

maker, is placed. His grand vizier, Nizam-ul-Mulk Hassan ibn Sabbah, the inaugurator of the sect of Assassins, not exterminated till the time of Hologan-Khan of the Mongols, about 1250; a beautiful Greek princess, Agape, who is a hostage; and Omar Khayyam, are the chief personages in the narrative. Omar and Agape begin with literary Platonic affection, which ends in genuine love. The villain Hassan, acquiring temporary but great authority, carries her off, but she escapes from him and disappears, baffling all search. Her Greek father comes with her ransom, to find her gone. At last, accident brings her near Omar's door, and he purchases her, a slave, from a couple of Turkmans who had held her in captivity. Worn out with heavy tasks, she speedily succumbs, and Omar and her father are left to mourn. After her death, the story deals with the revolt of Hassan and the assassination of Nizam-ul-Mulk, and ends somewhat tamely with the chronicle of the death of Omar and Hassan, the hero and the villain, in the same year. This book is no mere novel, nor is it a literary biography. It is a literary romance, fairly true to history, and is written in elevated style, rather uncommon at this time of day. It invests the great Persian poet with something of a living interest, and helps to raise one's opinion of the Oriental rulers of the time, generally regarded as despotic barbarians. Those to whom Omar Khayyam and his Rubaiyat are mere names will delight in Mr. Dole's classical and pleasing pages.

The Drysdale Company charges a dollar for "Aleck Hornby," by Charles Stell, 189 pp., broad 12mo., illuminated cloth, published by E. R. Herrick & Co., of New York. It is the story of a foundling, cast out of a shipwreck on the northern coast of Maine, and brought up by a young couple of fisherfolk, Ned and Annie Hornby. The boy thrives, but Ned is led into evil courses by a moonshiner, and takes to illicit distilling. When grown up, Aleck, the waif, falls in love with Lawyer Small's daughter, which is considered very presumptuous conduct. So he travels to see the world, befriends a tramp, and is afterwards by that tramp befriended.