

is whispered that within a short time a book on this subject will come from his pen.

In the making of books there is no end, but this story of Robert Shields is one that should be in the library of every Canadian, and that may well find a place on the shelves of every intelligent bookseller.

Among the Magazines.

The complete story of the sinking of the *Merrimac* and the capture and imprisonment of her crew at Santiago, will be graphically told in an article by Osborn W. Deignan, U. S. Navy, late helmsman of the *Merrimac*, in the January "Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly," now ten cents, which was published December 24th. The story will be fully and richly illustrated with authentic portraits of Hobson and all the crew, besides many new drawings specially prepared under Mr. Deignan's personal supervision. Other features promised for the January "Frank Leslie's" are: Bret Harte's new story, "Jack Hamlin's Mediation"; Joaquin Miller's "In a Klondike Cabin," and Thomas R. Dawley's "Campaigning with Gomez."

The "Canadian Magazine" continues its successful onward march. Newspapers in all sections of the Dominion wrote in terms of warmest commendation of the Christmas number. The January number has an excellent collection of readable articles. R. W. Shannon contributes an article on Dr. Kingsford, the historian. The article is accompanied by a fine full-page portrait of Kingsford. A liberal instalment of Joanna E. Wood's new serial, "A Daughter of Witches," is given. Edgar M. Smith's serial, "Anercestes, the Gaul" is concluded. Short stories, illustrated articles, reviews of current events, and notices of new books, complete a most interesting and readable number. Booksellers will find it pleasant and profitable to push the sale of this thoroughly Canadian magazine.

"Harper's Magazine" for January is especially valuable for a long list of articles of contemporary interest. Lieutenant S. A. Staunton opens the number with an account of the "Naval Campaign of 1898 in the West Indies," illustrated by Carlton T. Chapman. An article by H. W. Wilson treats of the "Naval Lessons of the War," and Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart contributes an interesting historical account of "Brother Jonathan's Colonies." Other articles of critical and historical nature are: "The Weakness of the Executive Power in Democracy," by Henry Loomis Nelson, and "Fifty Years of Francis Joseph," by Sydney Brooks. Capt. T. C. S. Speedy, under the title "A Glimpse at

Nubia," with illustrations by R. Caton Woodville, describes the life and customs of the natives of the Mahdi's country, and Sidney Whitman gives us a glimpse of "The Sultan at Home," illustrated by Harry Fenn.

To have the men who have demonstrated their organizing ability by great business successes tell their secrets of organization, is the object of the editor of "The Cosmopolitan." That he is succeeding, is proved in the January issue by the article from Chas. R. Flint, who is regarded in New York as one of the three or four ablest organizers in America. He is president of the Rubber Trust and the head of the great mercantile house of Flint, Eddy & Co., which has its ramifications in almost every part of the world. Mr. Flint tells very openly what makes for success in the organization of business. His article may be read with interest by the Rockefellers, the Armours, and the Wanamakers, as well as by the humblest clerk seeking to fathom the secret of business success.

In the same line is an article, also in the "Cosmopolitan," telling how Mr. Platt organized and conducted the campaign for the election of Roosevelt. It is by a gentleman who was actively engaged at the Republican headquarters during the campaign, and who gives a vivid picture of the perfection to which political organization has been carried in New York State by the most astute of managers. The wary old Senator who has been a lifetime in politics, and the youngest political aspirant will alike find food for reflection in Mr. Blythe's article.

Perhaps no single man of the nineteenth century did as much for the perpetuation and betterment of English literature as the great English publisher, John Blackwood. His daughter has written an interesting description of her father and his business, under the title, "Annals of a Publishing House." A review of this work, in "Literature," published by Harper & Brothers, describes Mr. Blackwood as a highly respectable citizen from first to last, an excellent judge of literary wares, an expert golfer and a country gentleman. It is said that Mr. Blackwood had an almost unequalled eye for what was good, and the instinct for finding it. To him belongs the honor of introducing George Eliot to the reading world. He was the intimate friend of Thackeray, Reade, and Dickens, and of nearly all the great English writers of his time. During his long career he made few great mistakes, but he failed to recognize Mr. Stevenson's genius, a mistake which he had great reason to regret. All in all, Blackwood's "Magazine" has contributed more permanent literature to the English language than any other periodical.

WILLIAM BLACK.

The death of Mr. William Black, which occurred on Saturday, December 10, at his home in Brighton, England, ended a literary career which will no doubt always be regarded as one exceptionally easy of comprehension, exceptionally free from the difficult problems and contradictions which a student of literature expects to find in the life of an eminent writer. There was, to be sure, a little vacillation for a few years before the novelist recognized the field in which it was easy and natural for him to excel, but after the discovery had been made, a few simple principles were formulated which served him, and served him wonderfully well, through rather more than thirty years of activity. Everybody who has read even a few of his books knows the principles of his art, which were applied consistently in every piece of work to which he put his hand, and which we find more or less completely exemplified now in every one of his many volumes—almost two score of them. He believed that a story should be wholesome and easy to understand, and really a story rather than a problem, theory, or protest in disguise; he unfeignedly liked the world, and found it beautiful; he saw clearly the attractive features of attractive people, and he was observant of quaint and amusing characteristics as well. What he saw he has described in his novels with simplicity, directness, and uncommon zest.

The people and the scenes thus transferred from life to literature have delighted, and will continue to delight, a very large number of gentle readers, for the essential pleasures in life are not the exclusive property of a single generation. Those persons whose taste has been formed by constant attention to the later school in fiction, which is so much more complex, strenuous, and "expansive," may be expected to rebel against uniformity and consistency. It is in their prayers, and the prayers of all, that the new fiction may be wider and stronger, as well as freer, than that which preceded; but it will still be conceded, in justice to the older form, that "those things must beautiful be called which, often seen, please often."—*Harper's Weekly*.

A correspondent, who lacks the following numbers of "The Dominion Illustrated" to complete the fyle of that Magazine for the first issue, would like to know if any of the readers of the CANADIAN BOOKSELLER can put him in the way of securing them. The numbers wanted are: Vol. III., No. 63; Vol. IV., Nos. 79 and 88; Vol. V., Nos. 118 and 125; Vol. VII., Nos. 172, 173, 182. Title page and contents of Vols. II. and VII. If any of our readers can supply these missing numbers, will they kindly write to E. S. C., in our care.