

THE PERIODICALS.

THE *Century* long ago attained such excellence as to make the maintenance of its attractions a task of no ordinary difficulty, whilst to improve it would seem almost impossible. The current issue is, like most of its predecessors, plethoric of good reading and splendid illustration, the former judiciously varied in character to suit all literary palates, the latter a veritable "joy for ever." The *Century* is doing a good work; and it is satisfactory to know that the proprietors' efforts to raise the artistic standard of popular magazine literature are being crowned with a most gratifying commercial success.

THE December *Atlantic* concludes Vol. liv. The list of contents of the current issue is a strong one, and one paper at least will probably provoke discussion in this country: "Canada and the British Connection," the opinions expressed being valuable in these days of Imperial federation and other chimeras as showing the trend of opinion amongst our neighbours as to Canada's political future. The articles on "Poe's Legendary Years" and "Combination Novels" are of considerable interest, the former giving for the first time a satisfactory account of the more obscure passages in Poe's life. A pleasant little paper in the "Contributors' Club" department takes the form of "a private fling at the editors."

WITH its December number *Lippincott's Magazine* also completes an annual volume. In flowing language E. C. Reynolds tells us why he thinks an American *Punch* is not, at any rate for some time, practicable. "The American humorist is deficient," it is said, "in *chiaroscuro*"—*voilà tout*. Under the caption "A Western Industry"—and a growing one, apparently—a graphic description is given of sugar-making at a spot where "twelve years ago the prairie wolf howled at night and the rattle-snake sung his song of warning in the day-time." Fiction, poetry, travel, each have their departments, whilst the illustrations which accompany the text are of high quality. *Lippincott's* is, in a word, a very cheap and a very excellent magazine.

THE young sportsman, whatever particular branch of sport he may affect, can, thanks to *Outing*, so to speak, fight his battles o'er again in front of the friendly stove, whilst King Frost has locked up yachting waters and covered favourite bicycle "runs" with an inconvenient if beautiful carpet. But would it not be advisable for the publishers of this bright "monthly magazine of recreation" to give papers, songs, and stories on the exhilarating glories of "the outside edge," the fascinating excitement of sleighing, and other winter sports?

THE Christmas *St. Nicholas* contains a fund of delight for youthful hearts. No trouble or expense seems to have been spared in the effort to produce a model magazine for the young folk. Its tone is high, as befits a popular instructor, whilst the papers and stories—not forgetting the beautiful illustrations—are well within the comprehension of any intelligent boy or girl. "Please send us a bound copy of *St. Nicholas*" will doubtless be the burden of many a petition to Santa Claus. At any rate, it might well be so.

THE fourth number—the October issue—of *Descriptive America*, is to hand, and is devoted to the State of Wisconsin. It is difficult to give even a faint idea of the magnitude of the task undertaken by Messrs. Adams and Sons, the publishers. Each part of their invaluable work comprises some forty-eight large pages containing every conceivable manner of information regarding the State treated of, and is preceded by a map—24 by 18 in.—corrected to date. The text is illustrated by geological maps, cuts of prominent places and personages, and interesting landscapes. The editorial work bears traces of great care, and altogether it is no matter for surprise that this mammoth gazetteer has been received with a chorus of praise from the whole continent.

HEADED "La Littérature Murale" *Le Livre* has a most interesting paper in the current number, accompanied by valuable *fac similies* of play-bills, window-bills and posters announcing the appearance of some of the most prominent literary and dramatic events of the past half century. The next most important article is entitled "L'Influences Françaises en Russie."

BOOK NOTICES.

LYRA ELEGANTIORUM. Edited by Frederick Locker. New York: White, Stokes and Allen.

LONDON RHYMES. By Frederick Locker. The same.

In a felicitous preface Mr. Locker expresses the opinion that "genuine *vers de société* and *vers d'occasion* should be short, elegant, refined and fanciful. . . . The tone should be pitched high. . . . The rhythm should be crisp and sparkling, while the entire poem should be marked by tasteful moderation, high finish, and completeness." With this as his gauge Mr. Locker has naturally succeeded in collating some of the best specimens of that class of work in the English language, and his publishers have reproduced them in so chaste and elegant a form as to make the book one of the most attractive of the holiday season. In "London Rhymes" we get specimens of Mr. Locker's own work. These also are *vers de société*, and though somewhat local in themes, their poetic beauties must ensure popularity even on this side the Atlantic. A *bijou* little book, and the "author's edition."

VOICES FROM THE ORIENT. By the Rev. George Burnfield, M.A., B.D. Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson.

This volume is the outcome of a journey through Egypt and the Holy Land, and is unquestionably an acquisition to Biblical literature. The

descriptions are not second-hand, but the result of personal and evidently careful examination. Mr. Burnfield has been several times appointed examiner in Oriental literature. The knowledge of these Oriental languages the author turned to good account in his work; his illustrations of many passages of Scripture the reader will not only find highly interesting but likewise very instructive. With travels in the Bible Lands, the field of research is so extensive that every new explorer is sure to find new beauties. Hence it is that travels in the East never lose their charms and freshness, but are always extensively read. Mr. Burnfield commences with a full description of Rome. From Rome he takes his readers to the hardly less renowned city of Athens. He next conducts his readers into the land of the Pharaohs, and tells them all about Alexandria, Cairo, the Pyramids, Bene-Hassan, and Thebes, and the ancient tombs and hieroglyphic inscriptions that are found in the two last mentioned places. From Egypt he conducts the reader by stages into the Holy Land, giving an account of some of the places that were passed on the route, interspersed with some amusing occurrences. As might be expected, his description of Jerusalem and neighbourhood is precise. Mr. Burnfield was evidently determined to see everything that was worthy of notice. The book is written in a very pleasing style, is illustrated with many plates, and is got up in a style which reflects great credit upon both editor and publisher.

AN UNSENTIMENTAL JOURNEY THROUGH CORNWALL. By the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman." With illustrations by C. Napier Nemy. London and New York: Macmillan and Company. Toronto: Williamson and Co.

A reprint, got up in very handsome shape, of a story which ran through the earlier number of *Macmillan's Illustrated Magazine*. It goes without saying that, even to those who are not familiar with the localities touched, the descriptive text is full of interest, whilst the wealth of illustration which accompanies it makes the book one of the most charming of the holiday season, with special attractions for those who have a loving remembrance of the Mother Land.

CHRISTMAS-TREE LAND. By Mrs. Molesworth. London and New York: Macmillan and Co. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

There is such an amount of trash shot into the market at holiday season that it behoves donors of youths' books to have a care in the selection of their gifts. In the above, which is beautifully printed, illustrated and bound, the publishers' name, not to mention that of the authoress, is sufficient guarantee for its tone and excellence.

SOME HERETICS OF YESTERDAY. By S. E. Herrick, D.D. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company.

A collection of lectures delivered last winter by the author to his congregation in Mount Vernon Church, Boston, and forming a valuable biography of the twelve Protestants who carried on the work of Reformation—from the time of Tauler in Germany to the ministry of Wesley in England.

SHAW'S NEW HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE. By Truman J. Backus, LL.D. New York and Chicago: Sheldon and Company.

A handsomely printed revision of the well-known "Manual of English Literature." Mr. Backus has improved the logical arrangement, corrected the lack of unity in several chapters, simplified the style, developed the discussions of Old and Middle-English literature, added short quotations from English and American critics, and enlarged the book by including the discussion of the lives and work of eminent English men of letters who have died since the former edition was published.

FICHTE'S SCIENCE OF KNOWLEDGE. A Critical Exposition. By Charles Everett, D.D. Chicago: S. C. Griggs and Company.

An addition to "Griggs' Philosophical Classics," devoted to a study of "Fichte's Principles of the Complete Science of Knowledge," and containing references to his other writings sufficient to show the relation which the results reached in this work bear to his system as a whole.

STUDIES IN HISTORY. By Henry Cabot Lodge. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company.

A number of essays written at various times bearing, with one exception, directly upon the history of the United States. The eleven chapters include papers on The Puritans and the Restoration, A Puritan Pepys, The Early Days of Fox, William Cobbett, Alexander Hamilton, Timothy Pickering, Caleb Strong, Albert Gallatin, Daniel Webster, Colonization in the United States, and French Opinions of the United States, 1840-81.

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER ANNUAL. Philadelphia: N. W. Ayer and Son.

Containing a list of all newspapers in the United States and Canada, with a quantity of information regarding their circulation, issue and political features.

THOMAS CARLYLE. A History of his Life in London. By James Anthony Froude, M.A. Two Vols. in One. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

Noticed at length by "Bystander" in THE WEEK of Nov. 6th and 13th. A handsome edition.