

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

The *Atlantic Monthly* for January shows the altered cover for the first time. It probably is an improvement but we are such creatures of habit that few changes are grateful to the eye. The character of the magazine, however, is not changed, that would indeed be most deplorable. The first article is one of Hawthorne's "Unprinted Note Books." This is followed by a study in Sarah Orne Jewett's best style, and but little farther down the page is "The Fete De Gayant" by Agnes Repplier. The present instalment of the "Seats of the Mighty" displays a strength and at the same time delicacy of treatment that is quite remarkable. Horace E. Scudder has an interesting paper on "The School House as a Centre." There is a short poem entitled "Recompense" by Charles G. D. Roberts.

The leading article in the January *Book Buyer* is on Quiller-Couch, better known by his pen-name "Q." Those who have learned to think kindly of him, and these are many, will be pleased both with the article and the portrait. The lovable personality of Eugene Field—now, alas, withdrawn from us—is sympathetically treated by Irving Way, in "Eugene Field's Verses to his Friends." There are specially charming portraits of Robert Louis Stevenson and Bret Harte further on in the number.

The last issue of *Littell's Living Age* contains a charming piece of verse by Mrs. Jessie K. Lawson, which has been re-printed from *Chambers' Journal*. We have pleasure in reproducing this for the benefit of our readers.

The installment of Mr. David A. Wells' "Principles of Taxation," to appear in *Appleton's Popular Science Monthly* for February, will contain

descriptions of the tax systems of China and Japan, and will show that, although taxation has prompted many of the most dramatic incidents and important movements of history, only two or three works have been devoted to this subject and hardly any use has been made of it in literature.

"Ground Swells" by Jeannette H. Walworth is the complete novel in the February number of *Lippincott's Magazine*. The scene is laid in New York City. Marjorie Richardson has a short tale of a cash boy in a store, realistic, but fortunately on the uncommon subject of worth, not degeneration. "The Child and his Fictions" is a valuable paper by Elizabeth Ferguson Seat. The poetry of the number is by Charles G. D. Roberts, Clinton Scollard and Joseph Wharton.

A rare pleasure has been prepared for all those who love the great, the good, and the pure in English literature. In a series of six books, entitled "The Heart of Oak Books," D. C. Heath & Co., Boston, have issued a small and yet complete library for anyone who needs merely to be young enough to be growing. The first volume begins with "Mother Goose" and the sixth closes with "Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address." Between these two are to be found almost all that we have loved when children, and never forgotten; in everything there is the rarity of an excellent choice. Charles Eliot Norton is the editor.

"The Arden Shakespeare" is being issued by the same firm. Of this series we have received "Macbeth" and "As You Like It." It is the aim of the editors, to prepare this edition for the student of literature and