

Among the Magazines.

BY MICHAEL E. CONWAY.

In the matter of providing the best of Christmas reading, our Catholic magazines have taken no unenviable position. Though poem and essay may be the most important features in these issues "the good old fashioned Christmas story" is still the most potent element to keep our love glowing for the month of the Nativity. Some may cavil at its improbability and others remain stoically indifferent to the warm beneficent spirit it should infuse, but it is its improbability and cheerful influence that give the Christmas narrative additional charms.

First of the Christmas issues comes the *Catholic World* resplendent in green and gold. For years this magazine has stood at the head of our Catholic monthlies particularly on account of the variety and importance of the topics and its corps of eminent contributors. This number opens with an interesting story entitled "At the Crib of Assisi" with the Lower Church of Assisi as its setting. In the sketch of Joost Van den Vandel, we have a well written contribution which gives prominence to the character and works of that bright ornament of Catholic literature in Holland. In view of the conclusion of the Peace negotiations and of the increased interest Americans that are taking in their new territory, Father O'Keefe's timely article. "A Word on the Church and the New Possessions" will be read with additional interest. Under the title of "Catholic life in St. Paul" we have a realistic description of the great Catholic centre of the West. The article is accompanied by many fine illustrations consisting of views of Minnesota scenery, portraits of well known clergymen and distinguished citizens. Not the least notable among them is that of Archbishop Ireland, "the First Churchman and First Citizen of St. Paul". Perhaps the truest and most honest criticism of Hall Caine's *The Christian* that has yet appeared is that of Rev. S. Fitzimons in this issue. The much-lauded work is severely handled and deservedly so for it is certainly not worth one half the acclamation with which it was greeted on publication. According to the writer of this