

### Literary Notices.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE FOR MARCH, has for contents :

"The Railway Mail Service." By Thomas L. James, Ex-Postmaster-General. With illustrations.

"The Master of Ballantrae—V." By Robert Louis Stevenson.

"A German Rome." By W. B. Scott. With drawings.

"Economy in Intellectual Work." By William H. Burnham.

"An eye for an Eye." By Robert Grant.

"Some of Wagner's Heroes and Heroines." By William F. Apthorp. With illustrations.

"Mexican Superstitions and Folk-lore." By Thomas A. Janvier.

"Extenuating Circumstances." By William McKendree Bangs.

"An Animated Conversation." By Henry James.

### THE EMPRESS'S REVENGE.

An incident of the horrors of the exile system in Russia which still hangs like a nightmare over the people of that land, is given in the *Methodist Protestant* as follows :

The Veritzins were Russians of enormous wealth and power. Paul held a high office in court. One night, glittering with jewels and orders, the young prince, who was one of the handsomest men in Russia, danced in a quadrille opposite the Empress. As she passed him in the dance she fancied that his eyes scanned her gross figure with covert amusement. After the quadrille she beckoned to him, and with a smile, handed him her tiny ivory tablet, containing seven pages, one for each day in the week. On the first page was written, "The Imperial ball-room. St. Petersburg." On the last, "The mines, Siberia."

He read it, his face grew gray as that of a corpse, he bowed low, kissed her hand and withdrew, "taking," says the old chronicle, "his wife, the beautiful Princess of Novgorod, with him." He was heard to say, as he left the ball-room : "My minutes are numbered, let us not lose one."

Flight or resistance was impossible. The hold of Catherine on her victims was

inexorable as death. Prince Veritzin was forced to remain passive in his palace, while each day the power, the wealth and the happiness that life had given him were stripped from him. First he was degraded from all his offices at court; next his estates were confiscated by the crown; his friends were forbidden to hold any communication with him; his very name, one of the noblest in Russia, was taken from him, and he was given that of a serf. Then his wife and children were driven out of the palace to herd with beggars. "On the last day," says the record, "Paul Veritzin, in rags and barefoot, chained to a convict, bade eternal farewell to his home, and departed to the dark icy north. He was seen no more of men."

### SMOKING AND DRINKING.

Mr. D. Clark, of the Insane Asylum, Toronto, in a talk to young men, dealt with some subjects on which he is peculiarly well fitted to speak.

He dealt with the things that should be avoided, one by one, taking first the least dangerous, smoking.

Smoking was an unnecessary habit, it made the victim selfish, as he had always to overlook the comfort of others, sometimes by whiffing in the faces of the ladies in the street and spitting where there were no spittoons.

As regards drinking, it was sometimes said that ninety per cent. of the insane resulted from this vice. There were 3,500 insane in Ontario, 160,000 in the United States and 90,000 in Great Britain, and of these only ten per cent. were the result of excessive drinking. The proportion might be less. The lecturer, however, proved by instances that the vice was hereditary, and gave an impressive description of its horrible effects. The province had greatly improved during the last twenty years, but the only cure was in the complete stoppage of the manufacture.

Lastly, Dr. Clark made a few remarks on a vice common among young men, resulting in ten per cent of the insane. The victims of the vice specified became complete physical and mental wrecks, and never got beyond the asylum walls again. The only proof against these vices was to follow nature's laws and seek good health by physical and outdoor exercise.