

News of the Week.

first of a series—on "Searching for the Quinine Plant in Peru." The cinchona, the tonic properties of which have proved a blessing to thousands of invalids, is sufficiently known in the state in which it is seen in the druggists' shops, but the natural history of this interesting plant, its habitat, and the manner of gathering it, are all so little understood that we welcome any effort to dispel the popular ignorance. The article is handsomely and clearly illustrated with woodcuts. The other serial contributions consist of the concluding portion of "The Strange Adventures of a Phacton," the closing chapters of "Aimée's Story," and the last of the interesting series of papers on the Private Art Collections of Philadelphia. Thus with the new volume will commence an entirely new set of serials. In "Oriental Sports" we have a very good account of some of the recreations of the Oriental nations, notably of the Siamese, Chinese, and Burmese. The descriptions of the astounding juggling tricks of the Hindoos will doubtless be read with some incredulity. The author's strange stories are, however, as anyone who has visited the East will testify anything but overdrawn. Charles Warren Stoddard contributes a beautiful chapter of life in the Pacific Isles—the life of two devoted missionaries who had abandoned their homes in pleasant France to toil in poverty and hardship among a semi-barbarous race. In the fiction department we have both grave and gay, the former represented by "Her Story," by Harriet Prescott Spofford, and the latter by Chauncey Hickox's "Shooting a Monogram."

The best of friends must part. To the readers of the *Atlantic Monthly* the December number brings a parting that all will regret. In the current issue the Genius of the Breakfast-table—turn by turn Autocrat, Philosopher and Poet—takes his leave, and, for a while at least, we must accustom ourselves to his absence. "The Jesuit's Mission of Onondaga in 1654" gives a scrap of early Canadian history which will doubtless be extensively reproduced, and eagerly read in this country. Parton's History of Jefferson is continued this month. These papers have, we understand, attracted much attention in England. In "Common Ornament" Charles Akers gives us his theories—some of them totally impracticable except to a millionaire—on the application of art to house decoration and ornamentation. The paper is, however, well worth perusal, and contains hints which will be found of value even by the most modest house-keepers. Perhaps the greatest feature in this number is a paper by John A. Coleman, entitled "The Fight of a Man with a Railroad," in which he relates his experiences of a long litigation with an American railroad, instituted for the recovery of compensation for injuries inflicted by the railroad officials. The reader of this article will have occasion for reflection on the difference of the management and conduct of our Canadian lines and of certain of the roads across the frontier. The result will certainly not be flattering to our neighbours. "An Inspired Lobbyist" is an admirable bit, in the form of a short story, at the political jobbery so rife in the legislative capitals of the States. We cannot boast of being altogether free from this taint of jobbery, but we have not the honour of sheltering among us such a consummate scoundrel and adroit rascal as Mr. Amos Pullwool, of Washington, D.C., and subsequently of Eastburg and Slowburg. Mr. Ballensperger's "Shaker John" is a sad story of a Shaker who leaves the community to enter the world, and after months of silent suffering and hardship, returns only in time to die among his brethren, clasping "Sister Hannah's" hand. The story is told with deep feeling and much genuine pathos.

Harper's Magazine is, we venture to say, the most cosmopolitan periodical in existence. In its pages are to be found matters of interest to all classes of readers and thinkers. The poet, the philosopher, the historian, the artist, the antiquarian, and the devourer of light literature, all find their tastes consulted. The December number—for a copy of which we are indebted to Messrs. Dawson Bros.—is particularly rich in varieties. Two papers, both excellently illustrated, will at once attract the attention of those whose tastes lead them in search of historical or antiquarian information. "Marco Polo and His Book" gives a *résumé* of the life and travels of the great Venetian, compiled from Col. Yule's excellent work. The wonders detailed by the traveller read like a chapter from the "Arabian Nights." The account of the widespread diffusion of Christianity throughout Central Asia in these early days, and the tradition Polo found current among the Fire-Worshippers, of the Three Kings who went away to worship a Prophet that was born, carrying with them gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, possess intense interest for all classes of readers. In "The Old Romans at Home" Benson J. Lossing describes—in a series of supposed letters from a British envoy of Agricola at Rome to his friend in Britain—the manners and customs, dress, dwellings, and diet of the Romans at the time of Domitian. Under the title of "The Dome of the Continent," Mr. Verplanck Colvin gives us an account of mines and mining in Colorado, and takes us to the summit of Gray's Peak—up to the very life-limit, 15,000 feet above the sea-level. His paper is illustrated with sixteen very effective and beautiful engravings. "The Scottish Covenanters," by Eugene Lawrence, telling the story of the conflicts of Protestantism in Scotland, is very seasonable at a time when Presbyterians have just been celebrating the tercentenary of John Knox. A brief article by N. S. Dodge, on the "Astronomical Year," explains the intricacies of the calendar, and the manner in which they were solved by the decree of Gregory XIII.—a subject on which too little is generally known. Two unusually interesting short stories are contributed—"A Madrigal," by Frances M. Peard, author of "A Rose Garden," and "A Picturesque Transformation," by Julian Hawthorne, a son of the distinguished novelist. Miss Thackeray's "Old Kensington," Charles Reade's "A Simpleton," and Wilkie Collins' "The New Magdalen," are all continued in this number.

Vick's ILLUSTRATED FLORAL GUIDE FOR 1873.—As a marvel of the lithographer's, artist's, and printer's art, Vick's "Floral Guide" is unsurpassed by any publication of its kind. On every page, from title-page to colophon, something

is to be found worthy of study and admiration. Either it is a picture of some novel flower, glowing in gorgeous colours; or a delicate floral heading; or beautifully executed cuts of varieties of flowers or vegetables. On the outside page, magnificently lithographed in gold and colours, is the title, with a fancy border, and groups of flowers at the four corners and in the centre. Turning over we find a coloured illustration of the new Japan Cockscomb, received from Japan only last year; a brilliant variety, with crimson or scarlet branches and a delicately ruffled comb of singular beauty. Opposite this is the title once more, in rustic letters, fancifully ornamented with birds, flowers and foliage. The body of the work is profusely illustrated, nearly the half of every page being devoted to woodcuts. The type-work and paper are both unexceptionable. The reading matter opens with seasonable remarks, with hints on sowing and transplanting, the laying out of gardens, and decoration of windows and dining-tables. Then follows a long illustrated catalogue—occupying a hundred pages—of seeds, flowers, grasses, vegetables and fruits, the price in every case attached. Then more hints on house adornments and garden requisites. On the last page is an illuminated calendar for 1873. Vick's seeds are too well known to need any recommendation from us. A *clientèle* of 260,000 customers is better proof of their excellence than any we are able to give. The "Guide," containing the list of seeds, etc., is published quarterly, and the price for the year is Twenty-Five Cents. Further, any person having paid this price for the "Guide," and afterwards ordering seeds and sending money to the amount of One Dollar or more, can also order Twenty-Five Cents worth of seeds extra—the price paid for the "Guide" for the year.

NEW BOOKS.

A GIRL'S ROMANCE, and Other Tales. By Frederick W. Robinson, author of "For Her Sake," "A Bridge of Glass," etc. New York: Harper & Bros. Montreal: Dawson Bros. Paper. pp. 132. 50c.

This is a collection of over a dozen short stories by a very popular author, written in an easy, pleasant manner. Throughout the greater part of them there runs a vein of light humour, with here and there a touch of pathos, that reminds one of Dickens. Like Dickens, too, the author is remarkably fortunate in his titles. "Barley: A Bad Boy," "Tito's Troubles," "Friend Karl,"—these are samples of his happy choice—titles which lure the reader at once. This little collection will be found the very thing for railroad reading. The stories are simple, sufficiently interesting, and short enough to allow of their being read without producing that weariness too often caused amid the jolting and clatter of the cars. For family reading by the fireside it will also be found very acceptable.

A MANUAL OF POTTERY AND PORCELAIN FOR AMERICAN COLLECTORS. By John H. Freadwell. New York: G. P. Putnam & Sons. Montreal: Dawson Bros. 16mo. Cloth gilt. pp. 156. Illustrated.

We have reason to believe that there are in this country some few *connoisseurs*, if not collectors, of pottery, and to these we have great pleasure in recommending Mr. Freadwell's little work. Our space does not at present allow of our entering in the details of the book, but at an early date we shall have occasion to speak of it at some length. In the meantime we content ourselves with merely stating that it will be found a valuable and reliable handbook to all who feel any interest in the fictile art. It contains some twenty-five cuts illustrative of the various kinds of pottery and porcelain, and is supplemented by a series of facsimiles of porcelain marks, and a catalogue of the marks and monograms used by the painters etc., of the Sèvres manufactory. The book is elegantly got up in a blue and gold binding, and both paper and type-work are worthy of the subject into whose service they are impressed.

TRAVELS IN SOUTH AFRICA. Compiled and arranged by Bayard Taylor. New York: Scribner, Armstrong & Co. Montreal: Dawson Bros. 12mo. Cloth. Illustrated. \$1.50.

The interest of the public in African exploration has, within the past few years, received such an increase from the published discoveries of Dr. Livingstone and the travels of Mr. Stanley in search of the great African traveller, that we feel justified in predicting for this volume an extensive sale. The Travels in South Africa form the third volume of the new Illustrated Library of Travel and Adventure, edited by Bayard Taylor, whose name is a sufficient guarantee of the correctness and reliability of any work issued under his auspices. The present volume gives a condensed but comprehensive account of the history of South Africa, from the time of the expedition sent by Pharaoh Necho, 600 years before Christ— which there is evidence to suppose really circumnavigated the continent—until the discovery of Livingstone by Stanley during the present year. A chapter is devoted to a description of the native African tribes, and to the elucidation of the geography of this portion of the country. Moffatt's, Anderson's, and Magyar's travels are all concisely related, but by far the greater portion of the book is taken up with Livingstone's journeys with a brief sketch of his plan of operation for the coming years as related by him to Stanley. We content ourselves for the present with this passing notice of a most valuable and interesting book, to which we shall, in a future number, have occasion to refer at greater length.

RECEIVED.

"The Two Ysodes," and other Verses. By Edward Ellis. London: Basil Montagu Pickering.

"The Dominion Telegraph Waltzes." Composed by C. A. Gregory. Montreal: Geo. E. Desbarats.

"Mag's Waltz." Composed by A. C. Sedgwick. Cincinnati: F. W. Holmick.

THE DOMINION.—Col. Dennis has left for Manitoba to make half-breed allotments of land. A recommendation has been made for 160 acres of land for the Manitoba volunteers of 1872. —The Ottawa Free Press understands that the revised statements of the population of the principal cities stand as follows:—Montreal, 108,225; Toronto, 50,022; Hamilton, 27,176; Ottawa, 21,545; Kingston, 12,109. No mention is made of either Quebec, Halifax, or St. John. —The meeting of the Ontario Legislature has been further postponed till January. —A meeting of bankers and capitalists was held last week in Quebec, when it was decided to establish a forwarding company in connection with the cities of Toronto and Hamilton. —A despatch from Toronto says that it is rumoured that the Ministry contemplates measures for amending the assessment act abolishing most of the exemption, also the assets of the license law; raising license fees and bearing more stringently on unlicensed dealers and parties who violate the law. —In the matter of the rival University scheme, the Archbishop of Quebec seems to have taken the bull by the horns. He telegraphed to Rome to inquire, first, whether the decrees in favour of Laval had been revoked, and, secondly, whether Bishop Bourget might apply to the Legislature for a charter. Cardinal Barnabo immediately telegraphed a negative to the double query. —Lord and Lady Dufferin gave a second State dinner last week at Rideau Hall. —It is said that Judge Ramsay, of Montreal, will shortly succeed Judge Lafontaine at Aylmer. —The President of the Dominion Board of Trade has issued a circular reminding members of the meeting of that body at Ottawa in January, and urging them to have topics of discussion deposited beforehand with the Secretary. —The Knox centenary was celebrated with great pomp at Toronto. —The Canada Gazette announces the formation of a new regimental division, to be called the Regimental Division of the Centre Riding of Toronto, with Lieut.-Col. Gzowski as Lieut.-Col.

UNITED STATES.—Gen. McDowell has been appointed Major-General, to succeed Major-General Meade, deceased. —Professor Watson, of Ann Arbor Observatory, reports the discovery of a new planet in the constellation of Taurus. Its right ascension is 65 degrees 26 minutes, declination 19 degrees 36 minutes north. It shines like a star of tenth magnitude; its move is nearly parallel with the equator. —Horace Greeley died on the 29th ult., at 6:50 p.m. He was conscious at the time of his decease, and his death was peaceful. —Anthony Trollope sailed in the "Cuba" on the 27th ult. for Europe.

ENGLAND.—The Sunday meeting of policemen at Hyde Park was a failure, constables recently dismissed from the police force who were expected to be there did not appear. There were only three hundred present, Odger presided, and a remonstrance addressed to the Home Secretary was adopted. Interruption of ruffians brought the proceedings to a stop and compelled breaking up of the meeting. —The Marquis of Londonderry is dead. —The Queen has sent two thousand dollars to Italy for the benefit of the sufferers by the inundation. —Italy and France have asked Austria, Russia, and Great Britain to join them in an effort to adjust the difficulty with regard to the Laurium mines near Athens. —At the thanksgiving dinner, given by Cyrus W. Field, last week, Mr. Gladstone responded at considerable length to the toast of Great Britain and the United States. After reference to the past history of both countries, he said all occasion of difference and controversy between the two countries had been in their nature temporary, and capable of settlement by intelligent good sense and friendly temper, and the time of that settlement had now arrived when we can speak of it as a thing happily accomplished. The sentiment between the two countries tending toward fraternal union, which heretofore had been liable to opposite and contending currents, can now move with a full and equal flow, with nothing to interrupt it or fix its duration. The ex-Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. McCulloch, responded to the toast of the Treaty of Washington. —Parliament is further prorogued until the 6th of February. —In the suit of Hepworth Dixon against the proprietor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, for alleged libel, the jury awarded the plaintiff damages to the amount of one farthing. —Rev. Mr. Spurgeon is seriously ill.

FRANCE.—It is announced that the members of the party of the Right in the National Assembly have selected Gen. Chanzy as their candidate for President of the Republic in the event of the resignation of M. Thiers. —The Committee on the address have completed their report. They propose the immediate nomination of a select committee of fifteen to draw up a bill providing for the creation of a responsible ministry. They declare a reply to the Presidential Message unnecessary, because Thiers is a delegate of the Assembly. The report suggests no solution to constitutional questions. The minority of the committee, favourable to the President, have resolved to prepare a counter report. The report of the majority, which makes the rupture between President Thiers and the Right complete, causes much anxiety in political circles. —The situation in France is very serious. A very excited debate took place in the Assembly on the 30th ult., and a resolution, declaring that in presenting addresses of confidence to the President, the Municipal Councils had violated the law, and that the Minister of the Interior had done so also in receiving them, was passed. It is thought that, as matters stand, the President cannot continue to govern the country.

GERMANY.—A despatch says if Thiers is removed or superseded, the Germans will re-occupy the whole of the departments recently evacuated. —The Lower House of the Prussian Diet has passed the Country Reform Bill by a vote of 288 against 91. —The Emperor has by decree created 25 Peers out of the ranks of the Government officials, generals, and land-owners.

AUSTRIA.—An Imperial decree has been promulgated, convoking the Reichsrath on 12th December. —Government contemplates introducing an Electoral Reform Bill at the coming session.

ITALY.—Symptoms of revolutionary trouble are discovered in Rome. Orsini bonds have been captured at Florence, destined for the Eternal City, and several arrests have been made of persons preparing to hold a Radical meeting. —Monseigneur de Merod, private chaplain to the Pope, is again reported to be ill.

SPAIN.—A sharply contested battle has been fought in Murcia, between the troops and the insurgents. The latter were routed with great loss. The insurgents have also been beaten in Leñares, Andalusia, and Arco de La Frontera, with loss of prisoners, horses, and material. Government forces have driven the republicans from Bazara.

CENTRAL AFRICA.—The United States S.S. "Yautie" has arrived at Aden bound for Zanzibar. The U.S. flagship "Colorado's" orders have been changed, and it is rumoured that she will also go to Zanzibar. The British steamship "Belton" is at Aden, awaiting the arrival of Sir Bartle Frere. —The naval officers are enthusiastic over the anticipation of the expedition against slavery. —The Khedive will also send troops to Zanzibar. He desires to anticipate the English Expedition in the seizure of the Lake Regions of the Nile.

CHINA.—Shanghai advices report multitudes dying from the famine in Corea.