

LAWRENCE SEVERN, an English writer, is bringing out a novel entitled "Heaven's Gate: a Story of the Forest of Dean," of which the scenes are laid in and about Chepstow Castle and Tintern Abbey. The critics who have been permitted to read this in manuscript are enthusiastic in pronouncing it a story of great strength and exquisite style. D. Lothrop and Company announce it for March.

THE initial volume of the notable dramatic work by Messrs. Brander Matthews and Lawrence Hutton, on the "Actors and Actresses of Great Britain and America," will receive publication on the 19th inst., after which the successive volumes will be issued at brief intervals. The first part of the work will deal with David Garrick and his contemporaries, and from it promise is given that the public will be enabled to judge of the care and accuracy bestowed upon the work.

THE March number of the *Avenger* opens with a lengthy paper on the never-ending topic, "Reason and Revelation." The main object of its author is to vindicate theological progression. State-aided Education and Popular Riots are ably and interestingly discussed. "The Work of the German Palestine Exploration Society," by Professor Kautzsch, is an interesting record of what has been achieved under the auspices of that organization. The paper is reproduced, by permission, from a recent number of the *Studien und Kritiken*. The other contents of the review are able, timely, and full of information.

PROF. MUNROE SMITH, of Columbia College, is at the head of the new enterprise which will publish the *Political Science Quarterly*, a review devoted to history, economics, and jurisprudence. The first number, which will be ready on the 15th, will contain papers by John W. Burgess, Frederick W. Whitridge, Redmond U. Smith, and Daniel Dehron. A special feature of the *Quarterly* will be a department of book notices and detailed entries of every American and foreign work on all the subjects discussed by the review. By this system there will be preserved a complete biography of the political sciences.

THE March *Outing* is a new departure in American literature. It deals with the outdoor sports of to-day as of a theme worthy the best literary talent, the best artistic talent, and the best typographical make-up. The editorial management of Mr. Poultney Bigelow is seen for the first time in this number; and to judge from the mere fact that it has about three times as many illustrations as any previous one, we are inclined to think that the public is to be the gainer. Captain Coffin, author of "The America's Cup" and "Old Sailors' Yarns," has a remarkable article on Blockade Running during the War.

THE announcement made of a new novel by Dr. George H. Picard, whose latest work, "A Mission Flower," attained a flattering success, is rather premature, since the work is but scarcely commenced, and not a hundred pages are yet written. The novel, when completed, which will probably not be until late in the Fall, will be published by Messrs. White, Stokes, and Allen, who say that the story, as mapped out by the physician-author, will take the form of a serious comedy, though not at all a farcical one. Dr. Picard is a New York physician, and his professional engagements prevent any continual attention to literary work.

SHORTLY before his recent marriage, Mr. H. C. Bunner completed his second ambitious work of fiction, which will be published some time during the spring. Ever since the issuance of his first novel, "A Woman of Honour," Mr. Bunner has regretted his appearance in print, and he has been anxious to supplement it with a more worthy and meritorious work, which he believes the reading public will find in this latest work from his pen. He is one of the few poets of the younger school whose verse collections enjoy a remunerative sale, his "Airs from Arcady and Elsewhere" having met with a substantial welcome both in this country and England.

MR. WALT WHIPMAN, the poet, has sent to Mr. Allen Thorndike Rice, who is to edit the volume of "Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln," a photograph of the first martyred President, which is pronounced by all who have seen it as the finest and most faithful picture of Mr. Lincoln extant. The photograph was taken in Washington during the opening month of his first term of office, and, although considerably faded, will be reproduced in the forthcoming volume in as successful a manner as possible. Another hitherto unknown photograph will be one of Gen. Grant, in full uniform, with sword, contributed by Col. Fred Grant to the sketch of his father.

MR. JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL will make his first contribution to periodical literature since his return from England in the *Princeton Review* for March. His paper will treat of the works of the poet Gray, with some reflections upon American poetry. It was only with the greatest difficulty that Mr. Lowell could be made to take up his pen again, and it was finally through his friendship for Prof. William M. Sloan, the editor of the *Princeton*, that he was induced to write. Since his return he refused an offer of \$1,000 for an article for the *Century Magazine*, and another from Harper Brothers, who offered to pay him \$6,000 for a series of six articles for their magazine.

IT is well known that the U. S. Government has not promoted any of the survivors of the Greely expedition, or, in fact, given pecuniary assistance to the disabled men who reached civilization again. Three of the survivors are now, however, engaged in a paying business—Long, Fredericks, and Connell are all selling Lieut. Greely's book, "Three Years of Arctic Service," and in telling the history of their terrible life at Sabine they work up the auditors' feelings to such a pitch that they dispose of the expensive volumes readily, and are reaping large profits. Beiderbeck is at present in Washington, under the care of a physician. It is doubtful if he will ever be able to do active service again.

MR. EUGENE SCHUYLER has just completed his work, "American Diplomacy and the Furtherance of American Commerce." It treats in an exhaustive way the American consular and diplomatic service, and according to the author has been written to aid those in the public service as well as for students of political economy. It will be published by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons. Three other books which the same firm announce are: "Persia: The Land of the Immurs," by the Rev. James Bassett; a translation of Kuno Fischer's "History of Modern Philosophy," translated by Mr. J. P. Gordy, and furnished with an American introduction by President Noah Porter, and "Epic Songs of Russia," by Miss Isabel F. Hapgood, of Boston.

AFTER several unavoidable delays, Miss Jeannette Gilder's volume of "Representative Poems of Living Poets" is now approaching publication, and its issue is promised about the middle of this month. The work will be large octavo in size, of over 700 pages, and every care has been employed by Messrs. Cassell and Company in its mechanical execution. A striking and elaborate cover of symbolic design will enclose the text, which is to be comprised of poems selected by the authors themselves as their most representative literary productions. It is predicted that many of the selections made will cause not a little surprise. Miss Gilder, as is probably known, is editor of the *Critic*, and besides performing the duties of that position has under her control the business department of that journal, as well as being the New York correspondent of the *Philadelphia Press*, under the *nom de plume* of "Erasmus," and is the author of the "Brunswick" letters in the *Boston Saturday Evening Gazette*. She also does a considerable portion of the literary reviews for the *New York Herald*.

CAREFUL editing is being given to the series of important letters and papers of Thackeray which some time ago were secured by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons. By the few privileged persons who have been permitted a glance at the papers they are described as possessed of a special degree of interest that will surprise even those who have built the highest expectations upon their worth and value. The letters will be first published in America, but it is impossible to learn from the publishers when the issuance of the volume will occur further than that it will probably be during the latter portion of the year. A strict surveillance is kept over the letters, and their contents are said to be known to not more than four or five persons.

ALTHOUGH it may seem premature to announce any of the holiday publications that promise to make the Christmas of 1886 a notable one in the world of books, it will be of interest, even thus far in advance, for the admirers of the illustrations of Mr. W. Hamilton Gibson to learn that the leading Christmas venture of the Harpers this year will be a volume of superbly illustrated papers of landscapes, woods, and fields, by Mr. Gibson, for which the illustrations are now being prepared. The title of the work will be "The Harvest of a Quiet Eye," and it is asserted that no publication of a like character produced in previous years will have a more magnificent setting than this new volume, of which both text and pictures will be by Mr. Gibson.

THE March *Magazine of American History* presents an appetizing table of contents. Every article is of importance and of superior merit. The opening article, "The Van Cortlandt Manor-House," is from the pen of the editor, and is illustrated with curious relics of two and one-half centuries ago; also portraits and exquisitely drawn interiors. Mr. Arthur Harvey, of Toronto, has a most interesting and delightfully readable sketch of "Champlain's American Experiences in 1613." Then we have a fresh and absorbing study in early Western history, a sketch of "Simon Gerty, the White Indian," whose life was a tragic romance from the cradle to the grave—an admirably written article by George W. Ranck. There are three war papers in this number, all of the first interest.

A UNITED effort is being quietly made among several New York literary men for the re-establishment of the ill-fated *Manhattan Magazine*, and it is not improbable that the early Fall will chronicle the re-issue of the periodical. The prospect of successfully reviving the magazine has been carefully considered, and it is believed that a sufficient amount of capital can be secured to effect its being placed once more on a safe business basis. Under what circumstances this will be done, and who will become the editor, has not yet been decided, although negotiations are now in progress with a leading American author to accept the editorship. That this effort may prove successful is to be hoped, and the prospects that it will be by no means unlikely, if the opinion of a prominent New York littérateur may be accepted.

WITH the first number of his new magazine off his hands, the editor of the *Forum* is devoting his energies to his second issue, which promises to be equally as valuable as, if not superior to, the initial one, in names at least. A leading article of the April number will be a presentation of the labour question from the employer's standpoint by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the millionaire iron merchant of Pittsburgh. Gail Hamilton, who has of late attached herself to magazine writing, will appear as the author of an essay on the present condition of the South, which Elizabeth Cady Stanton will follow with a discussion of the question, "What are we to do with our boys on Sunday?" The Rev. O. B. Frothingham and Monsignor Preston, the latter with an article on the Roman Catholic idea of education in our public schools, will also be included in the list of contributors.

M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS has been induced by the editor of the new French magazine, *Les Lettres et les Arts*, to write an exceedingly witty contribution on the real philosophy of life, which the novelist holds to be astonished at nothing that may occur in the world. Hence, he says: "If I were to hear that the moon had come down from its high residence, and landed in the centre of France in front of the Tuileries, I would simply shrug my shoulders, believe it, take a 'bus and go and see it." This point in the article commended itself so strongly to the favour of the editor that he at once had it illustrated, and the full-page gravure in the February number showing the stranded moon in front of the Tuileries and excursionists going to and fro inspecting it, divides the honours of the issue with a reproduction of four bars of music from the original MSS. of Charles Gounod, the composer of "Faust," with his autograph attached, the whole surrounded with magnificent representations of allegorical figures.

FOUR new novels are in the presses of Messrs. Cassell and Company for early publication. The first, to be published this week, is from the pen of "Sidney Luska," whose work, "As it is Written," has attracted such wide attention, and will be entitled "Mrs Peixada." The story is one of New York life, with metropolitan characters, and has already been made familiar to hundreds of readers through its publication in a syndicate of newspapers. The second work of fiction is from the hand of the author of "The Bar Sinister," Mrs. J. H. Walworth, and will have for its name "Old Fulkerson's Clerk," will be entitled "Number 13: or the Story of the Lost Vestal," by Emma Marshall, the English authoress. The fourth novel will be a story of Afghan life, "Ruhainah," by Evan Stanton, a *nom de plume* for an old and, it is said, a well-known writer, but whose debut as a novelist will be made through this book.

MR. THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH is hard at work upon his series of short stories, which will appear in the *Atlantic*, the first being "Two Bites of a Cherry," published two months ago. After the stories have all appeared they will be put into a little volume and issued in Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin, and Company's Aldine Series, uniform with "Marjory Daw"; in fact, sooner or later all of the author's books will find their way into the Aldine volumes. It is not generally known, by the way, that "A Rivermouth Romance," that charming little book published some years ago, is entirely true, and the incidents are connected with a former servant in Mr. Aldrich's own family. The venerable reprobate, who was sent to jail for drunkenness, and who, after having received from kind friends a surfeit of tracts, sent out the despairing cry, "For God's sake, send me 'Pop Goes the Weasel,'" was committed to jail for being drunk at Portsmouth a few weeks ago, after having for nearly twenty years been quite exemplary in his conduct.

IN the frontispiece of the March *Century* there is a reminder that Spain has been astonishingly quiet since the death of the young king. "Emilio Castelar, the Orator," has been a figure in every political agitation since the abdication of Isabella II., the mother of the late king. These articles define the brilliant talents which have made Castelar the pride of his people, and his limitations as a popular leader. In the opening paper, "Italy from a Tricycle," Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pennell begin a novel pen and pictorial account of a trip from Florence to Rome. Ex-Minister Benjamin writes of "Mountaineering in Persia" as experienced during a summer trip in the Elburz mountains "for health and trout." Mr. Howells, in the second part of his new novel, "The Minister's Charge," treats Lemuel Barker to an arrest and imprisonment on a false charge author; and a remarkably clear and interesting statement of "The Strength and Weakness of Socialism," considered from the standpoint of the social agitators, and also from that of conservative reformers, is made by Dr. Washington Gladden.