

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

Besides generous installments of "Sir George Tressady" and "Tom Grogan," the midwinter number of the *Century* contains an admirable article on "Nelson at Cape St. Vincent" by Alfred T. Mahan, and one equally valuable on "Pope Leo XIII. and his Household" by Marion Crawford. "Certain Worthies and Dames of Old Maryland," with reproductions of most valuable portraits, is by John W. Palmer. "The Palmerston Ideal in Diplomacy," written by Edward Mortimer Chapman, is an article bearing directly on the present political relations of Great Britain and the United States.

One of the most pleasing of biographical sketches is "The Gibson Boy" by Christine Terhune Herrick, in the February *St. Nicholas*, from which we learn that the boy first showed his artistic leanings in cutting out paper animals. Robert Louis Stevenson's letters are charming every month. In this number there are no fewer than five continued stories, all good, but among them we are glad to mention "Betty Leicester's English Christmas" by Sarah Orne Jewett, which succeeds in being that rare thing, a good story for girls.

Another woman's head appears on the outside of the *Cosmopolitan*. We still regret the white and red, more conventional cover, which has been replaced. Perhaps the most striking contribution to the February number is Margaret Deland's study, "One Woman's Story" which was named by its author in the first place, "The Law and the Gospel," we are informed by the *Critic*. "The Charm," a play, has a curious flavour of long ago, and is written by Walter Besant, along with W. H. Pollock. James

Lane Allen's serial proves much better than it at first promised.

"In Perils of Robbers," by the Rev. A. R. Buckland, opens the March number of the *Quiver*, and is one of a series on Missionary Pioneering. "The Trade of the Tray and Bell" gives us a glimpse of the muffin pedlar. The usual departments and serials are good.

"The Bride Elect" is finished in the February *Macmillan's*, and though it has been interesting it is not what it promised to be—an artistically conceived and worked out story. Still we feel sure that the writer will do much better again. Some more "Recollections of Jowett" are good, and "Ticonderoga" is an article specially interesting to Canadians. "A Tourist Ticket" is a quiet, yet delicate sketch in character study.

"Furness Abby and Its Story" by W. C. Sidney, and an article on the new "Photographic Discovery" appear in *Littell's Living Age* for February 22.

We have received from Macmillan & Co., London and New York, through their Toronto Agent, Copp, Clark & Co., the following books:—"Practical Plane and Solid Geometry," by Joseph Harrison and G. A. Baxandall, of the Royal College of Science, London. This book has been prepared to meet the requirements of the elementary stage of the South Kensington Syllabus and contains an introduction to the study of Graphics. Special attention is given to overcoming the difficulty experienced by most pupils in passing from the lines and figures on paper to the shapes and positions of the objects in space. Diagrams and figures are freely used, and directions are given