

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

"SO SHORT THE TIME."

"So short the time! So much to leave undone!"
Frets my impatient heart.
Hush! for with God's time. Though I've begun,
To end is not my part.
Perfect, or broken, is not mine to say;
I can but do my best
Until the Master bids: "Leave work to-day
For new work and for rest."
Rest he will give, and labor will he give
In that day as in this,
For Life is both, and on through Death we live
And love and nothing miss.
Blanche Atkinson, in Good Words.

TREE WORSHIP IN EUROPE.

Even in the midst of our own struggling civilization we shall not look in vain for obvious traces of this earliest and crudest form of tree worship, where the ghost itself is actually supposed to inhabit the branches of the sacred pine or the ancestral poplar.
"The peasant folk lore of Europe," says Tylor, "still knows of willows that bleed and weep and speak when hewn; of the fairy maiden that sits within the fir tree; of that old tree in Rugard forest that must not be felled, for an elf dwells within; of that old tree on the Heizenberg near Zell, which uttered its complaint when the woodman cut it down, for in it was Our Lady, whose chapel now stands upon the spot. One may still look on where Franconian damsels go to a tree on St. Thomas's day, knock thrice solemnly, and listen for the indwelling spirit to give answer by raps from within what manner of husbands they are to have. These cases fall at once into places if we recollect that elves and fairies are mere minor varieties of ancestral spirits, and that Our Lady often replaces for modern votaries the older and pre-Christian divinities of very ancient origin.—From Ghost Worship and Tree Worship, by Grant Allen, in The Popular Science Monthly for March.

RAILWAY SIGNALMEN.

In consideration of the fact that so great a proportion of railway accidents have been occasioned by errors in making or in reading signals, it is clear that too much attention can hardly be paid to this department of railway management. Our readers will therefore excuse another reference to a subject, well worn indeed but unhappily never trite. Three weeks ago while discussing the Thirsk accident we suggested the adoption of some system that would obviate as far as possible the necessity of depending for security of life and limb upon the limited and variable capacity of any railway servant. An incident which occurred the other day near Wakefield, is worth noting in this connection. In this case a signalman, apparently in his usual health and on duty, died suddenly, the fact being only discovered when inquiry was made as to why his signals were not working. Of course it is impossible, by the most perfect method, to obtain absolute immunity from the risk of accident. We are also pleased to note the great skill and energy which has been expended by railway companies upon this part of their organisation, and the large measure of success which has rewarded their efforts. Not even these considerations, however, can diminish the pressing necessity for further improvements which are suggested by the incident above mentioned. In particular we would again direct attention to the advantages connected with a system of interlocking signals. Such a system, controlled by electricity and capable of acting only in obedience to that control, is now, we understand, in action upon some lines. It by no means does away with the labour of signalmen, but it greatly diminishes its anxious responsibility. We should therefore welcome its more general introduction. Such a reform, combined

Carthy's "happiest hours are those which he spends at the Remington type-writer, especially if the work he is engaged in be fiction." He knows four or five languages and can read Greek as fluently as Mr. Gladstone himself. He is a fastidious writer and likes time, though he is capable of writing sweetly and well under pressure.

The book publishers of Boston entertained several hundred guests at an "authors' and publishers' luncheon" at the "Vendome" in that city recently.

Mr Houghton, of Houghton, Mifflin and Co., made the address of welcome and introduced Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes who made a pleasant speech in reply, and closed by reading the following verses, which he said were not in existence before 10:50 o'clock on that day:

Teacher of teachers, yours the task,
Noblest that noble minds can ask,
High up Aonia's murmurous mount,
To watch, to guard the sacred fount
That feeds the stream below;
To guide the hurrying flood that fills
A thousand silvery rippling rills
In ever-widening flow.

Rich is the harvest from the fields
That bounteous nature kindly yields;
But fairer growths enrich the soil,
Plowed deep by thought and wearied toil
In learning's broad domain,
And where the leaves, the flowers, the fruits,
Without your watching at the roots,
To fill each branching plain?

Welcome! the author's firmest friends,
Your voice the surest good deed lends,
Of you the growing mind demands
The patient care, the guiding hands,
Through all the mists of morn.
You knowing well the future's need,
Your prescient wisdom sows the seed,
To fire the years unborn.

PUBLICATONS RECEIVED.

- Bowen, H. Courthope, M. A., Froebel, \$1.50. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
Field, Henry M. The Story of the Atlantic Telegraph, \$1.50. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
Fisher, Geo. Park, D.D., LL.D. Manual of Natural Theology, 75c. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
Ford, Isaac N. Tropical America, \$2.00. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
Grinnell, Geo. Bird. Blackfoot Lodge Tales, \$1.75. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
Imbert, De-Saint-Amand. The Duchess of Berry, \$1.25. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
Le Row, Caroline B. Werner's Readings and Recitations, New York: Edgar S. Werner.
Lysaght Sidney. The Marplot, \$1.00. New York: Macmillan & Co.
Marvel, Ik. Reveries of a Bachelor and Dream-Life, 75 each. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Wm Briggs.
Pyat, Felix. The Rag-Picker of Paris, 50c. New York: Worthington Co.
Rhoades, Walter C. The Story of John Trevennick, \$1.00. New York: Macmillan & Co.
Stenson, F. J. In the Three Zones, \$1.00. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
Sloane, Wm. Milligan, Ph. D., L. H. D., The French War and the Revolution, \$1.25. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
Weismann, August. The Germ-Plasm, \$2.50. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
Van Dyke, John C. Art for Art's Sake, \$1.50. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

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written an autobiographical volume of which the Messrs. Scribner will publish at once a translation entitled "Recollections of Middle Life." The work is bound to be witty and entertaining. It will contain a portrait of the author.

G. P. Putnam's Sons, of New York and London, have in preparation a new illustrated edition of "Old Court Life in France," by Francis Elliot, author of "The Diary of an Idle Woman in Italy." They have also in preparation a new illustrated edition of "Woman in France during the 18th Century," by Julia Kavanagh.

Count Tolstol, says the New York Tribune, has learned a little reason and justice and has at last been persuaded to settle his estates on his wife and children. Up to this time he had absolutely refused to do this, contending that as all land belonged to the public at large his property ought to be divided among his poorer neighbours.

Dodd, Mead and Co. make a specialty of old and rare books. Among others, their collection contains a New English primer of 1738, the only one known to be extant; an original edition of Poe's "Tamerlane," now valued at \$2,750; a school atlas used by Tennyson; several illuminated manuscripts and a number of books from the presses of Guttenburg and Wynkyn de Woode.

Two New York publishing-houses, Eftingham Maynard and Co., recently of 771 Broadway, and Charles E. Merrill and Co., of 52 and 54 Lafayette Place, have just consolidated, and will hereafter continue the publication of educational, miscellaneous and subscription books in the new building, 43, 45 and 47 East 10th St., between Broadway and Fifth Ave., under the name of Maynard, Merrill and Co.

The N. Y. Critic Co.'s sign was hung up, on March 4th, above the third story windows of the Scribner building, 743-745 Broadway, New York. The offices of the Critic now occupy the suite of rooms formerly occupied by The Magazine of American History, and still earlier by the department of The Century. Scribner's Magazine and The Book Buyer are published in the same building; and the offices of McClure's Magazine also are there.

Mr. Joseph Gould of Montreal has, we learn with sincere regret, determined to discontinue the publication of "Arcadia." The Week has had nothing but kind thoughts, and good words for that ably edited and admirably sustained journal, since its first appearance. It was a credit to all concerned in it, and its discontinuance will be a felt loss to all who are interested in the advancement and development of literature, music and art in Canada.

M. Emile Zola, undaunted by his bad reception at the French Academy, has informed a Temps reporter that he remains a candidate for the chair of Renan, and that he will offer himself for that of John Lemaitre: "From my deathbed, if there were a vacancy, I should offer myself as a candidate. You know my feelings. I believe that since an Academy exists, I ought to belong to it, and that is why I offer myself. Whatever people think, I am going to continue the fight.

Harper and Brothers will publish immediately White Birches, an American novel, by Annie Elliot; Katherine North, Marie Louise Pool's new novel; Whittier: Notes of His Life and His Friendships, by Annie Fields; Athelwold, a tragedy, by Amelie Rives; Giles Corey, Yeoman, a play founded upon incidents in the Salem witchcraft delusion, by Mary E. Wilkins; The Japanese Bride, by Naoml Tamura, a native of Japan; and Coffee and Repartee, a series of humorous sketches by John Kendrick Bangs.

The Westminster Gazette, says the N. Y. Critic, is trying the experiment of publishing a novel serially in its columns. Justin McCarthy, M. P., is the author Mr. Cook M. P., introduces his colleague to the Gazette's readers. He tells us that Mr. Mc-

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