

# Periodicals.

Christian Reid contributes the complete novel in the May number of *Lippincott's*. It is entitled "The Lady of Las Cruces" and the scene is laid in Mexico. The incidents are both picturesque and dramatic. Those who begin the tale will not stop till they have reached the last page. William Trowbridge Larned has a short paper on "Effacing the Frontier," in which he says that the whirligig of time has brought a reversal of conditions and that the West is more secure now than the East. "The blood-and-thunder novelist of the future will go further and fare worse if he leaves the lairs of the New York policeman for the uneventful regions where the war-whoop is no longer heard." The story of a young Korean rebel, Soh Kwang Pom, is interestingly told by Haddo Gordan, with whom we agree in saying that it reads more like a tale of one of Dumas' heroes than like the adventures of a lad in the last years of the nineteenth century. Amongst the short stories which enliven this good number we may mention "Odds on the Gun," "The Ghost of Rhodes House," and "The Heart of the Fire Spirit."

"The dreamer is purely immoral; he is reduced to the state of the merely natural man," is one of the theories advanced by W. D. Howells in *Harper's Magazine* for May in the course of an article entitled "True, I Talk of Dreams." Observing by way of introduction that "Every one knows how delightful the dreams are that one dreams one's self, and how insipid the dreams of others are," he shamelessly proceeds to relate in a most entertaining manner his own personal experiences. The number contains besides the continuation of Mr. Hardy's "Heart's Inauguration," three short stories by Owen Wister, Robert Grant, and Julian Ralph. Mr. Ralph also contributes an article called "In Sunny Mississippi," beautifully illustrated, as, indeed, are the majority of the others. Fifteen fine reproductions of famous paintings are included in "The Museum of Prado," by Royal Cortissoz. A pleasing feature of the issue is the second instalment of "Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc." "The Story of the Liver," by Dr. Andrew Wilson, of Edinburgh, will attract the attention of those conscious of the possession of that influential organ. The subject is handled rather technically for general readers.

The May number of *Scribner's Magazine* assigns the place of honour to a story by Mrs. Humphrey Ward, begun in this number and to be continued in June and July. It is called "The Story of Bessie Cottrell." The scene is laid in rural England, and the incidents of the opening chapters lead us to expect some telling situations later on. It is the first story, we believe, she has ever written for a magazine. Robert Grant's series on "The Art of Living" deals this month with the subject of "Occupation." The new calling, he points out, which America has added to those of Europe, that of stock-broker, is rather crowded, and the vast fortunes which have sometimes been made in it are now likely to be the lot of but very few. He regrets, and rightly, that so few of the best of the youth of the U.S.A. are inclined to become clergymen and utters a note of warning against the haste to become rich. The historical article by Benjamin Andrews deals with the downfall of the carpet-bag regime and the state of public affairs in the South at the close of the war. It ought to be most interesting to those who had connection with the South in those calamitous times. The present instalment of Meredith's serial, "The Amazing Marriage," describes a bit of low life in the Whitechapel region of London in a manner that will surprise even Meredith's admirers. There is an article on golf, written evidently by an enthusiast, with many illustrations, grave and gay, some of them being "striking" in more senses than one. It is an article which may be thoroughly enjoyed even by a man who has not yet been bitten by the golfing mania, though we suppose that in time he too "may regret the neglected opportunities of his youth, and the disease which has no microbe and no cure will be chronic and seated on him for life."

A prominent place in *The Atlantic Monthly* for May is given to a paper on Mars by Per-

cival Lowell. It is the first of a series, and deals with the atmosphere of that planet which has so interested astronomers on this one of late years. It is not written in a technical style, and is easy reading for any one interested in our neighbours in space. There are two political articles, one dealing with "The Political Depravity of the Fathers," and intended to administer the consolation, such as it may be, to our American cousins that the politicians who managed the affairs of the States at the close of the last century were no better than they are now, and explaining the origin of the word, now only too well known, "gerrymander." The other deals with an event in the History of the Rebellion generally passed by in silence—an attempt on the part of Dr. Rush to discredit General Washington and remove him from command of the army. The letters of Dr. Rush to Adams are published and we see much of the animus which pervaded the set of which Dr. Rush was a leader. We are apt in these days to think General Washington had no rivals or detractors among his countrymen. Fiction is well represented by "The Seats of the Mighty" (Gilbert Parker), in which the hero—one Captain Stobo, of Virginia—in a Quebec prison and condemned to death, seems in a rather tight place; also by "A Singular Life" (Elizabeth Phelps), and a pleasant short story called "A Faithful Failure." An article, one of a series on "New Figures in Literature and Art," is devoted to Richard Harding Davis, the author of "Van Bibber" and "Gallegher," which have been so widely read and appreciated. His latest collection, "The Exiles, and Other Stories," seems to show that the dramatic faculty is becoming more prominent in his writings than the mere pleasure of story telling. Mr. T. R. Sullivan writes in advocacy of the establishment of a standard theatre to encourage advance in the art of acting in the U.S.A. and to put an end to the vicious "star system." "A Week on Walden's Ridge" is the account of an outing—much enjoyed apparently in spite of constant rain—in the eastern part of Tennessee. Some of the customs in that part of the land seem rather singular and the conversations are very amusing.

The May *Century* appeals to readers of most varied tastes. It opens gaily with a novelette, "The Princess Sonia," by Miss Julia Magruder, in which the writer's lightness of touch is supplemented with striking sketches by Charles Dana Gibson. The story is laid in the art colony of Paris, and the principal characters are two art students, one of whom is an American girl and the other the Princess Sonia herself. Professor Sloane narrates the conclusion of Napoleon's campaign in Northern Italy. The picturesque features of this important event are further reinforced by a large number of portraits and pictures by French artists of that time and by French and American artists of the present day. An article of general interest, which is also of special interest to musical people, is a sketch of "Rubinstein: the Man and the Musician," by Alexander McArthur, correspondent in Paris of the *Musical Courier*, who was for many years his friend and pupil, and who writes of the great pianist and composer from intimate knowledge, making a well-rounded study of his musical theories, admirations, and prejudices, and of his personal qualities. Accompanying the article is a faithful portrait of Rubinstein, drawn by Pape, after a favourite photograph of the composer. *The Century* also contains the third and concluding paper of Miss Harriet W. Preston's narrative of her trip "Beyond the Adriatic," along the Dalmatian Coast. She was accompanied on this voyage by Mr. Pennell and his wife, and the artist's sketches record picturesque aspects of that part of the coast lying between Spalato and Cattaro. The fact that this "new field of travel" has been made conveniently accessible to the Western world by steamer lines from Trieste lends additional interest to the unique material. This magazine for many years has been a staunch advocate of forestry reform, and in the current number it follows up the recent symposium on the forestry question with an editorial article calling attention to the fact that in the last Congress conservative measures for the preservation of the public forests were defeated by Western members, and appealing to that section of the country to give to the subject the attention which it

urgently demands. When will Canadians awake to the importance of this great matter—forest preservation? If it is left to the politicians, nothing will ever be done.

## Music.

The Yaw Concert Company drew an immense audience to the Massey Music Hall, last Friday evening, the 26th inst. Great expectations had been awakened owing to the very flattering press notices which had heralded the coming of Miss Yaw, and I am glad to be able to say they were more than realized. Miss Yaw is certainly a very gifted and extraordinary singer. One can scarcely imagine more dulcet, clear, crystal tones than she emits throughout her entire compass of nearly four octaves. I need not enlarge upon this remarkable scale, which so far as I am aware has never been previously recorded. It is so wonderful that one becomes dazed in endeavouring to account for its possibility. Her lower and medium tones have the richness of a mezzo-soprano of superior quality, and her very high ones are ravishingly sweet, pure and clear. This voice, so astoundingly, abnormally elastic, is so cultivated as to produce all manner of runs with perfect intonation, and also with consummate ease. In a number of selections including, "The Russian Nightingale," *Alahieff*; "Theme and Variations," *Pruch*; "The Echo," *Celli*; and Mascagni's "Ave Maria," with several encores besides, she both astonished and delighted every listener with her brilliant virtuosity. All the characteristics mentioned above were exhibited, and these, coupled with a manner childishly simple and graceful, made an effect which will long be remembered. Miss Georgiella Lay, pianiste, and Mr. Maximilian Dick were the assisting artists, and each made an impression most favorable. The former has a very finished technic, and a graceful touch, and while her tone is not distinguished for its volume, it is nevertheless entirely musical and pure. Her solo numbers were: Liszt's "Venice and Naples" (Tarentelle), and Joffe's "At the Spring," and "An Arietta of Gluck's," transcribed by the same composer. Mr. Dick proved himself a very superior violinist. He played Vieuxtemp's Ballade and Polonaise, and a Rondo, by Bassini, with great dash and vigor. He has an eminently musical tone, and, of course, a technic of mammoth proportions. He received in each instance two recalls and gave two encore numbers. In addition to Miss Lay's abilities as a solo pianist, she showed herself to be an accompanist of much ability as well. Mr. H. M. Hirschberg deserves the thanks of Toronto people for his enterprise in providing this concert, and the skill with which it was managed.

Gilmore's Band, which still retains the name of its late leader, Patrick Gilmore, gave three concerts in the Massey Hall on Monday and Tuesday evenings of this week, with Tuesday matinee, to large audiences. On Monday evening especially the hall was almost filled, and this certainly does not show that our people are suffering to any great extent from the hard times which have been the universal cry for the past few years. Mr. Victor Herbert, the present leader of the band, conducted a varied programme in a manner unmistakably proving his ability in that art, and his excellent musicianship. The band is made up of exceedingly capable players, and the general effect is very fine. The opening number on Monday evening was Wagner's "Jannhauser March," which was well interpreted, following which, perhaps the most successful numbers were two movements from Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite," an overture and march by the conductor, and "Canadian Patrol" by Herbert L. Clarke, which latter composition was performed for the first time. It is cleverly put together, being made from several well-known airs dear to the heart of the Canadian public, and won an instantaneous success. Mr. Herbert's compositions are brilliant and characterized by excellent workmanship and particularly striking themes. Mr. Herbert L. Clarke and his brother Mr. Ernest H. Clarke played a "Duo" for cornet and trombone and were so lustily cheered as to receive a double encore. They are both excellent performers, Mr. Herbert L. Clarke being particularly distinguished throughout America for his beauti-