

realize this and to offer inducements to make this reading public still larger. Beside the increasing number of new books appearing from year to year, complete libraries are now offered at low prices on the easy payment plan, which enables almost any one to get a fine collection of good Catholic books. In this, as in many other ways, Benziger Bros. have taken the lead, and have recently issued a collection of 10 volumes entitled "THE BEST STORIES BY THE FOREMOST CATHOLIC AUTHORS," with a splendid introduction by Dr. M. F. Egan. The books are well printed and attractively bound, and contain complete stories by no less than sixty-four Catholic writers, including such literary stars as Dr. Egan himself, Benson, Katharine Tynan, John Talbot Smith and Christian Reid. This splendid collection, published at a moderate price, should be in every Catholic home.

The political situation in England still continues to be featured in many of the leading reviews. *The Nineteenth Century* alone has four well written articles on this much-discussed question. Almost everyone admits that a reasonable reform of the House of Lords is desirable and necessary.

The May issue of the *Century Magazine* contains a very interesting article on Aerial Navigation. It clearly demonstrates the surprising progress of German plan for transatlantic service. The writer says, "It is believed that within five years an air liner will be capable of travelling seventy-five miles an hour ordinarily, and often one hundred miles in the upper levels. It is expected that airships will be able to make 3,000 miles per day." Ten years ago a prophecy of the present achievements of Germany's air navy would have been received with incredulity.

*The Nineteenth Century* for May has a splendid contribution entitled, "From Art to Social Reform." It is a most entertaining study of John Ruskin's art criticisms and his political economy, or rather his art of living. "Devotion to truth, then, thoroughness: the most careful observation of actual facts, earnest purpose in life, these are the salient points in the plan of Ruskin's training. Taken with the material surroundings, and the conversational and social atmosphere of a home whose head was a qualified lover and no mean supporter of art, they explain alike Ruskin's own excellent art work, the force of his criticisms, the truth as the superlative beauty of many of his descriptive passages, the ultimate trend of his teaching, the peculiarly didactic prophet like method of much of his argument, and above all the overpowering intensity of his appeals to the conscience and heart of humanity. It was the sincere, thorough pursuit of art, that turned the connoisseur of pictures into the most soulstirring of not widely influential of prophets, perhaps of our time."