

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

Behind a decorative spring cover one finds in the April *Scribner's* a variety of interest. Richard Harding Davis introduces a new and apparently flawless hero in *The King's Jackal*, Duncan Campbell Scott demonstrates how to gain a hearing by unlimited use of local color in a short story, called *A Legend of Welly Legrave*, a story of the Canadian wilderness, and Brander Matthews discusses the Conventions of the Drama. In fact the number is highly popular and deservedly so, but the reader in entertaining himself should not forget to read *The Point of View*, especially for the sake of the article entitled *The Commercial Value of Personal Publicity*.

The long lost *Amelie Rives* is the author of the complete novel in the April *Lippincott*. It is quite evident that the same person who wrote *The Quick or the Dead*, wrote the present love story, *Meriel*. It is probably the outcome of another experience, and it is frequently very interesting, besides showing internal evidence of a good deal of reading, Theocritus, Keats, Renan, Shakespeare, Pater, Browning, George Eliot, Tennyson, Isaiah and many others serving to decorate the character of the heroine.

The *Gay Gordons* from *Blackwood's Magazine* appears in *Littell's Living Age* for March 26th.

One of the most appropriate things in the April *St. Nicholas* is an *Alice Alphabet* by Carolyn Wells. Many past masters in the *Wonderland* books will read and remember with delight from "A is for Alice, who wrote to her feet," to "Z is the Zizzag the Mouse's Tale made." *The Bell Towers of Italy*, by John Ward,

is not only an interesting and instructive article, but it is very beautifully illustrated by Fern, Moran and Sayer.

The *Sunday School Times* in its issue for April 3rd considers an editorial which has recently been written elsewhere on *The Decay of the Sunday School*. There is also a particularly helpful article on *The Seven Graces of a Sunday School Teacher*.

A series of stories of *Working Girls* will be begun in the *Youth's Companion* during April. In these stories the aim has been to portray, with fidelity, the conditions which the self-supporting girl meets in factory life, business, the hospital, journalism or out-of-door work. The first of these, *Winning Her Stripes*, by Elizabeth B. Stryker, describes some experiences of a girl who chose the career of a professional nurse.

Our Lady of the Sunshine is a new summer annual which is to be issued by George N. Morang on the 1st of June. The publisher has spared no pains to secure a success worthy of his enterprise and the appearance of the magazine is waited with considerable interest.

One of the most interesting features of the March *Cosmopolitan* is a short story by Richard Harding Davis dealing with the present conditions in Cuba. The temper of the American nation is being fixed slowly in the heat of interval difficulty and foreign perplexity. There is an element in the United States that comes from British stock and they, at least, do not inherit a disposition to ignore anything — let us say — interesting.