

SIMS REEVES, the great tenor, will now retire absolutely from public life, and will close his long series of successes with a farewell tour of England, commencing in March.

SULLIVAN's music for Irving's revival of *Macbeth* consists of, 1, overture; 2, three short preludes or *entr'actes*; 3, banquet scene music; 4, two choruses, female voices, and a great deal of incidental music. The overture is scored for a very large orchestra. At the recent production, while Irving's conception of *Macbeth* was very quietly received, the music was greatly admired.

*Dorothy* was produced at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, in London, two years ago, and is still running there, having reached its 817th performance. As the house will soon be closed for repairs, the opera will go to the Lyric Theatre.

THAT veteran music publisher, Oliver Ditson, of Boston, died on the 21st ult., at the ripe age of seventy-seven, and possessed of great wealth. By his will he set apart \$25,000 for a fund for poor and needy musicians, besides leaving \$51,000 to some sixteen charitable institutions.

ANOTHER publisher, Antoine de Choudens, has also joined the majority. He made his fortune out of Gounod's *Faust*.

THERE is now in New York a Miss Georgie Boyden, a young lady who, without possessing the least knowledge of musical science, plays the piano with surprising virtuosity. She seems to be gifted with extraordinary musical instinct, aided by a wonderful memory, as she plays by ear the most difficult compositions, after having heard them executed a few times by others. Moreover, she improvises with uncommon facility and incredible accuracy as to rhythm and harmonizations; several of her impromptus, transcribed by competent musicians, have been published, and are meeting with general approbation, as evincing marked talent and originality in ideas and treatment.

B. NATURAL.

#### LIBRARY TABLE.

CASIMER MAREMMA. A story. By Arthur Helps. Boston: Roberts Brothers.

This reprint will revive the interest in the works of Sir Arthur Helps whose *Friends in Council* and *Essays* were much read some years ago. *Casimer Maremma* is sufficiently interesting as a story, but what thoughtful readers will find peculiarly attractive in it are the letters, many of them having the qualities which characterize the author's *Short Essays*.

This book, and *Glorinda* are of the publisher's "Handy Library" series, so commendable for convenient size, neat binding and excellent paper and print.

THE MYSTERY OF MARTHA WARNE. A tale of Montreal. By Arthur Campbell. Montreal: J. Theo. Robinson. paper, 25 cents.

Ghost stories have gone somewhat out of fashion; but human interest in and relish for the supernatural has by no means disappeared. The story before us purports to be from the actual experience of a Montreal physician who relates in a plain matter of fact manner incidents that occurred in his own practice. He tells the story of Martha Warne, because it was absolutely necessary for him to tell it. He could not keep it to himself. If his readers do not believe in the "absolute truth" of his narrative they will at least find it deeply interesting. There is bound up in the same cover a shorter story entitled *The Rowan Tree*.

GLORINDA. A story. By Anna Bowman Dodd. Boston: Roberts Brothers. 75 cents.

In this unpretending but well told story, New England hardness, perseverance and thrift are sharply contrasted with Southern indolence, pride and improvidence. This contrast is marked by the appearance and relative productiveness of adjoining plantations and the modes of management of their respective owners; but it is merely incidental to, and not the *motif* of the story. The scene is in Kentucky. The heroine is a young, untrained motherless girl who has a passion for acting, and plays Juliet and Rosalind, in a forest retreat, to an audience of little negroes. There is however an unseen and unsuspected auditor at one of these sylvan performances, who afterwards plays an important part in the story and exerts a strong influence in the development of Glorinda's character. This impulsive, untrained, but clever and beautiful young girl has, of course, lovers. One, the handsome, well dressed, well bred, educated stranger who had witnessed her histrionics in the leafy theatre, and the other, her neighbour, Jake Crossley, rough, uncouth, and utterly unattractive in external appearance, but patient, loyal, and manly, and ultimately successful in winning the prize his more showy rival too lightly esteemed. The story has nothing novel in plot or incident, but it is thoroughly wholesome and presents the life of which it treats without distortion or exaggeration.

WE are indebted to Prof. Ashley, of the University of Toronto, for a copy of his inaugural lecture, "What is Political Science?" Toronto: Rowsell & Hutchison.

THE *Methodist Magazine* for January wears its new dress and presents a very creditable appearance. A paper by Prof. Goldwin Smith on "Some Supposed Consequences of the Doctrine of Historical Progress," and one by Hon. Senator Macdonald on "Christian Unity" are attractive features of this number.

THE January number of *St. Nicholas*, full of bright reading matter and attractive illustrations, indicates that the promises in the prospectus for 1889 are to be amply fulfilled. A feature of the number is the first of a series of illustrated ballads. This one is "The Pigmy Fleet" with more than twenty pages of illustrations. Mrs. Catherwood's Canadian story, "The Bells of Ste. Anne," is continued and increases in interest.

THE January *Forum* is an exceedingly good number. In the opening paper Senator J. S. Morrill, discusses, from an American standpoint, the interesting though premature question, "Is Union with Canada Desirable?" Another matter in which Canadians have some interest is that treated of by President James B. Angell, in "The Recall of Ministers." Max O'Rell's "Jottings on American Society" is not a satire but a very fair judgment formed in a six months' sojourn in the United States.

AN engraved portrait and a sketch of the literary career of Mary Mapes Dodge, the author of *Hans Brinker*, and other popular books, and the editor of *St. Nicholas*, form the leading feature of the January *Book Buyer*. This paper is a full description of the home life of George Meredith, which is accompanied by an engraved portrait. The same number contains portraits of Walt Whitman and of the poet Whittier, whose eighty-first birthday was just celebrated. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

"COMMODUS," the new play by General Lew Wallace, is the opening attraction of *Harper's* for January. It is beautifully and liberally illustrated with engravings from drawings by Wengulin. Commissioner McCarthy, of Dublin, describes the "Manufacturing Industry of Ireland." This article; "The Beaver," by H. P. Wills. "Russian Bronzes," by Clarence Cook; "Modern Amateur Photography," by F. C. Beach, Ph. B., and "The Ancient City of Wisby," by W. W. Thomas, Jun., are richly illustrated. Miss Woolson begins her novel, "Jupiter Lights," and Mr. Warner continues his descriptive papers with "Comments on Kentucky."

*Outing* for January has for frontispiece an illustration of the Ice-yacht, *Northern Light*. The opening paper is "Among the Taurus Mountains," by L. B. Platt. Other articles of interest are "Mask and Foil for Ladies," by Charles E. Clay; "Fast Ice Boats," by Col. Charles L. Norton; "The Lake Champlain Yacht Club," by F. G. Mather, and "Hints to Football Captains," by Walter C. Camp. The papers on "American College Athletics," and "Sport—Past, Present and Future," are concluded. Two good stories, some poetry, and well filled editorial departments complete an excellent holiday number.

THE January number of the *Magazine of American History* opens with a paper by the editor entitled "Historic Homes and Landmarks," an interesting account of the scenes and events which made the "West End" portion of New York City historic ground. Dr. Prosper Bender writes on "Winters in Quebec," and Gen. C. M. Wilcox on "The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence." Col. Stone's Diary of "A Trip from New York to Niagara in 1829" is concluded. Hon. Wm. L. Scruggs contributes a paper on "Revolutions in Spanish America," and Isaac W. Hammond, of the New Hampshire Historical Society, a chapter on "Slavery in New Hampshire." This number begins the twenty-first volume of the magazine.

THE *Century* for January has for frontispiece Cole's engraving of the head of Christ, by Giotto. In the paper on "Old Italian Masters" there are several large engravings from Giotto with notes by W. J. Stillman and Mr. Cole. Another art feature of this number is the article on "Olin Warner, Sculptor," illustrated by reproductions of his works. Charles De Kay begins a series of articles on Ireland, the first of which is entitled "Pagan Ireland." Mr. Kennan continues his Siberian sketches and Mr. Wilson his papers on the Holy Land. There is a fair amount of fiction in the number, and two contributions in verse from Canadians, "The Winter Lakes," by William Wilfred Campbell, and "A Regret," by Agnes Maude Machar.

In the December *Contemporary* the Duke of Argyll controverts the theory advanced by Prof. Max Müller in his work on the *Science of Thought*. He says, however, that "sometimes, in reading Prof. Max Müller's explanations of his theory we are not divided from him so far as he thinks." Our Australasian brethren continue to attract the attention of Old Country people, and in this number Dr. R. W. Dale's second paper on "Impressions of Australia" appears. Archdeacon Farrar has an article on the "Future of Westminster Abbey," and Gabriel Monod writes on "Contemporary Life and Thought in France."

THE *Nineteenth Century* for December opens with a paper on the "Presidential Election in the United States," by Sir Lyon Playfair, M. P., in which he deals with the principal issues raised in the contest, viz., the regulation of immigration, "trusts," and tariff reform, concluding with some temperate remarks on the anti-British animus displayed by leaders and orators of both parties. Other articles of interest are "What St. John saw in Patmos," by J. Theodore Bent; "Soldier's Rations," by Archibald Forbes; "An Autumn Visit to Japan," by Lord Eustace Cecil, and "The Brothuks of Newfoundland," by Lady Blake. The Queensland incident and the question of over-examination have been already discussed in our columns.

In his paper on "The Negro as a Soldier," in the December *Fortnightly*, Lord Wolseley pays a deserved tribute to the soldierly qualities of some of the African races, especially the Zulus and Ashantis. A. W. Sterling

describes the growth of nationalism in Queensland; Walter Pater discourses on style, and Sir Henry Pottinger has one of his interesting papers on sport, this time describing "Wild Shooting" in Norway, the Loffodens and other northern islands. The controversy about the accounts of "The Church Missionary Society" is further continued by the Society's Secretary, and Canon Taylor; J. D. Bouchier discusses "The Fate of Roumania," and Prof. Tyndall tells very pleasantly "The Story of the Light-houses."

THE complete novel in *Lippincott's* for January is "Hale-Weston," by M. Elliot Seawell. It is a story of life in Virginia nearly half a century ago, full of incident and skilfully told. In a paper on "Edgar Allan Poe," Mr. R. H. Stoddard gives some unpleasant particulars about the poet which might as well be forgotten. Miss (or Mrs. Charlotte Adams), in "Literary Society as She was Seen," gives what must surely be a libellous and malicious description of an afternoon reception "at one of the best literary houses" in New York. The people of the United States should not be restive under the harsh judgments of strangers. No foreign pen has ever libelled them so outrageously as some of their own writers do continually. A description of "The Capture and Execution of John Brown" of Harper's Ferry fame, written at the time by an eye witness, is interesting but does not differ materially from the generally received accounts.

#### LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

SIR WILLIAM BUTLER is writing a life of Gen. Gordon. E. P. Roe's novel, *He fell in Love with his Wife*, has been translated into German by Karl Knortz.

J. MACDONALD OXLEY will have an article in *Macmillan's* for January, on "The Indian of Canada."

A *History of English Bookselling* by William Roberts, is to be published by Sampson Low & Co.

MACMILLAN & Co. will issue immediately *Japan and Its Art* by Marcus B. Huish, founded on the very elaborate papers in the *Art Journal*.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co. will publish in February, F. Hopkinson Smith's new book of travels, *A White Umbrella in Mexico* with illustrations by the author.

BLISS CARMAN is about to publish in Fredericton, N. B., a limited edition of an elegy by himself on Matthew Arnold. It is to appear in the form of a trilogy, and to be printed on large vellum sheets.

THERE are again discouraging reports about the health of Walt Whitman. His paralysis has assumed features which apparently take away the hope of his recovery. But his mind is not paralysed, nor is he given up to dejection.

MR. CHAS. G. LELAND has been received with especial honours at Buda-Pesth, where an enthusiastic reception was tendered him as President of the Gypsy-Lore Society. He found that his system of Industrial Art Education had been introduced in fifty or more public schools in Hungary.

THE Haliburton Society of King's College, Windsor, N. S., will soon issue *Haliburton, the Man and the Writer*, by F. Blake Crofton, Provincial Librarian of Nova Scotia and author of *The Major's Big Talk Stories*. The volume will contain a portrait of Judge Haliburton, who is better known to fame as "Sam Slick."

THE new juvenile weekly, whose advent has been chronicled from time to time, is to be called *Santa Claus*, and it is now announced that besides having its home office in Philadelphia it also will be published simultaneously in New York, Boston, London, and Toronto. The chief editor will be a Philadelphia lady, already favourably known by her contributions to juvenile literature.

MESSIEURS ERCKMANN AND CHATRIAN have—as they richly deserve—comfortable fortunes made out of their literary work. The two were schoolfellows and are now each about seventy years old. Erckmann is blue-eyed and pink-cheeked; Chatrian is a little curly-haired, blue-eyed man, with a "bumpy" forehead. They are engaged, the reading world will be glad to know, after a long silence, upon a new novel.

M. RENAN has finished the second volume of his *History of the People of Israel* which leaves only one more volume to be written. In it he traces the transformation of the national God of the Jews to the universal God, the Maker of Heaven and Earth. In the third volume he purposes to show how the organization of the Jewish religion was completed 450 years before Christ, and then became an abridgment of all the religious work of the world.

AN arrangement has been made by which the *Political Science Quarterly* and *The New Princeton Review* are consolidated. The publishers of the *Political Science Quarterly* (Ginn & Co.) have purchased *The New Princeton Review*, and the latter journal will be merged into the former. The political and economic questions to which *The New Princeton Review* has devoted so much of its attention, and which are engrossing more and more the attention of the public, will form, as heretofore, the special field of the *Political Science Quarterly*. The point of view and method of treatment which have won for both journals such cordial recognition and such extensive support will remain unchanged. Certain features of *The New Princeton Review* which have specially commended themselves to the public will be incorporated in the *Political Science Quarterly*; and Prof. Sloane, the editor of *The New Princeton Review*, will be associated in future with the work of the *Political Science Quarterly*.