Howell's novel, "The Rise of Silas Lapham," is continued, and Miss Litchfield's "The Knight of the Black Forest" is concluded. The "short story" of the number is a long story by Mark Twain, entitled "Royalty on the Mississippi," with Kemble's humorous illustrations. For March among other good things we are promised, what recent events lend special interest to, "The Land of the False Prophet," by General B. E. Colston, formerly of the Egyptian General Staff, and leader of two expeditions in the Soudan. Numerous illustrations and careful maps aid the descriptions, with a portrait of General Gordon, from a photograph made in 1867. Also, four profusely illustrated articles on the American Civil War.

THE MIDWINTER (FEBRUARY) ST. NICHOLAS is another of the many charming numbers of this admirable magazine for young readers. Among the many new things in this number are "Driven back to Eden"; "English Kings in a nutshell," filling six pages of beautiful, instructive illustrated reading; "Little Red Ridinghood," with a very pretty and odd picture; "Ralf's winter carnival" and "winter days," illustrated; and other funny things, and always funniest of all, the Brownies, with four illustrations, the little male fairies riding terror-stricken sea-fowls—"The albatross and crane are there, the loon, the gull, and gannet rare."

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE, being a weekly and yet a lower priced periodical, occupies a somewhat different field, and is rather perhaps for younger people. Dropping in weekly, the sometimes impatient little folks have not so long to wait for their literary treat. The last few numbers have been exceedingly good. Two full page illustrations, "cold comfort" and "apple blossoms" are respectively very pathetic and lovely (as our little girl said). There are, too, some very funny things such as "Winter sports at the North Pole," illustrated—polar bears skating and others on sleds blown along by the force of the wind against the concavity of open umbrellas; and an elephant with toothache that sought the "nearest dentist," with eight illustrations:

HARPER'S WEEKLY is strong in its denunciation of the dynamiters, both in language and illustrations. It says:—"This dynamite devilry moves only the execration of mankind. Mr. Parnell and his associates, unless they are fools, are not deceived. They know that such acts alienate universal sympathy from any cause in aid of which they are perpetrated." In the number for the 14th inst is a portrait of Mrs. Yseult Dudley, and another of "Chinese Gordon"—represented as a pleasant looking man, with a high bold forehead. As suiting the day, too, it gives a double-page illustration—the "seige of the lovers."

The *Montreal Star* gave in full all it had promised in the carnival number, which, as everyone knows, was universally pronounced a magnificent production, highly creditable to the country. Those who think such a display of winter and ice will do Canada harm hardly think deeply enough. It is better to let the people abroad, who believe the winter here to be a terrible period of snow and frost, know that it can be made highly enjoyable. Only will not some enterprising publisher in Toronto publish next fall a like display of the Industrial Exhibition? Too utile, prosaic, perhaps.

THE METALS which are found to longest retain heat and brass and copper, next iron, and lastly in order lead.

FIFTY MILLION dollars have already been spent on the Panama Canal, and the work has hardly begun.

TWO CASES of the successful joining of divided nerves have been reported to the Paris Academy of Sciences, function being restored, in one case to a nerve which had been divided for fifteen years.

CROWS, Dr. C. C. ANBOTT avers, have twenty-seven distinct cries, calls or utterances, each readily distinguishable from the others, and each having an unmistakable connection with a certain class of actions.

A BAVARIAN chemist is reported (*Am. Invent.*) to have invented an enameling liquid which renders any species of stone or cement harder than granite, and gives it the indelible appearance of any mineral that may be desired.

THE LEADING PECULIARITY of rice is the very large proportion of starch and the very small proportion of gluten which it contains, there being but one part of gluten to thirteen parts of starch. In wheat there are two parts of gluten to every nine parts of starch.

A TIGER in the act of eating a buffalo, says the *American Inventor*, has been accidentally photographed in India. The poor creature, which was tied to a stump in a field, had just been focused, when out popped the tiger from a neighboring wood. The artist released the spring shutter of the instrument just as the buffalo was laid low by the beast's paw, and the "sun picture" was taken before the dying moment occurred. It is said to be a most tragic tableau, and a great achievement in the art of photography.